



## KIIS Prague Program, Summer 2023

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### HIST 490-1 Topics: Memory and Cityscape in Eastern Europe

**Instructor:** Karen Petrone

**Email:** petrone@uky.edu

**Instructor's office hours:** on site and by appointment

*Syllabus subject to change*

**1. Course Description:** This course explores how multi-ethnic Eastern European societies memorialize twentieth and twenty-first century political events – and especially their wars. A society's memorials define national and civic identity, affect future military mobilization, and provide solace to the families of the fallen. This course will examine issues of political transition, war, death, and memorialization in Eastern Europe generally, and in Prague and the Czech Republic in particular. We will survey transformations in various memorial sites over time, and engage with these sites and their legacies in person. The political transformations from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to interwar Czechoslovakia, to Communist Czechoslovakia and then to the contemporary Czech Republic will be explored through the changing cityscape of Prague and its environs.

### 2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

### **3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:**

- Acquire familiarity with Czech History during the Austro-Hungarian period, interwar Czechoslovakia, Communist Czechoslovakia, and the contemporary Czech Republic
- Analyze the continuities and the discontinuities across these different historical periods through exploration of the built environment of Prague and its environs.
- Analyze how the memory of historical events has shaped the Prague cityscape
- Acquire familiarity with Prague's major geographic and architectural features
- Compare and evaluate multiple interpretations of historical events
- Interpret a wide variety of primary sources including literature, films, art, memoirs, maps, government documents, and especially the built environment
- Express historical arguments in oral and written form.
- Build historical arguments based on evidence found in primary sources.

### **4. Major Topics covered in the Course:**

#### **Week I - Foundations**

What is History? What is Historical Memory? And why do they matter?  
Introductory visit to a monument as primary source – What questions do we ask? How might we find answers?

Foundations of 20<sup>th</sup> Century East European History – Timeline of Key Events

Theoretical Introduction to the Study of Memory

Czechs, Germans and Jews in Prague

#### **Week II – Two Wars**

Czechs During the Great War

Capital of Interwar Czechoslovakia

Exploring traces of Nazi Occupation

Remembering the Holocaust

#### **Week III – Communism**

Creation of Communist Czechoslovakia

Communist cityscape

Protests and Compliance

#### **Week IV – Memory and the Czech Republic**

Foundations of a new Czech state

Coming to terms with Communist legacies

## Individual presentations on Prague Monuments

### 5. Required Readings:

Students will download a course packet made up of book chapters and articles. There is no textbook for this course.

### 6. Graded Assignments:

Short Essay One – 15%

Short Essay Two – 20 %

Memory Map – 10%

Prague Presentation - 15%

Excursion Journal - 20%

Class Participation - 20%

Total – 100%

**Short Essays:** Each student will write two essays during the semester based on readings, in-class discussions and lectures, and excursions to historical sites. The subject matter should reflect the student's familiarity with current course material as well as a processing of his/her real cultural experiences/encounters.

**Memory Map:** Students will be given a street map of Prague and will record the geography of monuments and memorials on the map, keeping track both of the location and also writing a short (one-two sentence) description of the memorials.

**Prague Presentation:** In addition to lectures and discussions, every student will give an oral presentation on a monument, military site, or memorial in Prague or its environs. These presentations should inspire discussion and enhance everyone's historical understanding of some aspect of the relationship among historical memory, monuments and memorials, war experience, mourning, politics, and national identity in 20th Century Eastern Europe.

**Excursion Journal:** Students will write 5 journal entries (approximately 200 words each) contrasting war/national/civic memory outside of Prague with war/national/civic memory in Prague.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to participate actively in class. To facilitate class discussion, students will maintain a daily reading journal in which they write a brief commentary (one-two paragraphs) on the reading assignment for the day.

### 7. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

### 8. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, [maria.canning@wku.edu](mailto:maria.canning@wku.edu), to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, [haley.mctaggart@wku.edu](mailto:haley.mctaggart@wku.edu), if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

### **9. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:**

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto:michael.crowe@wku.edu)) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / [joshua.hayes@wku.edu](mailto:joshua.hayes@wku.edu)). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.