



## CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

<b>Course Name:</b>	<i>Mitteleuropa</i> – Germany and East Central Europe from 1848 to 2004
<b>Course Number:</b>	HIST 3005 PRAG
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	CES, CNMJ
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	45
<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2019

### **Course Description**

The course will focus on the history of the entity known as “Mitteleuropa” in the last two hundred years from a German perspective: different definitions and ideological uses of this concept, analysis of its moving boundaries, sometimes including Germany, sometimes not. The main themes studied in the course will be the unification of Germany and its rise as a great power, compared to the decline of the Habsburg Empire and the (re)birth of new states following World War I. We will analyze the rise of extremism in the 1920s and 30s, especially National Socialism and its impact on the countries of Central Europe, including World War II and its consequences, and the disappearance of Central Europe and Communist rule over Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany. We will end the semester with the rebirth of Central Europe after the end of Communism.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Chart the history of the different national entities that now constitute Germany, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, and of their complete interaction.
- Analyze the history of Germany and the countries of Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Apply this factual and theoretical basis to analyze the interaction between these countries within the context of the European Union.
- Analyze the major diplomatic texts involving Germany, Central Europe, and the great powers.
- Critically read the secondary literature on Central Europe.

### **Course Prerequisites**

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. However, interest in history is a must, as well as the readiness to use local resources, especially libraries.



### **Methods of Instruction**

This course is lecture-based (which does not mean that questions and discussions are not strongly encouraged). The instructor will provide the students with chronologies and summaries for each chapter. The required readings amount to an average of about 45 pages/week. They are available on Canvas. They combine primary sources (which will be discussed in class) and secondary sources (in English translation).

During the semester, we will visit the exhibition “Crossroads of Czech and Czechoslovak Statehood” and the Mausoleum at Vitkov Hill and/or the National Memorial of The Heroes of the Heydrich Terror. The field trip is part of the normal curriculum.

### **Assessment and Final Grade**

Participation – in-class activity	10%
Participation – two unannounced quizzes	10%
Presentation	20%
Book review	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

### **Course Requirements**

- Two unannounced short quizzes will test the students’ knowledge of the significance of main historical events discussed in class. The tests are not cumulative.
- Midterm and final exams are not cumulative. They last for one session and consist of 3 essays. Time permitting, review sessions might be organized. Study questions are available on Canvas: students are strongly encouraged to study regularly, alone or in groups, using these questions. The instructor is available for help and advice.
- Presentations will be made individually or in small groups (depending on the number of students enrolled in the class). The topics are indicated in the weekly schedule of classes. Each presentation should last between 20 and 30 minutes. The students will prepare a PowerPoint (the instructor will review this PowerPoint, multiple times if necessary, before the actual presentation) and a one-page chronology to be handed out to all students at the beginning of the presentation.
- The participation grade will reflect the engagement of the student in the class, his/her contribution to the learning atmosphere, and preparedness for the discussion of primary sources. The primary texts should be studied with the help of reading questions available on Canvas.
- Each student will choose a book to review, according to his/her interests. The book review does not have a specific structure as it depends on the book chosen by the student. The instructor is available for advice regarding the choice of book, the structure of the paper,



and can eventually review a short outline. The book review should be of 220 – 250 words (Times New Roman 12, spacing 1.5, margins 1 inch)

### **CIEE Prague Participation Policy**

Assessment of students' participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor's or other students' line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students' active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor. If missing a class, the student is expected to catch up on the class content and to submit well-reflected and in-depth contributions to Canvas discussions on the particular topic or reflections to the instructor to ensure that his/her absence from the class will not significantly affect his/her participation grade.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

### **CIEE Prague Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and **all absences are treated equally regardless of reason** for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

**Missing classes** will lead to the following penalties:

***90-minute semester classes:***



<i>Number of 90-minute classes</i>	<i>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</i>	<i>Minimum penalty</i>
<b>one to two</b> 90-minute classes	up to 10%	no penalty
<b>three</b> 90-minute classes	10.1–15%	reduction of the final grade by 3%
<b>four</b> 90-minute classes	15.1–17%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; <b>written warning</b>
<b>five</b> 90-minute classes	17.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 7%; <b>written warning</b>
<b>six and more</b> 90-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic <b>course failure</b> and possible expulsion

**180-minute semester classes:**

<i>Number of 180-minute classes</i>	<i>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</i>	<i>Minimum penalty</i>
<b>one</b> 180-minute class	up to 10%	no penalty
<b>two</b> 180-minute classes	10.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; <b>written warning</b>
<b>three and more</b> 180-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic <b>course failure</b> and possible expulsion

Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student’s home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.

