

Yale Summer Session in Prague, Czech Republic
2016 Syllabus
***CZEC S243/FILM S143 In Kafka's Spirit:
Prague Film and Fiction***

► **Course Description:** Introduction to Prague's intellectual culture and the Jewish question through contemporary film, fiction, history, language, and students' creative projects, including filming. Travels in the Czech Republic and selected countries of former Austro-Hungary. Emphasis is on Kafka's influence on today's Prague, war period, dissident movement, transition from totalitarianism to democracy, and current multi-ethnic globalism. Works include analyzing films by Miloš Forman (*Loves of a Blond*, *Firemen's Ball*), Jan Kadar (*The Shop on Main Street*), Jan Svěrák (*Kolya*), Jan Hřebejk (*Divided We Fall*), and readings by Franz Kafka, Milan Kundera, Václav Havel, Bohumil Hrabal, and Holocaust writer Arnošt Lustig. Includes guest lectures by prominent economic, cultural and sport Prague leaders. Under the supervision and critical advice of cinematographers and artists Josef Lustig, Gary Griffin, Alice Arnold, Veronika Janečková, and the renowned film director Jan Hřebejk, each student will complete a creative project of his or her choice (short film based on students' screenplay, short story, theatre play, photo gallery, etc.), working in groups or individually. No prerequisites are required for the comprehensive introduction to conversational Czech L1 level, an integral part of the course.* Students performing exceptionally in Czech may qualify for placement in L2 or L3 during the 2016-17 academic year; however, an option of enrolling in L1 in fall 2016 is open to everyone. Participants choose to receive credit in either CZEC S-243 or FILM S-143. Group I, Hu, 2 credits

*Students with some knowledge of Czech may be eligible to receive private tutorial.

► **Classes:**

Classes are held in English on the indicated days. They are required to be attended by all the registered students. Classes are in a form of seminars with the following grading distribution:

- Class attendance and participation in Czech, and Film/Fiction, and testing 25%
- Classwork and homework in Czech and in Film/Fiction 25%
- Midterm Short Film Shooting or Creative Project 25%
- Final Paper/Analytical Essay based on Film and Fiction materials 25%

► **Teaching Schedule in Prague:**

- 9:30 – 11:00 Czech Language class
- 11:00 – 11:30 Snack break
- 11:30 – 1:00 Film & Fiction Class

During the Film Shooting/Art Project week (3rd week of the program), instruction hours may be extended as needed. A modified teaching schedule is during travels.

► **Required Materials:**

1. Purchase the books below (total price for all required books is \$100-\$150) in Yale bookstore or online. If you are able to access these books digitally, please let other participants know about this possibility. Before the program begins read the books indicated with an asterisk and highlight important ideas in your copy so it will be easier for you to reread the text in Prague. The academic curriculum, filming and/or completing art projects and travels are quite demanding: you will have Czech homework everyday (except during travels), written work, including a 500-word critical analysis of works studied each week, both literature and film (in addition to other activities, and exploring Prague on your own and with your friends). Your original creative project will be of 7 to 8 pages if in written form, and if produced in visual, dramatic, music or other form, it will be equally demanding in your time and energy; therefore, a prior preparation (reading the assigned novels) will be beneficial. Final paper 8-10 pages is due, August 3 at midnight.

- Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis**
- Franz Kafka, *The Trial**
- Václav Havel, *Disturbing the Peace**
- Václav Havel, *Largo Desolato**
- Bohumil Hrabal, *I Served the King of England**
- Arnošt Lustig's story "Tanga" will be distributed in Prague
- Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being**
- Milan Kundera, *Ignorance**
- Karen von Kunes, *Among the Sinners*, * buy online or in Prague
- Paul Argenti, *Elements of Style for Screenwriters**
- Karen von Kunes, *Hippocrene Czech-English/English-Czech Dictionary*
- James Naughton, *Colloquial Czech*, chapters will be distributed in Prague
- Textbook of Czech by Karen von Kunes, available for purchase in Prague
- Excerpts from Peter Demetz's *Prague in Black and Gold* will be distributed in Prague

2. The films and additional materials (criticism, journal articles, etc.) will be available in Prague. However, you might want to watch the assigned films before the trip. Our policy is to watch each film the night before the class discussion. The films are the following:

- Jiří Menzel: *Closely Watched Trains*
- Jan Kadar and Elmar Klos: *The Shop on Main Street*
- Jan Hřebejk: *Divided We Fall*
- Jiří Menzel: *I Served the King of England*
- Miloš Forman: *Loves of a Blond*
- Miloš Forman: *Firemen's Ball*
- Jan Svěrák: *Kolja*

CITIES, IN WHICH YOU STAY OVERNIGHT

PRAGUE, the Capital of the Czech Republic gained #8 spot among “25 Best Cities for Young People To Live In” as posted in Geography & Travel online in 2013. A romantic city of all architectural styles from Romanesque to Modernist and centuries long flourishing culture (museums, theatres, etc.) with a dramatic history (recent and centuries old), Prague lies in the heart of Europe and has become one of the most attractive and visited by tourists world's cities. Today, “all roads lead to Prague,” including the Yale Summer Session Abroad.

