



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course Name:	Communism and Nazism Reflected in the Arts
Course Number:	ARTS 3001 PRAG / POLI 3019 PRAG
Programs offering course:	CES, CNMJ
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

Film, literature, and the arts have always played a central role in reflecting the attitudes towards the twin ideologies of Nazism and Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. They were central to propagandizing these ideologies and building their strength after World War One. However, they also provided the most vibrant forum for those challenging the totalitarian regimes established by Nazis and Communists. In the period since their fall, politics and academia have frequently failed to enable an accessible debate on their legacy. Thus, film and literature remain the site of a debate.

This course will explore this theme in a multi-disciplinary way, drawing on history, political science, literature, film studies, and psychology. There is a broad and deep amount of material to draw upon which will allow students to easily inquire into areas of particular interest to them. In order to reinforce the point that the issues we are examining have meaning across regions and times, we will work thematically rather than chronologically. In this course we will be mixing approaches to how we explore the issues. Prague is one of the few capitals that experienced liberal democracy, Nazism, Communism, and a return to liberal democracy in little more than 50 years. Therefore, many opportunities emerge to meet people and visit events which can increase our understanding of the topic.

Learning Objectives

Drawing on a significant engagement with the core films, literature, and art, students will develop a significant understanding of and critically engage with different aspects of life and resistance in the region during the last century. In particular, students will assess and illustrate the origins and experience of totalitarianism, the origins and experience of civil resistance to Nazi and Communist totalitarianism, and the role of artists reflecting it as part of a common discourse and memory.

Course Prerequisites

The principal requirement for this course is a willingness to engage with the issues that will be raised and to use the opportunity of being in Prague to go beyond the material discussed in class.



Methods of Instruction

This is a flexible and participative course. In class we will watch and discuss films, explore ideas contained in literature, hear from those who have deep personal experiences of Nazism and Communism and use the opportunity of the active life of Prague to attend any relevant events that occur during the semester. The specific topics and order of classes will change to reflect both the opportunities for visits and guests as well as the interests of the students. Where a film is the principal instruction aid for a class it will only be shown in excerpt to illustrate the wider topic under discussion. Should students wish to see the complete film, most are available on DVD and loanable.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Class participation:	25%
2. Midterm Examination	20%
3. Final Examination	25%
4. Essay	15%
5. Presentation	15%

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation

Class participation is an essential element of this course. It is through the interaction of the instructor and guests with students that most of the ideas will be explored effectively. Class participation also includes regular preparation for class, including mandatory readings and film viewing.

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy

Assessment of students' participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as **meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom**, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. 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. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

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.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

2. & 3. Midterm and Final Examination

There will be midterm and final examinations that will be held in class and involve a review of the core themes covered in the class. Details will be provided via Canvas course site.

4. Essay

Each student will choose one film, book, or artist and write an essay (1700-2500 words) on a relevant topic approved by the instructor ahead of time. Details will be provided via Canvas course site.

5. Presentation

Each student will choose one film, book, or artist and present an excerpt from the work in class, followed by a discussion led by the student (presentation – maximum of 15 minutes; follow-up discussion – ca 10 minutes). Details will be provided via Canvas course site.

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>
one to two 90-minute classes	up to 10%	no penalty
three 90-minute classes	10.1–15%	reduction of the final grade by 3%
four 90-minute classes	15.1–17%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; written warning