**Missing more than 20% of the total class hours** will lead to a **course failure**, and **potential program dismissal**. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

**Late arrival to class** will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. **Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.**



**Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinators (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason** and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.

If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student's presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, **make-up assignment will only be allowed in approved circumstances**, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor's note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor's notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however **the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.**

Should a truly **extraordinary situation** arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. **Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.**

**Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.**

**For class conflicts** (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), **always contact the Academic Assistant** to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. **Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records.** In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant **within one week of the discrepancy date** to have it corrected. Later claims **will not** be considered.

CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

### **CIEE Academic Honesty Policy**

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These



are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one's own.

**The first principle** is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an "open book" basis).

**The second principle** applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.

**The third principle** is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another's work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

The penalty ranges from an F grade on the assignment, failure in the course to dismissal from the program. The Academic Director is consulted and involved in decision making in every case of a possible violation of academic honesty.

## Weekly Schedule

Week 1

**Topics:**

What is Mitteleuropa?

Before Mitteleuropa: A short history of Germany and East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 19th century

Readings

Ash (1989): 161-191.

Roskin (2001): 7-25.

Week 2

**Topics:**

What makes a nation? The roots of nationalism in Central Europe  
The 1848 revolution and its consequences

Readings

Gellner (1983): 1-7.

Anderson (1991): 1-7.

Alter (1994): 1-15 & 39-65.

Week 3

**Topics:**

Germans in Central Europe and the Austro-German rivalry  
The birth of the Second Reich: Germany's conception of Mitteleuropa

Readings

Schulze (2001): 147-153.  
Brechtfeld (1996): 12-24.

Week 4

**Topics:**

From the balance of power to Weltpolitik: Germany's will of hegemony and the reaction of Central Eastern Europe

Readings

Dual Alliance (1879)  
Reinsurance Treaty (1887)  
Brechtfeld (1996): 25-38.  
Craig (1991): 101-139.

Week 5

**Topics:**

The First World War, the Paris Peace Conference and the new geography of Central Europe  
The birth of the Weimar Republic

Readings

Woodrow Wilson "Fourteen Points" (1918)  
Taylor (1986): 532-566.  
Grant & Temperley (1964): 426-445.

Week 6

Midterm Exam  
Period

**Topics:**

Weimar Republic: German revisionism in foreign policy  
The end of the Weimar Republic

**Midterm exam**

Readings

Treaty of Rapallo (1922)  
Pact of Locarno (1925)  
Treaty of Berlin (1926).  
Fulbrook (1991): 44-65.

Week 7  
Midterm Exam  
Period

**Topics:**  
Establishment of a totalitarian regime  
Hitler's domestic policy

Readings  
Arendt (1979): 158-177.  
Craig (1991): 569-601.

Week 8

**Topics:**  
National Socialist Foreign Policy and Central Eastern Europe  
The Second World War: The German ideology of "Lebensraum" and its consequences for the countries of Central Europe: collaboration or impossible resistance?

Readings  
Adolf Hitler "The Diktat of Versailles" (from: Mein Kampf, 1925)  
Declaration of Non-Aggression between Germany and Poland (1934)  
The Munich Agreement between Germany, Britain, Italy, and France (1938)  
Alliance between Germany and Italy (Pact of Steel) (1939)  
Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Soviet Union (1939)  
Brechtfeld (1996): 39-57

Week 9

**Topics:**  
The rise of authoritarian regimes and the Czechoslovak exception  
Presentations on Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia (1918-1939)

Readings  
Wandycz (2001): 201-235.

Week 10

**Topics:**  
Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam and the division of Central Europe into two camps  
West German foreign policy: from western integration to the rediscovery of Central Eastern Europe

Readings  
Atlantic Charter (1941)  
Potsdam Conference Protocol (1945)



Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union (1970)

Treaty on the basis of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic (1972)

Orlow (1995): 258-292.

Niedhart (2003): 118-136.

Book reviews are due

Week 11

**Topics:**

Resistance, revolt and reform in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia: the fight for the identity of Mitteleuropa

Presentations on Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany (1945-1990)

Readings

Brown (2010): 101-114.

Roskin (2001): 64-79.

Week 12

**Topics:**

The end of the Cold War and Germany's reunification

Dealing with the past: Germany's relations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Readings

Treaty of the final settlement with respect to Germany (1990)

Ash (1993): 343-356.

Rachwald (1993): 231-249.

Hauer (1993): 251-277.

Volgyes (1993): 279-294.

Week 13

Final exam

Final Exam Week

Documentary

Václav Havel – Prague, Castle, by Petr Jančárek and Martin Vidlák

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Reinsurance Treaty (1887)

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"Atlantic Charter" (1941). *The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century*, edited by J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein. Routledge, 2001, vol.1, p. 234.

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