

Syllabus
Central European Culture: JTB132
SS 2022/2023

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Contact lessons each Tuesday 12:30–13:50 in the room 112 in Pekařská 16 building.

6 ECTS credits

Obligations:

- presence in the class (max. one absence)

- Mandatory reading for each class:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11S11Q67NkqFkWb_pcauu3jF6tLCsc0b9?usp=sharing

- one presentation per semester (in couples) – use the list of presentations:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x041LdQNE1w5X79zJbj4hkE1mG39x9_T8YMxeAUzoq0/edit?usp=sharing

- final paper (max. 10 pages by 1800 characters),

- final oral exam (and defense of the seminar paper).

Topics:

1) 14 February

Introduction: formal aspects, distribution of presentations, intro to the topic, definitions of the terms

2) 21 February

Topic: From the traditions of the 19th Century to the Avant-gardes of the 20th Century

Mandatory reading: Jimena Canales a Andrew Herscher, „Criminal skins: Tattoos and Modern Architecture in the Work of Adolf Loos“, *Architectural History*, Vol. 48, 2005, 235–256.

1st presentation: Relations between Architecture and Politics in the Central Europe

3) 28 February

Topic: Effects of the WWI in Culture and Art

Mandatory reading: Anette Becker, „The Avant-Garde, Madness and the Great War“, *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 35, No. 1, January 2000, 71–84.

2nd presentation: WWI in Central European Art was not just E. M. Remarque and O. Dix...

4) 7 March

Topic: Media in the Interwar period

Mandatory reading: Gideon Reuveni, „The ‚Crisis of the Book‘ and German Society after the First World War“, *German History*, Vol. 20, No. 4, 438–461.

3rd presentation: Radio as a revolutionary medium

5) 14 March

Topic: Hitler was not first

Mandatory reading: Anna Menge, „The Iron Hindenburg: A Popular Icon of Weimar Germany“, *German History*, Vol. 26, No. 3, 357–382.

4th presentation: Propaganda as a way to control one’s own population?

6) 21 March

Topic: Nazi Iconography and Culture

Mandatory reading: Joshua Hagen, „Parades, public space, and propaganda: the Nazi culture parades in Munich“, *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, Vol. 90, No. 4, 349–367.

5th presentation: Entartete Kunst 1937–2012

7) 28 March

Topic: Behaviors towards Totalitarian Regimes

Mandatory reading: Simon Henderson, The White Rose and the Definition of ‚Resistance‘, *History Review*, December 2005, 42–47.

6th presentation: Karl Jaspers: Die Schuldfrage (1946)

8) 4 April

Topic: Holocaust, Genocide, Crimes against Humanity

Mandatory reading: Witold Wasilewski, „The Birth and Persistence of the Katyn Lie”, *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*, Vol. 45, 2013, 671–693.

7th presentation: Smolensk Tragedy: Poland as Cradle of Nations?

9) 11 April

Topic: Film as the most popular medium in the 20th Century?

Mandatory reading: Alison Frank, „Czech Surrealism and Czech New Wave Realism”, *Kinema*, autumn 2011, 1–11.

8th presentation: „Cult“ films – their definition and role in the Central European Society

10) 18 April

Topic: Art as a Space of Parallel Reflexion

Mandatory reading: Matthew Gandy, „Contradictory Modernities: Conceptions of Nature in the Art of Joseph Beuys and Gerhard Richter”, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 87, No. 4, 1997, 636–659.

9th presentation: David Černý: Role of Avantgarde Art in Politics

11) 25 April

Topic: Sports as a Cultural Phenomenon?

Mandatory reading: Petr Roubal, „Politics of Gymnastics: Mass Gymnastic Displays under Communism in Central and Eastern Europe”, *Body & Society*, 2003, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1–25.

10th presentation: Specific role of Sports in the History of Central Europe

12) 2 May

Topic: “Our” History?

Mandatory reading: Gregor Thum, „Wrocław and the myth of the multicultural border city”, *European Review*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2005, 227–235.

11th presentation: Is Kafka’s Prague really Jewish?

13) 9 May

Conclusion/Wrap-up seminar/Reserve