

# Department of Criminology and Justice Studies

Drexel University

2018 – Munich-Nuremberg-Prague Intensive Course Abroad

Program Description and Draft Itinerary

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## Program Description

Take a walk through Munich to witness the birthplace of the Nazi party and the dawn of the Third Reich. Visit the public square that erupted with gunfire on 9 November 1923 when Adolph Hitler and his Sturmabteilung (SA) soldiers fought the Bavarian State Police in a failed coup to overthrow the Weimar Republic. Reflect on Munich's bleakest hour at the Dachau Memorial – Germany's first, and among most brutal, concentration camps. Then see for yourself how this resilient city emerged from darkness to become one of Post-War Europe's most vibrant, progressive, and livable cities while preserving the best of its Bavarian traditions and heritage. And yet, close inspection will show where the remnants of its Nazi past survive in surprisingly public places.

Next, travel to the medieval city of Nuremberg to experience the Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the never-fully-completed Congress Hall. Learn why Nuremberg was so important to the Third Reich's efforts to create and proffer the myth of *Volksgemeinschaft*, or the "People's Community;" and explore how that folk mythology drove Hitler to impose a policing system of total control over the German population. Then visit Courtroom 600 – the site of the Nuremberg Trials – to see for yourself where the world held Nazi Germany accountable for its atrocities during WWII.

Continue on to Prague — today regarded as the jewel of East Central Europe — to explore a city that was granted "protectorate" status by Germany during the war. Then see through visits to places called Terezin and Lidice what it meant to be *protected* by the Reich, and how the Gestapo and SS inflicted their brutal policing practices outside their home country and mostly beyond the reach of the Red Cross. The story of Prague during the mid- to late-Twentieth Century is among the most poignant: Controlled by the Nazis during the war – and savaged in particular by SS commander Reinhard Heydrich, aka, The Bucher of Prague – only to be "liberated" by the Russians in 1945 and made a "protectorate" (yet again) of the Soviet Union. The city and people of Prague endured political and social oppression from the day they saw the Nazis arrive in 1939 to the night they threw the Soviets out in 1989.

This Intensive Course Abroad focuses on the development and maintenance of the Nazi police system in Germany and the Czech Republic (then Czechoslovakia) from 1934-1945. Students will learn that through legislation, terror, violence, and the use of concentration camps, the Nazi Regime established one of the most complete, far-reaching, and brutal systems of non-democratic social control in human history; and yet, we shall also see through our daily experiences with people, trains, restaurants, and cultural sites that Munich, Nuremberg, and Prague cannot be defined by their Nazi pasts or experiences. They exist today as cultural hubs that value the preservation of history while embracing the future as global heritage cities. Throughout our European travels we approach each experience with one overriding question: *Could this happen in the United States Today?*

### **Predeparture Meetings**

#### **Date and Time TBA**

Mandatory pre-departure meeting #1. This meeting will provide students time to introduce themselves and describe some of their interests. After the introductions (and while eating pizza), I will provide some initial academic background needed for the trip. I will give brief histories of Germany and the Czech Republic, and then discuss their relationship to one another during the lead up to WWII and beyond. In addition, I'll begin a discussion of how the Nazi police system controlled people within their home area of Germany, as well as in an occupied territory abroad (i.e., what was then, Czechoslovakia).

#### **Date and Time TBA**

Mandatory pre-departure meeting #2. During the first part of the meeting I'll give time for students to talk informally and eat some food (hopefully, not pizza). Next, we'll cover the primary logistics of group travel. Everyone needs to **download Groupme**, and I'll create a group that will include our entire itinerary. During this meeting we'll also discuss currency exchange, passport requirements, cash vs. credit cards, safety, and the Rule of Three. Finally, I will introduce the concept of maintaining a travel journal and will demonstrate a free travel journal app that works great across several mobile operating systems. The app is called MobilityTrip. Also during this meeting I will give students a series of writing/reflection prompts to which they will respond when we return to the states for our fall term online class. Giving students the prompts *before* we depart for Germany gives students some guidance as to what they should document in their travel journals as they progress through the trip.

## Travel Schedule and Itinerary

### Tuesday 4 September

Fly overnight to Munich

### Wednesday 5 September

11:00 AM (estimated) Arrive and check into Ibis Munich Nord. Take a short breather.

12:00 PM Classroom session in hotel conference room to set context for the sites we'll see and activities we'll experience while on tour in Munich. Given that you will have just come off an overnight flight, I'll keep this lecture light. Still, it will be important to set the proper context we before we set out to explore Munich.

1:30 PM Depart hotel to catch subway to Marienplatz for our walking tour. Once there, we will explore, get some lunch at the Viktualienmarkt (Victuals Market), and just generally acclimate to the new time zone. You will have free time to explore on your own.

6:00 PM Group dinner at Hofbrauhaus (You'll discover that this is more than just a fun, and rather touristy, beer hall; it is also the place where Hitler created the Nazi party).

8:00 PM Return to Ibis Munich Nord.

### Thursday 6 September

8:00 AM Classroom session to discuss the Third Reich's creation and maintenance of the Nazi police state. I will also introduce the concept of Total Control

9:15 AM Depart Ibis Munich Nord to catch the U6 to Central Station. From there, catch the S2 train to Dachau.

10:00 AM **Arrive Dachau Memorial Site.** Once there, I will give a brief introduction to the memorial and then release students to explore the grounds and exhibits at their own pace.

3:30 PM Depart Dachau.

4:30 PM Arrive Marienplatz, spend some free time on your own.

