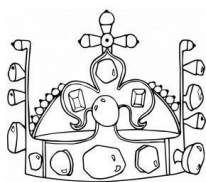


Bohemistika
Czech Studies
at Columbia University
na Kolumbijské univerzitě



2020-2021

Courses: Fall 2020

Czech 1101: Elementary Czech I
TRF 10:10-11:25

Czech 1201: Intermediate Czech I
TRF 11:40-12:55

Czech 4333: Readings in Czech
Literature I (Advanced Czech I)
TR 1:10-2:25

Comp Lit: Czech 4030: Postwar
Czech Literature
TR 2:40-3:55

Courses: Spring 2021

Czech 1102: Elementary Czech II
TRF 10:10-11:25

Czech 1202: Intermediate Czech II
TRF 11:40-12:55

Czech 4334: Readings in Czech
Literature II (Advanced Czech II)
TR 1:10-2:25

Courses: Summer A 2021

Comp Lit: Czech 4045: Czech Society
& Culture Since the Fall of Communism
TR 2:10-4:00

**Elementary Czech I & II and
Intermediate Czech I & II**

are 4-credit, 4-skills language courses based on the most up-to-date textbooks for learning Czech as a foreign language, amply supplemented by authentic texts and media.

Readings in Czech Literature I & II

are 3-credit courses emphasizing the development of advanced reading and writing skills. Students choose the texts to be read and discussed (fiction, poetry, drama, essays, journalism, non-fiction) based on their own interests in consultation with the instructor.

Students at **Cornell University** can enroll in Czech language courses through the **Shared Course Initiative**: <http://lrc.cornell.edu/sci>

All courses taught by
Dr. Christopher W. Harwood
cwh4@columbia.edu

Why study Czech?

Czech is the language spoken in the Czech Republic (formerly part of Czechoslovakia: Czech and Slovak are different languages, although they are closely related). There are more than 10.5 million native speakers of Czech world-wide. There are over 9,000 Americans living in the Czech Republic.

Prague

The Czech capital is generally acknowledged to be one of the world's most beautiful cities. Located in the heart of Europe, Prague has a vibrant cultural life and music scene that offers something for everyone.

Culture

The Czechs have a rich literary and cultural tradition that you will begin to explore in your studies. How many nations of ten million people have produced as many world-renowned figures as the Czechs have?

Language

Czech is a gateway language. It is a member of the Slavic family—related to Russian and even closer to Polish and Slovak—and these languages can be learned more easily with a knowledge of Czech. Unlike Russian, Czech uses a modified Latin alphabet. Czech is not an easy language to learn, but all the more rewarding for the challenge it represents.

Fun facts

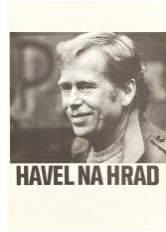
-The Czech Republic has the highest per capita beer consumption in the world—over 37 gallons per person annually.

-The word *robot* was coined by a Czech.

-Prague's Charles University was founded in 1348, making it not only the oldest university in Eastern or Central Europe, but also older than many universities in Western Europe.

Courses in English on Czech literature and culture

Fall 2020 – TR 2:40-3:55 Postwar Czech Literature



After providing a brief overview of the history of the Czech lands and Czech literature from earliest times, the course will turn to a survey of some of the most important authors and texts of the postwar period. Considerable attention will be devoted to the influence on Czech literature both of the Communist regime of 1948-1989 and of modern international trends in the arts and philosophy. Some of the most prominent themes to be raised in discussion of the texts include:

- expressions of national identity, or the denial thereof
- literary reflections of World War II and the Holocaust
- the realities and poetics of life under totalitarian rule
- the influence of Kafka, existentialism and theater of the absurd
- the role of the writer as the nation's conscience and catalyst for socio-political change
- the phenomena of internal & external exile
- ethics and aesthetics of postmodernism
- the realities and poetics of life in the post-communist landscape

Comparative Literature: Czech W4030 – Postwar Czech Literature Fall 2020 – TR 2:40-3:55



Primary texts for the course:

Václav Havel, essays from *Open Letters* (1965-1990)
Julius Fučík, *Report from the Gallows* (1943)
Jan Drda, “The Silent Barricade” (1946)
Jiří Weil, *Life with a Star* (1949)
Ludvík Aškenazy, “The Glow” (1951)
Bohumil Hrabal, stories written in the 1950s, revised & published in 1965
Věra Linhartová, stories from *Space for Differentiation* (1964)
Václav Havel, *The Memorandum* (1965)
Excerpts from speeches at the 4th Congress of the Czechoslovak Writers Union (June 1967)
Ludvík Vaculík, “Manifesto of 2,000 Words” (June 27, 1968)
Zdena Salivarová, *Summer in Prague* (1972)
Bohumil Hrabal, *Too Loud a Solitude* (1976)
Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1984)
Alexandra Berková, stories from *Book with a Red Cover* (1986)
Zuzana Brabcová, *Far from the Tree* (1987)
Jáchym Topol, *City Sister Silver* (1994)
Jiří Kratochvíl, “The Story of King Candaules” (1994)
Irena Dousková, *B. Proudew* (1999)
Marek Šindelka, *Aberrant* (2008)

Other courses on Czech literature & culture offered at Columbia on a rotating basis:

Comp Lit: Czech 4020 – Czech Culture Before Czechoslovakia

An interpretive cultural history of the Czechs from earliest times to the founding of the first Czechoslovak republic in 1918. Emphasis on the origins, decline, and resurgence of Czech national identity as reflected in the visual arts, architecture, music, historiography, and especially the literature of the Czechs.

Comp Lit: Czech 4035 – The Writers of Prague

A comparative reading of texts from 1895-1938 by German, German-Jewish, Czech and Russian authors who lived in and were inspired by Prague. The course traces common themes running through the works of many of these Prague writers and considers the applicability of various possible definitions of the literary *genius loci* of the city.

Comp Lit: Czech 4038 – Prague Spring: Literature and Film

An interdisciplinary investigation of the social and political history of Czechoslovakia in the first quarter-century after World War II, and of the extraordinarily rich flowering of Czech culture—especially literature, theater and film—that occurred in the 1960s.

Comp Lit: Czech 4045 – Czech Society and Culture Since the Fall of Communism

An interdisciplinary investigation of the political, social and cultural developments that have most powerfully shaped the consciousness of Czech people in the 1990s and the 21st century.