five 90-minute classes	17.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 7%; written warning
six and more 90-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic course failure 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>
one 180-minute class	up to 10%	no penalty
two 180-minute classes	10.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; written warning
three and more 180-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic course failure 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	<p>Class 1</p> <p>Overview of the course, its structure, papers to be prepared, reading and viewing required and recommended.</p> <p>Sergej Ejzenstejn's "The Battleship Potemkin" (1925) as first propaganda film.</p> <p>Class 2</p> <p>The nature and significance of civil resistance facing totalitarian regimes in Central and Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Timothy Garton Ash: "The Magic Lantern" (2000).</p> <p>Agora production: "The Power of the Powerless" documentary (2010).</p>
Week 2	<p>Class 1</p> <p>The notion of absurdity of any given totalitarian regime, the exploration of the situation of an innocent individual being treated as a potential criminal or enemy of the state, being young in Central Europe.</p> <p>"The Rhythm in My Heels" by Josef Škvorecký and Andrea Sedláčková</p> <p>Class 2</p> <p>Intelligent individuals trusting and serving a dictatorship e.g. in the communist Soviet Russia under Stalin and realizing too late what the real foundations of such a regime are.</p> <p>Nikita Mikhalkov: "Burnt by the Sun" (1994).</p>
Week 3	<p>Class 1</p> <p>Another option for an intelligent, honest person in the Soviet Russia – trying to stay out of the historical events, an impossible attempt to live without either compromising with the regime or fighting it.</p> <p>Boris Pasternak: "Doctor Zhivago" (1958).</p> <p>Class 2</p> <p>The general analysis of a non-democratic, oppressive system, whether it is Communism or Nazism and the striving of individuals for love, freedom, and truth.</p> <p>George Orwell: "1984".</p>
Week 4	<p>Class 1</p> <p>The appeal of totalitarian ideology to some artists and intellectuals – by opportunism, by conviction? Leni Riefenstahl and Albert Speer serving the Nazi regime and their different perception of guilt later on.</p> <p>"The Triumph of the Will" and Gita Sereny's biography of Albert Speer.</p>

	<p>Class 2 An opposite reaction of students fighting the same oppressive regime and believing in democracy as a fair social environment. “The Last Days of Sophie Scholl” and the White Rose Movement in Munich, 2009.</p>
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Class 1 How totalitarian ideology deals with its real or imagined opponents. Mass human rights abuses in Soviet Russia and witnesses who had difficulties to be trusted in Western liberal democracies. Alexander Solzhenitsyn :“The Gulag Archipelago”(1963).</p>
	<p>Class 2 Another example of an abusive regime dealing not only with its opponents, but other groups as well – Jews, Slaves, Romas, handicapped mentally or physically. Individual versus collective guilt. “The Nazis: A Warning from History” BBC documentary (chapter Chaos and Consent).</p>
<p>Week 6 Midterm Exam Period</p>	<p>Class 1 Surviving inhuman conditions of war, occupation, ghettos, and concentration camps. The notion of human solidarity, believing in good as a realistic concept after all, as well as friendship and love. The notion of guilt and shame. Arnošt Lustig: “Lovely Green Eyes “(2002),“The Diamonds of the Night” (1969).</p>
<p>Week 7 Midterm Exam Period</p>	<p>Class 2 Mid-term paper Class 1 A more skeptical vision of people conforming to occupation and rules of the dictatorship. Collaboration versus heroism. Josef Škvorecký: “The Cowards”. (1958).</p>
	<p>Class 2 Jews as a persecuted group, the psychology of victimization and marginalization of a given social group by the majoritarian society. Imre Kertész: “Fatelessness” (1975).</p>
<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Class 1 The loneliness of those who came back – from the front, from a prison, from a camp. Original beliefs confronted with today’s reality. Reiner W. Fassbinder: “The Marriage of Maria Braun” (1978).</p> <p>Class 2 Methods generally used by any totalitarian ideology whether it is Communism or Nazism or any current extremist movement.</p>

Brain washing, psychological humiliation, physical torture, attacks on one's beliefs and morals, isolation from the outside world.
Arthur London: "The Confession" (1970)

Week 9

Class 1

An attempt to catalogue and analyze the crimes of Communism over seventy years.

Revelation of the actual, practical impacts of the ideology around the world – terror, torture, famine, mass deportations, massacres.

Karel Bartošek's chapter in Stéphane Courtois and coll.: "The Black Book of Communism" (1999).

Week 10

Class 1

What is it like to live in a society that is essentially not free and how do people react towards power. Conformity versus protest.

Agnieszka Holland: "The Burning Bush" (2013)

Class 2

The nature of 20th century human existence – behind the Iron Wall in the East or in a liberal democracy. Between comedy and tragedy. Exile as a human condition.

Milan Kundera: "The Unbearable Lightness of Being". (1984)

Week 11

Class 1

A very different look at the social reality of the 80's – although the abuse of power is omnipresent, a revolt is possible. Background of the Gdansk events just before the declaration of the martial law.

Andrzej Wajda: "The Man of Iron" (1977)

Class 2

Walking visit of the key central Prague sites of the November 1989 revolution and discussion of the dynamic of the sparking of a revolution.

