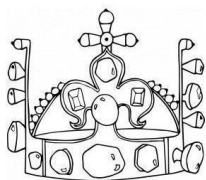


*Bohemistika*  
**Czech Studies**  
at Columbia University  
*na Kolumbijské univerzitě*



2023-2024

**Courses: Fall 2023**

Czech 1101: Elementary Czech I  
TRF 10:10-11:25 352 IAB

Czech 2101: Intermediate Czech I  
TRF 11:40-12:55 352 IAB

Czech 4333: Readings in Czech  
Literature I (Advanced Czech I)  
MW 10:10-11:25 608 Lewisohn

**Courses: Spring 2024**

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

Czech 2102: Intermediate Czech II  
TRF 11:40-12:55

Czech 4334: Readings in Czech  
Literature II (Advanced Czech II)  
MW 10:10-11:25

Comp Lit: Czech 4035:  
The Writers of Prague  
TR 2:40-3:55

**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** and **Yale** 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](mailto: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 about 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 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 cultural figures as the Czechs have?

### Language

Czech is a gateway language. It is a member of the Slavic family—related to Russian and 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, which makes it the oldest university in Eastern or Central Europe, and older than many universities in Western Europe.

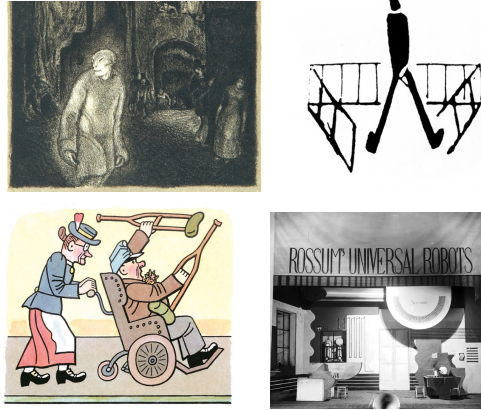
# Courses in English on Czech literature and culture

—  
Spring 2024 – TR 2:40-3:55  
**The Writers of Prague**



After providing an overview of the history of Prague and the Czech lands from earliest times, the course will focus on works by Prague writers from the years 1895-1938, when the city was a truly multicultural urban center. Special attention will be given to each of the groups that contributed to Prague's cultural diversity in this period: the Austro-German minority, which held disproportionate social, political and economic influence until 1918; the Czech majority, which made Prague the capital of the democratic First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938); the German- and Czech-speaking Jewish communities, which were almost entirely wiped out between 1938 and 1945; and the small but vital Russian and Ukrainian émigré community, which—thanks in large part to support from the Czechoslovak government—maintained a robust, independent cultural presence through the 1920s and early 1930s.

## Comparative Literature: Czech W4035 – The Writers of Prague Spring 2024 – TR 2:40-3:55



Primary texts for the course:

Jan Neruda, *Prague Tales* (1870)  
René Rilke, poems from *Larenopfer* (1895)  
—, *Two Stories of Prague* (1899)  
Guillaume Apollinaire, “The Wandering Jew”  
 (“Le passant de Prague,” 1910)  
Yudl Rosenberg, *The Golem and the Wondrous  
Deeds of the Maharal of Prague* (1909)  
Gustav Meyrink, *The Golem* (1914)  
Franz Kafka, “Description of a Struggle”  
 (written 1904-1909)  
—, *The Trial* (written 1914-1915)  
Egon Erwin Kisch, reportages  
Jaroslav Hašek, *The Good Soldier Švejk*  
 (Part One, 1921)  
Karel Čapek, short stories, essays  
—, *R.U.R.*  
Jaroslav Seifert, poems  
Vítězslav Nezval, poems  
Marina Tsvetaeva, *Poem of the Mountain*  
 (1924), *Poem of the End* (1924)  
Rainer Maria Rilke, late poems  
Karel Čapek, *War with the Newts*

## 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 4030 – Postwar Czech Literature

A survey of some of the most remarkable authors and texts of the postwar period. Considerable attention will be devoted to the influence on Czech literature and society both of the Communist regime of 1948-1989 and of modern international trends in the arts and philosophy.

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.