Academics: The Legacies of Nazi-era Policing and Soviet-era Justice

Credit: Students will be registered for CJS 380: The Legacies of Nazi-era Policing and Soviet-era Justice, 3 credits as part of their spring 2015 course load. There are no pre-requisites for this class. For Criminology and Justice Studies (formerly Criminal Justice) majors and minors, this course can serve as a substitute for one required CJS/CJ course.

Pre-Trip Assignments: Students are required to participate in one pre-travel meeting that will take place on campus. In addition, students will watch a series of (relatively short) documentaries available on Youtube that illustrate certain moments in history, such as Hitler's failed attempt to overthrow the Weimar Government in 1920, the development of the Nazi police state, the roles of the SS and Gestapo, Dachau Concentration Camp, the Nazi occupation of Prague, the liberation of Prague by Russia in 1945, the Soviet occupation of Prague in 1968, and Prague's Velvet Revolution in 1989. These documentaries will serve as a foundation for many of our onsite experiences and discussions. The professor will create as Blackboard site as early as Fall 2014 that will contain links to the documentaries so that students will have plenty of time to watch them in advance of the trip. Students are required to complete a writing assignment related to the documentaries, due in advance of our pre-departure meeting

Assignments During Trip: Students will participate in several structured discussions at key cultural heritage sites (e.g., Dachau, Nazi Party Rally Grounds, Prague Castle) and will be expected to have baseline knowledge of the topics (as informed by the pre-trip documentaries). In addition, students will keep a travel log — either in hardcopy or electronic form — that may include different forms of media (pictures, videos, etc.) along with text. The travel log should be considered field notes that will become each student's record of the trip.

Assignments Post-Trip: Students will complete two short reflection papers based on material from their travel logs. In addition, students will write and submit a final paper that reflects broadly on their study-tour experiences. The professor will give students pre-formatted framework that will guide them through the writing process.