Week 12

Class 1

Dissent and civil resistance as a phenomenon of the 20th century in Central and Eastern Europe. Life in truth as a response to the totalitarian regime, possibilities of help from the outside world.

Jeri Laber: "The Courage of Strangers" (2002).

Class 2

Secret police and its collaborators as an omnipresent control of people's lives. Personal files and their critical evaluation.

Visit to the European Platform for Studying Totalitarian regimes which published extensive studies on both the Communist and the Nazi



periods.

Final Exam Week	Class 1 Final Exam
	Class2 Course wrap-up discussion

Course Materials

In addition to works mentioned with each class, the following represents a fuller range of texts which can help explore the themes addressed. A reader of select texts will be made available.

Secondary Sources

Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: a Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Ash, Timothy G. *History of the Present: Essays, Sketches, and Dispatches from Europe in the 1900s*. New York: Vintage Books, 2001.

Ash, Timothy G. *The Polish Revolution: Solidarity 1984*. New York: Scribner, 1984.

Ash, Timothy G. *The Uses of Adversity: Essays on the Fate of Central Europe*. London: Penguin Books, 1999.

Ash, Timothy G. *The File: A Personal History*. London: Atlantic, 2009.

Ash, Timothy G. *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague*. New York: Atlantic Books Ltd, 2014.

Courtois, Stéphane; et al. *The Black Book of Communism*. London: England Harvard University Press, 2004: Karel Bartošek's chapter

Čornej, Petr; Pokorný, Jiří. *A Brief History of the Czech Lands*. Prague: Práh, 2015.

Fromm, Erich. *The Heart of Man: Its Genius for Good and Evil*. Riverdale, NY: American Mental Health Foundation Books, 2010.

Fromm, Erich. *To Have or To Be*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2015.

Fromm, Erich. *The Art of Loving*. New York: Continuum Pub., 2008.

Fromm, Erich. *The Art of Listening*. New York: Open Road Integrated Media, 2013.

Gorbachev, Michail. *Glasnost and Perestrojka in the USSR*

Hitchcock, Edward B. *I Built a Temple for Peace"; the Life of Eduard Beneš*. New York, Harper & Bros., 1940.

Horney, Karen. *Neurosis and Human Growth: the Struggle toward Self-realization*. New York: Taylor & Francis Group, 2014.

Jaspers, Karl. *The Question of German Guilt*. Oxford: Fordham University Press, 2001.

Lifton, Robert J. *Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1967.

Milgrams, Stanley. *Obedience to Authority*. [S.l.]: Harper Perennial, 2017.

Milgrams, Stanley. *An Experimental View*. Pinter & Martin Ltd., 2010.

Speer, Albert. *Inside the Third Reich. Architecture of the Third Reich*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2015.

Primary Sources (Books)

Boell, Heinrich. *Where Were You, Adam?* Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 2000.

Boell, Heinrich. *Opinions of a Clown*. Germany: Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 1963.

Boell, Heinrich. *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*. New York: Penguin Books, 2009.

Čapek, Karel. *Talks with T. G. Masaryk*. Chicago: Cat Bird Press, 1996.

Grass, Guenther. *The Tin Drum*. London: Vintage, 2014.

Grass, Guenther. *Dog Years*. London: Vintage, 2000.

Grass, Guenther. *Peeling the Onion*. Orlando: Harcourt, Inc., 2008.

Havel, Václav. *A Word about Words*. New York: Cooper union, 1992.

Havel, Václav. *Living in Truth*. London: Faber and Faber, 1990.

Havel, Václav. *Briefly, please*. 2006.

Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. London: Macmillan Collector's Library, 2016.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*. London: Macmillan Collector's Library, 2016.

Herzog, Philippe. *Travelling Hopefully: Ethics, Action, Perspective for a Revival of Europe*. Paris: Manuscrit, 2006.

Hitler, Adolf. *Mein Kampf*. London: Pimlico, 1994.

Hrabal, Bohumil. *Closely Watched Trains*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1990.

Hrabal, Bohumil. *Cutting it Short*. London: Penguin Books, 2017.

Hrabal, Bohumil. *I served the King of England*. London: Vintage Classic, 2009.

Hrabal, Bohumil. *The Little Town Where Time Stood Still*. London: Penguin Classics, 2017.