VIENNA is called “The City of Dreams” and “The City of Music” by the author of “25 Best Cities for Young People To Live In” with taking the spot #1 (just above #2, New York City!). The imperial beauty of Vienna is stunning, its large parks designed with grace and elegance are the most enjoyable to walk in. Vienna's transportation is the most efficient and Viennese people the most polite. One has a soothing feeling of serenity while in Vienna with Mozart's music heard everywhere. Yale participants of the Prague Summer Session claimed Vienna to be a city they would love to reside in.

BUDAPEST is a well-kept secret, partly due to Hungarian, a Finno-Ugric language that only few chosen speak. A large city, a reminder of the Austro-Hungary opulence, it is composed of two cities, Buda and Pest, separated by the Danube River. The city treasures are numerous, from Andrassy Avenue with chic boutiques to renowned geothermal springs. Budapest boasts with the Dohány Street Synagogue, the largest in Europe and the second largest synagogue in the world, and the world's third largest Parliament building. At night when its picturesque Buda Castle is lit and the reflection of Parliament is seen along the river, one is tempted to savor its beauty forever. Each year, Yale Summer Session participants bow to this image of eternity.

KARLOVY VARY, a spa resort known as Karlsbad, was annexed to Germany in 1938-45. But today, you don't have to go as far as Russia to practice your Russian! Join the Yale Summer Session in Prague and practice Russian in Karlovy Vary, a Czech historic town located in a beautiful valley, and partly acquired by Russian real estate moguls after the Velvet Revolution of 1989. It wasn't difficult for Russians to discover this gem since this town has been known for centuries to treat ailments of European aristocracy and celebrities. Peter the Great came here in 1711, Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev visited Karlsbad numerous times for treatments and so did, among many others, poet Goethe, and composers Frédéric Chopin and Ludwig van Beethoven. The Russian Orthodox Church with its golden-and-blue onion domes adds to the nostalgic charm of this resort known today for its International Film Festival, herbal liqueur Becherovka, fine Moser glass and shops with fine jewelry that cost more than jewelry in Cartier stores in Manhattan! Everyone is amazed, even Yale participants!

ČESKÝ KRUMLOV, a UNESCO World Heritage site is a picturesque small town in South Bohemia, known today for its 13th century Castle (with two living black bears below the Castle gate) and Egon Schiele Art Center. It is one of the most relaxing places in Central Europe, and whether you are rafting or greeting rafters from a little wooden bridge in the town center, you only need to say *ahoj* [pronounced *ahoy*] to make friends immediately. The town's souvenirs shops, cafés and restaurants along the banks of the Vltava River would hardly remind you of its pre- and post-WWII tumultuous history—its inhabitants changing with each different political wind blow. Today these nationalities live next to each other in harmony, and it is here, where

Romany people would play a violin and sing for you in their incomprehensible language. A real curiosity for Yale summer participants!

MIKULOV is known for its hilly location on the border with lower Austria, its Castle, and a Jewish settlement that began in 1421 and became a center of Moravian Jewry (nowadays reduced to a cemetery). The famous rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel is believed to have created the Golem of Prague, a protector of Jews, here in Mikulov. The Castle and the town were originally owned by the noble family of Liechtensteins, which also acquired neighboring territory with castles of Valtice and Lednice. Shortly before the Nazi occupation, Mikulov was annexed to Germany but six years later the German population was expelled and till this day remains mainly Moravian. Today, it is not so much the Castle that is an attraction for tourists and Yale summer participants, but rather private wineries, which extend throughout the 40-mile hilly trail known as Palava and offer wine tasting with specifically Moravian food, dances and cultural entertainment.

PIRAN, the highlight of the trip, is as far as the Yale summer Prague group ventures! A triangle in Adriatic Sea, the peninsula of Piran is a reminder of a pizza slice topped with medieval architecture and Italian influence. It is located in Slovenia (a region of former Yugoslavia, and prior to that, of former Austro-Hungary), several miles from the Italian border. Piran's panorama set against the blue waves of salty sea inspires even those who care little about poetry. It is here that Yale Summer participants have yet another opportunity put their linguistic knowledge into practice with local folks because the two languages, Czech and Slovenian, are marvelously similar. Students can sit on their balcony facing the blue sea and write poetry (or the course paper, if they prefer!) or walk along the hotels rocky beaches until they reach the end of the town wall with a fortress where sandy beaches begin and some swimmers swim in their birth suits. Just one piece of advice: Please don't stare because what one culture forbids, another culture finds quite natural! That's the reason for travel: learning, understanding and appreciating.



