

CET Syllabus of Term



Program: CET Prague

Course Title: Resistance and Dissent: Punk and Alternative Culture from Nazism to Communism in the Czech Lands

Course Code: CE352

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Suggested Cross Listings: Sociology, Political Science, History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to all students

Professor: Pavla Jonssonova, Ph.D.

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Class schedule: Tue 16.15-19.15

Description of the course

This course provides critical insights into the various forms of resistance on the territory of today's Czech Republic. It will examine resistance against the German occupation during Second World War, against the totalitarian regime from 1948-1989, which was encompassed by the dissident movement and the underground, and we will finally explore criticisms against contemporary consumer society, multinational corporations and neoliberal capitalism. Throughout the semester, we will look at the case studies that include Operation Anthropoid, the student protestor Jan Palach, Václav Havel, the underground band The Plastic People of the Universe, political art collectives, street art, anarchism, alter-globalization movement, squatters and other subcultures.

The focus of this course is on the "politics" of resistance and disclosures of power mechanisms. Visuals and field trips are a part of this course. Although part of the course will be lecture-based, part of the course will be seminar style, where students will be expected to read and contribute on a regular basis

Objectives

Students will learn how to

- conceptualize and contextualize expressions of resistance
- apply critical imagination in decoding resistance
- read resistance to consumer culture

Course Method & Requirements

Lectures and seminars (discussions)

1. **Class participation:** Connect the concepts and terms from the readings, the lectures and presentations with your own comments and observation during class discussions. **10%**
2. **Reading check and reaction papers** ten times, 500 words, each 2%, together **20%:** First page – check: Author & bibliographical data. Bullet points learned in the jargon of the author, quotes, names, data. One initiated question for great class discussion. Second page – reaction – your polemics, criticism, etc. Only accepted BEFORE the class.
3. **Reading presentation and debate leader 10%** Sign in for your reading during the first class. This task includes ppt presentation (one slate info about the writer, four slates content with difficult points explained

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and last one with questions and polemic points for moderating the debate). Grading takes into account the accuracy in delivering main issues to the class and success in stimulating discussion. Debate leaders cannot submit the same text as a reading check.

4. **Midterm test** short answers to questions of the study guide - summary of basic terms and issues of the first half of the course. One paragraph description of the final project with two sources, preferably one from the readings – can be brought in. 5% of the 20%
5. **Research paper on the topics covered in class – graffiti and street art, music, etc. 40%, 2500 words.** MLA format. The projects are evaluated according to the quality of research and ability to add your own commentary. The work **MUST** have resonance with topics and readings covered in class. A short presentation of each project 5%,
Creative project is a possible alternative after approval (film, songs, poetry, etc.). In that situation a two page exegesis is required.

Relevant events: One World film festival on human rights

Favourite sounds of Prague www.sonicity.cz Bubec Art Safari <http://www.bubec.cz/>

Venues: Klinika, Café v lese, Vagon, Cross Club, Kastan, Vzorkovna, Café v lese, Vagon, Cross Club, Wakata, Fraktal

Alternative Culture listings:

Current Culture listings: Artmap, <http://www.artmap.cz/en>, <http://goout.cz/cs/koncerty/praha/>
<http://www.silver-rocket.org/koncerty/>
<http://programy.sms.cz/>

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation	10%
Reading/Reaction papers	20%
Reading presentation	10%
Mid-term test	20%
Final paper	40%

Academic Honesty & Classroom etiquette

Although the students are encouraged to exchange ideas in and outside class, everybody is required to submit their own work. That means that copying the work of other students or published materials is strictly prohibited.

As a courtesy to your professors and your classmates, please refrain from eating and using mobile phones and computers in class.

Attendance Policy

Mandatory attendance is a primary requirement for a responsible learning experience. Please consider that every absence has the potential to lower the final grade, as it may affect the “attendance and participation” portion of your grade or result in missing key information that could appear on quizzes or exams. In addition, professors take attendance at the beginning of the class. If you are more than 10 minutes late, professors mark one hour of absence from class. Onsite visits count as regular class hours. A no-show to

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a site visit counts as an absence. Detailed information about the Attendance you will find in the **CET Prague Academic Policies**

Grading scale

A:	93-100%	C+:	77-79%
A-:	90-92%	C:	73-76%
B+:	87-89%	C-:	70-72%
B:	83-86%	D+:	67-69%
B-:	80-82%	D:	60-66%
		F:	59% and below

Primary Texts

See weekly assignments and course schedule

Supplementary texts

Tom Stoppard Rock'n'Roll. London: Faber and Faber, 2006
Stuart Hall Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies. London: Routledge, 1996.
Terence Mc Kenna The Archaic Revival. San Francisco: Harper, 1991.
(Eds.) Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson The Blackwell City Reader. 2002 Blackwell Publishing, Oxford
Kidd, Warren, Culture and Identity, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002
(Ed.) Gelder, Ken, The Subcultures Readers. New York: Routledge, 2005
Mai, Markus & Remke, Arthur. Writing – Urban Calligraphy and Beyond, ed. R. Klanten. Berlin: Die Gestalten Verlag 2003.
Gary Bridge The Blackwell Subcultures Reader
John Fiske, Reading the Popular, London and New York: Routledge, 1989
Storey, John. Inventing Popular Culture, London: Blackwell, 2003, pp. 92-120
Martina Overstreet. In Graffiti We Trust. Praha: Mlada Fronta, 2005.
Le Bon, Gustave. *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*

Course Schedule

Week 1 Jan 30 Introductions and definitions.