Kafka, Franz. *The Castle*. New York: Schocken Books, 1999.

Kafka, Franz. *America: The Missing*. New York: Schocken Books, 2008.

Klíma, Ivan. *Waiting For the Dark, Waiting For The Light*. Grove/Atlantic, Inc., 2007.

Korbel, Josef. *The Communist Subversion of Czechoslovakia*. Princeton University Pres, 2016.

Kovály, Heda M. *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague 1941-1968*. Great Britain: Granta Books, 2012 (1997).

Kundera, Milan. *The Laughable Loves*. London: Faber, 2005.

Kundera, Milan. *The Joke*. London: Faber & Faber, 2016.

Kundera, Milan. *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*. London: Faber, 2010.

Kundera, Milan. *Slowness*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2014.

Kundera, Milan. *Identity*. Bath: Camden, 2000.

- Kundera, Milan. *Ignorance*. Harper Perennial, 2003.
- Levi, Primo. *If This Is a Man*. London: Abacus, 2014.
- Levi, Primo. *The Drowned and the Saved*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2017.
- Levi, Primo. *If Not Now, When?* New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2017.
- Lustig, Arnošt. *Night and Hope*. New York: Avon, 1978.
- Lustig, Arnošt. *The Diamonds of the Night*. London: Quartet, 1989.
- Lustig, Arnošt. *A Prayer for Kateřina Horowitz*. Woodstock, NY: Overlook Press, 1987.
- Lustig, Arnošt. *Lovely Green Eyes*. New York: Arcade Pub., 2014.
- Marx, Karl; Engels, Friedrich. *The Communist Manifesto*. London: Pluto Press, 2017.
- Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. London: Network, 2014.
- Orwell, George. *Homage to Catalonia*. London: Penguin Books, 2013.
- Pasternak, Boris L. *Doctor Zhivago*. London: Vintage Classic, 2011.
- Patočka, Jan; Hájek, Jiří; Havel, Václav. *The Charter 77 Declaration*
- Seifert, Jaroslav. *The Plague Column*. London: Terra Nova Ed., 1979.
- Seifert, Jaroslav. *All the Beauties of the World*. 1986.
- Solzhenitzyn, Alexander. *One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014.
- Solzhenitzyn, Alexander. *The Gulag Archipelago*. New York City: Harpercollins, 1979.
- Škvorecký, Josef. *Headed for the Blues: A Memoir with Ten Stories*. Boston: Faber and Faber, 1998.
- Škvorecký, Josef. *The Engineer of the Human Souls*. Toronto, ON: L&OD, 2007.
- Škvorecký, Josef. *The Cowards*. Penguin Books.
- Vaculík, Ludvík. *The Czech Dreambook*. 1980.

Films & Documentaries

- Havel, Václav. *Theatre plays – The Audience, The Vernissage, Largo Desolato, Leaving – play and film*. 2011.
- Kieslowski, Krzysztof. *The Decalogue*. Chicago, Ill.: Facets Video, 2003.
- Kieslowski, Krzysztof. *Three Colours Trilogy*. 1994.
- Lustig, Arnošt; Brynych, Zbyněk. *Transport from Paradise*. London: Second Run, 2014 (1962).
- Menzel, Jiří. *Closely Watched Trains*. 1966.
- Menzel, Jiří. *I Served the King of England*. 2007.
- Pablo Picasso's *Guernica*. West Long Branch, NJ: Kultur, 1998 (1937).
- Polanski, Roman. *The Pianist*. 2002.
- Riefenstahl, Leni. *The Triumph of the Will*. Moon Stone, 2002.
- Tarkovsky, Andrei. *Solaris*. 1973.
- Tarkovsky, Andrei. *The Stalker*. 1979.
- Tarkovsky, Andrei. *Andrej Rublev*. 1966.



Tarkovsky, Andrei. *Nostalgia*. 1980.

Wajda, Andrzej. *Ashes and Diamonds*. Irvington, New York: Criterion/Janus Collection, 2006.

Wajda, Andrzej. *Promised Land*. [S.l.]: Second Run [u.a.], 2013.

Wajda, Andrzej. *The Man of Marble*. London: Second Run, 2014.

Zanussi, Krysztof. *The Structure of Crystal*. 1969.