6:00 PM Group up at Marienplatz, walk to dinner at Weisses Bräuhaus München (6:15pm reservation). (this dinner is covered by your program fee). We will spend time debriefing about our trip to Dachau.

8:30 PM Dismissal and on your own (remember to write a two-paragraph reflection in our travel journal!)

### **Friday 7 September**

9:00 AM Depart hotel for **Munich Police Headquarters** where we will be treated to a presentation by police officers on the topics of general policing Germany, and cybercrime investigations and practices. We will then get a tour of the Operations Center inside Munich PD.

12:00 PM Quick lunch on Marienplatz

1:30 PM Depart for **Munich International School** to meet history students and discuss how the Third Reich is taught to German students.

4:30 PM Regroup at Marienplatz for a headcount, then on your own for dinner.

### **Saturday 8 September**

8:00 AM Depart Ibis Munich Nord for **Nuremberg**. Take U6 to Munich HBF, then catch the 8:51am ICE 724 train toward Köln Hbf, detraining in Nuremberg (note: this is a non-stop train to Nuremberg).

9:51 AM Arrive Nuremberg. We'll walk to the hotel and drop our luggage, then head to **Nazi Rally Grounds and Documentation Center** (we'll take a tram).

11:15 AM Arrive Nazi Rally Grounds and Documentation Center – Nuremberg.

11:30 AM Walking Tour of Rally Grounds. Please wear comfortable shoes, as you'll walk for approximately 1 mile around the grounds.

1:30 PM Lunch inside the museum as you like (or next door at the outdoor garden area), and then explore museum on your own.

**Please Note:** During the museum portion I will meet with each student individually in the cafeteria to conduct a mid-trip “check-in,” and to review travel journals to date.

4:15 PM Depart Documentation Center for Hotel Ibis (we can be reasonably flexible with our timeline).

5:00 PM (estimated) Depart hotel for dinner, then on your own for the evening.

### **Sunday 9 September**

9:00 AM Depart Hotel Ibis Hotel for visit to The **Memorium Nuremberg Trials** (Courtroom 600).

2:00 PM Back to hotel to catch DBahn bus to Prague.

6:00 PM (estimated). **Arrive Prague.** Check into Ibis Praha Old Town. Head into Old Town and get dinner from any vendor on Old Town Square.

### **Monday 10 September**

9:00 AM Depart hotel for Third Reich walking tour of Prague. Our morning walk will orient students to the city and provide a history lesson regarding the Nazi occupation during WWII.

12:00 PM Lunch on your own, and take an hour to explore Old Town.

1:30 PM Visit St Cyril and St Methodius Cathedral to tour the crypt where, in 1942, four British (actually Czech) paratroopers hid after they assassinated SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich (who also held the title of und General der Polizei) in Prague. This visit begins our examination of Czech resistance to Nazi rule, the brutal response of the Gestapo and SS.

### **Tuesday 11 September**

8:00 AM Depart hotel for **daytrip to Lidice**, a Czech village about 30 min outside Prague that was burned to the ground by the SS in retaliation for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich in Prague (for a timely reference, I recommend you see the recent movie, *Anthropoid*). **After Lidice, we'll visit Lety**, a former concentration camp created and run by the SS for Romani people (30 min away from Lidice).

4:00 PM Arrive back in Prague. Enjoy a free afternoon and dinner on your own.

### **Wednesday 12 September**

8:00 AM **Terezin Ghetto and Concentration Camp.** The camp is 45 minutes north of Prague (by private charter). This excursion includes transportation, guided tour of the memorial, and lunch in the Medieval town of Litoměřice. This trip is administered by a professional guide.

4:30 PM Back in Prague. Take some down time.

5:45 PM Regroup in Staroměstské náměstí (Old Town Prague's main central. square).

6:00 PM **Closing Group Dinner**

## **Thursday 13 September**

9:30 AM Classroom session in which we reflect on our Terezin experience, and then I describe the transition from Nazi to Soviet control in Czechoslovakia. We'll discuss how, through USSR influence, the Czechoslovakian government created the Secret State Police (StB) to enforce soviet political rule in the country. The StB was similar in structure and function to the State Security Service (i.e., the *Stasi*) that operated as the secret police in East Germany. Both were modeled after the Gestapo.

11:00 AM Visit the Museum of Communism in Prague.

2:00 PM Lunch on your own and free afternoon.

## **Friday 14 September**

Depart Prague

I will arrange airport transfers for everyone in the group. Note that I will group people according to their departure times, which means some of you will have longer wait times at the airport than others.

### **Hotel Addresses and Phone Numbers:**

**Hotel in Munich:** Hotel ibis Muenchen City Nord

Address: Ungererstrasse 139, 80805 Munich, Germany

Phone: +49 89 360830

Note: This hotel is on the U-Bahn (subway) #6 line (i.e., U6). The closest subway stop to the hotel is Nordfriedhof (about 2 blocks south of the hotel on the same street). The next closest stop is Alte Heide (about 2 blocks north of the hotel, also on the same street).

**Hotel in Nuremberg:** ibis Nuernberg Altstadt

Address: Koenigstrasse 74, Nuremberg, Germany

Phone: +49 911232000

**Hotel in Prague:** ibis Praha Old Town

Address: Na Porici 5, 110 00 Prague, Czech Republic

Phone: +420 266 000 999

### **Contact Information:**

#### **Drexel University Study Abroad**

- Phone (business hours): +1-215-895-2222 (Drexel dispatch)
- Drexel 24-hour emergency: +1-267-571-5911

**On-Call Phone Number:** +1-603-952-2038 (this is the phone number for Drexel's medical evacuation and repatriation insurance provider)

**Whom you are traveling with:**

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