YSS Prague 2015

► **Program Director and Instructor:**



Dr. Karen von Kunes

Known as KvK among students, Dr. **Karen von Kunes** is Director and Instructor of the YSS in Prague. A Yale University Senior Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Film & Media Studies, she has been included in *The Best 300 Professors* by 2012 The Princeton Review (published by Random House). Dr. von Kunes has published Hippocrene *Czech-English and English-Czech Practical Dictionary*, and is the author of several textbooks, including *Czech Step By Step*, *Check Your Czech*, and “Czech’s so Easy.” In addition to *Beyond the Imaginable: 240 Ways of Looking at Czech*, and *Everything You Wanted to Know about Czech*, Dr. von Kunes has published critical articles on Czech literature and film (Kundera, Forman and Havel), and authored a screenplay. Her novel *Among the Sinners* was published in 2013 by Práh, and her scholarly manuscript on Kundera’s and Forman’s works is forthcoming. More under the following websites: <http://slavic.yale.edu/von-kunes> <http://www.hercampus.com/school/yale/yales-illustrious-czech-professor-kvk>

► **Guest Instructors:**



Josef “Pepi” Lustig

Josef Lustig, aka Pepi

Everyone loves Pepi, a son of a Holocaust survivor, a man of vital experience, energy and humor. As an artist and filmmaker, Pepi has a unique vision, and will help you to turn your ideas into a short film and other creative projects. Mr. Lustig is genuinely interested in your talents, potential, goal and accomplishments. He holds a Ph.D. degree in film, and has taught at Czech and American universities. Josef Lustig is a screenwriter, film director, editor, producer and actor. His main interest is the Holocaust, and he has won a variety of awards and recognitions for his works. Without Pepi, Yale FILM S-143/CZEC S-243 program would lack the true Czech/Jewish spirit.



Gary Griffin

Gary Griffin

An award-winning producer/director, Gary won the Sundance Film Festival’s 2005 American Excellence in Cinematography Award for his work on *The Education of Shelby Knox*, the story of a feminist’s coming-of-age. In his feature film *Listopad* (2014) he revisits the Prague Velvet Revolution. His other works include *Autism is a World*, a documentary co-produced with CNN, which tells a story of an autistic woman’s path to communication, and *Gerrymandering*, a film about the unfair legislative practice of redistricting. Mr. Griffin holds a MFA degree from Prague’s Film Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU), and is Artist in Residence at the American University in Washington, D.C.



Alice Arnold

Alice Arnold

A critic and documentary director, Alice spends a significant time in Prague. As a Fulbright Fellow she made *Electric Signs*, a documentary about signs and screens in Hong Kong. Her first film, *To Be Seen*, a documentary about street art, public space and urban environment, was broadcast in July 2006 on REEL/NY, WNET/PBS, and was screened at the Museum of Modern Art and distributed by Icarus Films. Alice Arnold teaches media studies and media production in New York City. She is a fine editor, and Yale participants in Prague appreciate her patience, dedication and hard work that she generously puts in introducing them to the art of film editing.



Veronika Janečková

Veronika Janečková

A FAMU graduate, Veronika has made several short films. She supports Yale students in a variety of undertakings and in pursuing their creative ideas to completion of projects of their interest from video making to music composition.



Jan Hřebejk

Jan Hřebejk

A prominent Czech feature film director, Mr. Hřebejk received the 2001 Oscar nomination for *Divided We Fall* in the Best Foreign Language Film category. While a student at FAMU, he directed and produced two short films, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex But Were Afraid to Experience* (1988), and *1948 AD* (1989). Both entered film festivals and caught viewers' and critics' attention. In 2009, his *Kawasaki's Rose* was selected for the Czech entry to the Best Foreign Language Film competition. Jan Hřebejk spends one afternoon with Yale students to discuss the art of directing and teach them the tricks of the film trade.



Tomáš Sedláček

Tomáš Sedláček

Mr. Sedláček is the Chief Macro-economic Strategist at ČSOB, and a former member of the National Economic Council of the Czech Republic & an economic advisor to former President Václav Havel. In 2006, Mr. Sedláček spent a semester at Yale as a World Fellow. He enjoys meeting with Yale students, talking about politics and his bestseller *Economics of Good and Evil* that was recently published in English by the Oxford University Press.