Two examples of Czech historical resistance: Jan Hus and Reinhard Heydrich assassination

ppt Lecture: theoretical framework of Frankfurt and Birmingham School.

Semiotic resistance: counterculture, underground, subcultures.

Film excerpts: Jan Hus, Lidice, Anthropoid

Midterm questions: John Hus, his date of death. Operation Anthropoid. Resistance and consumer society.

Definitions, similarities and differences of avant-garde (leaders, manifestos, timeframe) underground, alternative, subcultures, new social movements, etc. Name three branches of the avant-gardes pertinent to resistance. Name the two schools theorizing resistance, their timeframe, three representatives and main ideas. What four points does Lyotard give as creating the postmodern paradigm?

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Week 2 Feb 6 Jan Palach "The most effective Western protest suicide of the 20th century"

Film excerpts: *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *Burning Bush* by Agnieszka Holland, HBO 2012

REQUIRED READING

Andriolo, Karin. "The Twice-Killed: Imagining Protest Suicide." *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 108, 2006. 100-113.

Weibgen, Lara. "Performance as 'Ethical Memento'. Art and Self-Sacrifice in Communist Czechoslovakia. *Third Text*. Vol. 23, Issue 1, January 2009. 55-64.

Midterm questions: What was Jan Palach's mission, how was it interpreted in 1969 and how is it interpreted today?

Who is the director of *Burning Bush*? What was her message? How can we understand it in the context of the history of protest suicides? When did Palach die?

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 1

Week 3 Feb 13

Dissident Resistance during Communism: Václav Havel

Film showing: Citizen Havel

REQUIRED READING

Havel, Václav. *The Power of the Powerless*. Prague, Charles University Press,

Bolton, Jonathan. "Introduction." In: *Worlds of Dissent*. Harvard UP: Massachusetts, 2012.

RECOMMENDED READING

Manifesto of Charter 77

Midterm questions: What is the concept of The Power of the Powerless? Name three works by V. Havel and describe his legacy. Who were the dissidents? When was he the president? His lifeline.

<http://www.vaclavhavel-library.org/en/>

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 2

Week 4 Feb 20 Czech Underground - Mixing Pop and Politics: PPU and Charter 77

REQUIRED READING

Bolton, Jonathan. "Legends of the Underground". In: *Worlds of Dissent*. Massachusetts: Harvard UP, 2012.

Martin Machovec (ed.) *Views From the Inside. Czech Underground Literature and Culture (1948-1989)*. Praha: FFUK, 2006: 1. Ivan Martin Jirous – "The Report on the Third Music Revival"

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 3

Week 5 Feb 27 Underground Poetry

Riedel, Jaroslav (ed.). *The Plastic People of the Universe. Lyrics*. Praha: Mat'a, 1997

Topol, Jáchym. 1995. "Game Park." Prague: Yazyk, 1995, 30-32.

Pavel Z. *Time is a Mid-Night Scream*, Prague: Twisted Spoon Press, 1999

RECOMMENDED:

Machovec, Martin: "Czech Underground Literature, 1969-1989 A Challenge to Textual Studies." In: *Voice, Text, Hypertext, Emerging Practices in Textual Studies*. Modiano Raimonda et al. (ed.) Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2003.

Film showing: *The PPU* by Jana Chytilova, Praha 2000

Who was the main organizer of the Czech Underground? How does he describe the goals in his manifesto? What is the influence of the PPU on Charter 77? What forced them underground? Were they Christians or left wing activists? Name main bands and personalities. What is the band's current situation? How did the band solve the tragic situation after the death of Mejla Hlavsa? What is the name of the best album of the PPU? Which band is Pavel Zajicek from?

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Who wrote the Game Park and what is it about? What is the name of the collection of poetry by Pavel Zajíček that we read in class?

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 4

Week 6 March 6 *Resistance and human rights in the Czech Republic: preparation for One World film festival of human rights*

Film excerpts: *Every Day Rebellion* Contemporary resistance in a global overview. How different is the Czech situation?

REQUIRED READING

Zizek Slavoj. "The Impossible Happens" from *Demanding the Impossible*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.

Zizek, Slavoj. "Symbolic Violence" from *Demanding the Impossible*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.

Noam Chomsky on Anarchism http://www.alternet.org/civil-liberties/noam-chomsky-kind-anarchism-i-believe-and-whats-wrong-libertarians?paging=off¤t_page=1#bookmark

What is the history of the film festival One World? Where was it started? In which countries is it happening? What are the new social movements the Williams talk about in *Related Fields*? What protest movements does Zizek talk about in *The Impossible Happens*? What political model does Zizek offer in exchange for the current one? What does he mean by saying the impossible happens – which philosopher does he have the term from? Name five of the new social movements from *Everyday Rebellion*

One World film festival of Human Rights 5th -14 March field trip TBO

Film: *Everyday Rebellion*

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 5

Week 7 March 13 Hipsters: subculture without resistance?

