

## PRAGUE SUMMER 2015 COURSE OFFERINGS

All courses are 4.5 credits except for LANG 180 for 3.0 credits.

Students take LANG 180 at Drexel prior to departure and take 2 courses onsite in Prague.

Students are NOT permitted to take both courses in Prague with same instructor.

### **LANG 180: Prague and Czech Language& Culture: A brief introduction** (required pre-trip course)

**Instructor: Kathy Dettmer**

This course is designed to give you some fundamentals of the Czech language and culture to prepare you for studying in Prague. The course will meet on Drexel campus for three weeks, three hours per day prior to departure for Prague. There will be one hour of language instruction each day focusing on the language needed to perform everyday tasks and carry on very simple conversations. Students will learn about the culture through reading important Czech texts, both fiction and nonfiction, listening to music, watching a film and clips of several others, briefly studying art, architecture and politics, and possibly dancing and eating as well.

### **ENGL 204: The Literature of Central Europe**

**Instructor: Thomas McConnell**

Place is remarkably important to writers and remarkable places often lead to the most memorable books. In this course we will examine work by some of the leading European writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, focusing especially on writers of Central Europe. Our tour will include Czech writers like Kafka, Kundera, Hrabal, Klima, and Capek but also their German and Balkan contemporaries, like Sebald, Grass, and Kis. Students will have the opportunity to discover Prague (and no doubt other European settings) not only through their own walking tours but also with some of the continent's best writers as their tour guides. Students will take a midterm and a final exam and write a short paper on the reading.

### **WRIT 220: Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction Writing**

**Instructor: Thomas McConnell**

In addition to extensive experience with the strategies of narration, description, and exposition, students will complete a number of exercises designed to give them a memorable record of their sojourn in Europe. The class will be conducted primarily as a workshop (including field exercises in the environs of Prague); secondarily, in addition to examining their own writing in workshops, students will analyze and discuss a variety of exemplary works both by writers known for their treatment of Prague (Kafka and Kundera, for instance) and by writers of excellence from other traditions, European and American. There will be weekly writing exercises and written midterm and final exams.

### **MUS 380: Music Appreciation**

**Instructor: Robin H. Williams**

An appreciation and analysis from the viewpoint of the listener of representative works in Western art tradition, covering for example, selected masterworks of Bach, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Bartok, Stravinsky and also Czech nationalist composers including Smetana, Dvorak and Janacek. No previous knowledge of or about music is required.

### **ARCH 399: The Art and Architecture of Prague: A Subjective Survey**

**Instructor: Carol Sherwood**

This course explores the art and architecture of Prague from the 10<sup>th</sup> century to today. The emphasis is on the subjective experience of place in understanding the Architecture of Prague. Using the city of Prague as our primary classroom this class will investigate how the qualities of the materials, the use of light and shadow, proportion and scale, the choice of structural systems, and attention to context, all work together to inform our experience of the architectural environment. These elements, the ideas behind them, and how they have been approached historically will be presented and examined through walking tours, slide lectures, class discussions, readings and individual projects.

### **ARTH 465: The Art and Architecture of Prague from a Social Perspective**

**Instructor: Matthew Savage**

The Art and Architectural History of Prague is intimately and inextricably tied to major social and political developments in central Europe. Today, the visual culture of Prague reflects its changing identities over time as a Central European metropolis. Major monuments in the history of European art and architecture in Prague are associated with the innovations and upheavals brought on by the rule of the Habsburg Empire, the rise of Protestantism, the emergence of Czech national identity, the Nazi occupation, Communist rule, and revolution.

Through a combination of lectures and museum and site visits, this course explores the art and architecture of these different periods and the ways in which art and architecture were created and instrumentalized to serve the needs and aspirations of their creators and patrons.

### **HIST 298: From Habsburgs to Havel: Introduction into the History of Czech Lands in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Instructor: Pavel Szobi**

This course will be an introduction to the history of the Czech lands in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Starting with a brief introduction to the origin of the Czech lands prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, students will learn about the most memorable moments in Czech political, economic, and cultural history, including the Czech fight for national recognition from the Habsburg Empire at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, through two world wars, periods of democratic independence peppered with periods under foreign regimes and the Communist Era, the Czechoslovakian age of combined identity, leading finally to the Velvet Revolution, the split from Slovakia, and the path that has returned the Czech nation to democracy, European Union membership, and an increasingly important place in world politics and economy. The course will also introduce Czech artists and intellectuals whose work was defined by the most important turns in Czech modern history. Using the opportunity of being in Prague we will follow the history of Central Europe not just in class but also through museum visits and city excursions.

### **PHTO 465: Special Topics: People and Place** (Pre-requisite: PHTO 110 & 210 before the start of the program.)

**Instructor: Julia Cybularz**

This course is designed for students already familiar with basic photographic principles and digital workflow. The class will cover how one goes about uncovering what is unique to a specific place and the culture that defines it. In addition, the topic of portraiture will be covered, how to photograph people in the street as well as in a more controlled environment. The goal behind the course to have students create a highly personal body of works that captures the sense of place and its people without making the “postcard” images that are ubiquitous in the genre of travel photography. The students will produce a unique body of work that describes their view of the places they have visited.

In addition to the aesthetic issues raised in the class we will cover the use of small lighting solutions and work with Adobe Light room as a way to both edit and catalog images. All participants must bring a digital SLR camera, a laptop computer, and have Adobe Light room on the computer for organizing and presenting images.

### **PHTO 465: Fundamentals of Photography OR PHTO 110 (see below for requirements)**

**Instructor: Julia Cybularz**

Lecture-laboratory course in black-and-white photography. Coordinates a photographic visual discipline with comprehensive digital workflow experience. Requires students to have access to a digital point and shoot camera or DSLR that is 8 megapixels or larger. The student will be expected to submit a portfolio of printed images that successfully convey the concept of the assigned course work while demonstrating a mastery of technical craft.

### **To fulfill PHTO 110 students must also complete PHTO 399 Digital Photography Printing Pre-Trip Workshop 1.5 credit, which will meet Tues June 22 – Fri June 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 2pm. Thus students taking this workshop will receive total of 6 credits in Photography for summer term (PHTO 465 + PHTO 399).**

Introduction to Digital Printing will explore the potential of digital photographic imagery and will concentrate on how to properly input and output your photographs. A central aim of the course will be creating a portfolio of high quality printed images.

### **ARTH 465: An Introduction to Modernism in Prague**

**Instructor: Carol Sherwood**

This course will introduce students to the Modern movement in art, architecture, and graphic and commercial design in the city of Prague. We will start by examining the Art Nouveau style, with its search for a new expression in the fine arts. Then we will move through Cubism, Rondo Cubism, Functionalism and end with a visit to the Art Deco residence of the Lord Mayor of Prague. We will visit many excellent examples of international architectural styles, including the functionalist neighborhood of “Baba” and examine the Cubist and Rondo Cubist styles that are specific to Prague and the Czech lands. We will study the artists and architects who helped to change the face of this magical city and who contributed to the universal language of the arts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and we will consider the theories and philosophies behind the various approaches to modern art. The class will consist of walking tours, museum and gallery visit, and class discussions.