DAY-TO-DAY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	CLASS and/or ACTIVITY
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^LGroup lunch in a restaurant

^DGroup dinner (in nice Czech or European restaurant)

^{L+D}Group lunch and dinner

Day 0	June 25, Saturday	Individual departure flights from US cities to Prague
Day 1	June 26, Sunday ^D	Arrivals in Prague: Sightseeing & Welcome Dinner. Group bus transportation to JBK College around noon.

Week I

Day 2	June 27, Monday ^D	Class 1: Czech Less I. Intro to Lit-Film-History. ^{lecture}
Day 3	June 28, Tuesday	Class 2: Czech Less II. Kafka's <i>Metamorphosis</i> . ^{Novel}
Day 4	June 29, Wednesday	Class 3: Czech Less III. Kafka's <i>The Trial</i> . ^{Novel}
Day 5	June 30, Thursday ^{L+D}	Class 4: Czech Less IV. <i>Tanga</i> , ^{story} <i>Closely W Trains</i> ^{film} Prague Jewish Quarters/Jewish Cemetery ^{visit-lecture}
Day 6	July 1, Friday	Class 5: Czech Less V. <i>The Shop on Main Street</i> . ^{Film}
Day 7	July 2, Saturday ^{L+D}	Kutna Hora-Ossuary, ^{trip} July 4th Celebratory Dinner.
Day 8	July 3, Sunday	FREE DAY in Prague (or visit Dresden, Germany. ^{trip})

Week II

Day 9	July 4, Monday ^D	Class 6: Czech Less VI. <i>Divided We Fall</i> . ^{Film}
Day 10	July 5, Tuesday ^L	Class 7: Czech Less VII. Lidice-Terezin visit. ^{trip-lecture}
Day 11	July 6, Wednesday	Class 8: Czech Less VIII. <i>I Served King of Engl</i> . ^{novel, film}
Day 12	July 7, Thursday ^D	Class 9: Czech Less IX. <i>Loves & Firemen's Ball</i> . ^{two films}
Day 13	July 8, Friday ^L	To Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. ^{two-night trip}
Day 14	July 9, Saturday ^{L+D}	In Karlovy Vary attend 50th International Festival films.
Day 15	July 10, Sunday	Leaving Karlovy Vary for Prague. Film/Projects Preparation.

Week III

Day 16	July 11, Monday^D	Class 10: Czech Less X. Preparation Film/Art Projects.
Day 17	July 12, Tuesday	Class 11: Czech Less XI. Hřebejk's visit; Filmmaking.
Day 18	July 13, Wednesday^L	Class 12: Czech Less XII. Film, Art projects work continues.
Day 19	July 14, Thursday^L	Class 13: Czech Less XIII. Film/Art projects work ending.
Day 20	July 15, Friday^{L+D}	To Český Krumlov. <i>two-night trip</i> Castle & Theater visit.
Day 21	July 16, Saturday^D	In Český Krumlov: Rafting, Evening Disco Dancing.
Day 22	July 17, Sunday	Leaving Český Krumlov for Prague. Free afternoon.

Week IV

Day 23	July 18, Monday^D	Class 14: Czech Less XIV. <i>Disturbing Peace, Largo</i> ^{book}
Day 24	July 19, Tuesday	Class 15: Czech Less XV. <i>Unbearable Lightness</i> . ^{Novel}
Day 25	July 20, Wednesday	Class 16: Czech Less XVI. <i>Ignorance</i> . ^{novel}
Day 26	July 21, Thursday^D	Class 17: Czech Less XVII. <i>Kolja</i> . ^{film} Prag Globe. ^{awards}
Day 27	July 22, Friday^{L+D}	To Moravia Macocha Cave and Mikulov show. ^{one-night trip}
Day 28	July 23, Saturday^{L+D}	Leaving Moravia for Budapest via Bratislava. ^{two-night trip}
Day 29	July 24, Sunday^D	FREE DAY in Budapest

Week V

Day 30	July 25, Monday^D	Leaving Budapest for Vienna ^{two-night trip}
Day 31	July 26, Tuesday^D	Class 18. <i>Among the Sinners</i> . FREE DAY in Vienna.
Day 32	July 27, Wednesday^D	Leaving Vienna for Piran. ^{two-night trip} Sightseeing.
Day 33	July 28, Thursday^D	Class 19. <i>Class materials review</i> . FREE DAY in Piran.
Day 34	July 29, Friday	Leaving Piran for Prague. Arriving at 9:00 pm.
Day 35	July 30, Saturday^D	Class 20. FREE DAY in Prague, Boat Trip-Dinner.
Day 36	July 31, Sunday	Leaving Prague for US, or other individual destinations.