REQUIRED READING

Erbacher, Eric. "Hip or Square? Pop Cultural Negotiations of Hipster Lifestyles Between Commodification and Subversion." *Hidden Cities: Understanding Urban Popcultures* Ed. Leonard R. Koos. Oxford, UK: Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2012. E-Book.

Schiermer, Bjørn. "Late-modern hipsters: New tendencies in popular culture." *Acta Sociologica* 2014, Vol. 57(2) 167–181 sagepub.co.uk

Questions: What is the origin of the current hipster subculture? What are some of the characteristics of hipsters – how do they differ from earlier subcultures? What do hipsters wear? What do they listen to? What do they eat? Where are the main centers of hipster post-subculture in Prague? Name five vintage technical items hipsters are fascinated by.

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 6

15-23 March: Traveling Seminar (No classes)

Week 8 March 27 Music and Resistance

REQUIRED READING

Maderová, Blanka, Jurková, Zuzana, Veselý, Karel. *To Touch the World: Czech Musical Alternative 1968-2013* Praha: Fakulta humanitních studií Univerzity Karlovy v Praze, 2013.

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1. Introduction
2. Rock
3. Folk
4. Hip hop

Ramet, Sabrina Petra (ed.). *Rocking the State*. Oxford: Westview Press, 1994.

RECOMMENDED:

Hip and Hot: Raduza, Gipsy.cz, Gaia Mesiah, Vypsana Fixa, Oldrich Janota, UJD, Cechomor, Yellow Sisters, BBP, New Kids Underground, Birds Build Underground, Priesnitz, Jablkon, Rudovous, DG 307, Budoar stare damy, Ještě jsme se nedohodli, Chadima, Richter, Jasna paka, Psi vojaci, Tata boys Traband, Toxic, etc.

film: *Ceska Rap-ublika*

How was rock'n'roll called in Czechoslovakia? Name five Czech bands and their genre (excluding the underground). What was the first rock album in Czech rock history and by which band? George Harrison played in his early career a Czechoslovak guitar. What was its name? What is the best album in Czech rock history? Which folk musician reacted immediately to the Warsaw pact invasion and what was the name of the song? What was the name of the grouping of protest singer like Hutka, Lutka, Merta, etc.?

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 7

2-6 April Spring break (no classes)

Week 9 April 10 Czech versus International Graffiti: urban decore/resistance?

Graffiti readings debate Graffiti films excerpts: Exit through the Gift Shop.

REQUIRED READING

Magid, Václav. In: Crew Against People. Praha: Bigg Boss, 2007.

Pospiszyl, Tomáš, Lékó, István. 1-19 in: Street Art Praha. Praha: Arbor vitae, 2007.

Kaláb, Jan, Barenthin Lindblad, Tobias. 10-15 in: Names. Praha: Třafačka, 2008.

Banksy. Wall and Piece. London: Random House, 2005.

Ellsworth-Jones, Will. *Banksy. The Man Behind the Wall*. London: Aurum Press, 2013.

field trip: Tesnov

Recommended addresses:

(<http://www.phatbeatz.cz>), Upstream (<http://www.upstream.cz>) (<http://www.graffneck.cz>) [www.artcrimes](http://www.artcrimes.com), david cerny.cz onepoint.cz, Banksy

Midterm questions: When and by whom was the legal sites Tesnov in Prague started? How does street art differ from graffiti? What is Třafačka? How, when and why did Kalab organize Namesfest? What books have been published on Czech graffiti? Why is Czech graffiti apolitical? What does Magid say about graffiti and politics? Who are tops international and Czech graffiti/street artists and what are their topics and strategies? What are Banksy's theories and thoughts on graffiti? What is Banksy's business strategy?

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 8

Week 10 Apr 17 Midterm test/ Evaluations, The Can

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Assignments/deadlines: final project pitch

Week 11 Apr 24 Resistance in Postmodernity. Culture Jamming. Political Art Collectives. subversion and resistance in visual art

Film showing *Czech Dream*

REQUIRED READING

Naomi Klein. "Culture Jamming." in *No Logo*

Harris, Stephen: What is Cheaper than Nothing at All? (www.brightlightsfil.com/63/63czechdream)

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 9

Week 12 May 1 Social and political art

DOX & Parallel Polis field trip

REQUIRED READING

Kleinhamplova, Barbora, Stejskalova, Tereza. *Who Is an Artist?* Praha: Academy of Fine Arts, 2015. – For the reading check select one chapter

Morganová, Pavlína. "Epilogue" in *Czech Action Art. Happenings, Actions, Events, Land Art, Body Art and Performance Art Behind the Iron Curtain*. Praha: Carolinum, Charles University Press, 2014.

New Czech political art collectives: Guma Guar, Ztohoven.

Assignments/deadlines: reading check 10

Week 13 May 8 Final projects presentations