



Arts Studio

ARTS 2000-3000 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Czech Republic: Arts and Social Change

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This elective course requires independent studio work in the visual arts, physical theatre, or creative writing. It aims to achieve two main objectives. First, to allow students to develop their arts portfolios through weekly assignments throughout the semester, and second, to introduce students to the contemporary arts community in Prague through attending theatre performances or regular meetings with visual artists or writers as appropriate to the area of study. This integrated approach allows students increased depth of knowledge of the Czech contemporary arts scene while preparing creative work that may form a starting point for the Independent Study Project. The course culminates in a presentation of student work in progress, including a visual arts exhibition, a performance, and literary readings.

For visual arts and theater studio work, background in the area of study is required. Students enrolling in creative writing must be majors or minors in English or creative writing. Enrollment at 2000 or 3000 level is determined upon application, based upon prior academic study and SIT's assessment of the student level.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an informed knowledge of the contemporary Czech visual or performing arts or literary scene;
- Describe and analyze the development of their own creative work vis-à-vis weekly critiques and input/inspiration from the Czech cultural environment;

- Prepare a formal presentation of their creative work for an outside audience in the form of a reading, performance, or exhibition.

Language of Instruction

This course is taught in English, but students will be exposed to vocabulary related to course content as well as the nuances of the arts and social change through in-country expert lectures and field visits in a wide range of venues.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

These modules are deliberately open as they follow a general structure and cycle of creative work and critiques, site visits, and journaling that varies from semester to semester based on current exhibitions, performances, and availability of guests speakers—artists, writers, and other arts specialists. Each module comprises three weeks.

Module 1: Introductions, Overview, and Mapping

This introductory module includes a presentation of prior student work in the area of study, the lecturer's introduction to their own work, and course aims and expectations. Students are given their first three field assignments for readings and creative work and take part in three site visits, exhibitions, or performances. Students engage in an experiential mapping of the local arts scene and cultural space to see how their own work may respond to, reflect upon, or mirror the local arts scene. The module is closed with a session devoted to reflection on what students have gathered from their initial creative mapping, as well as directions for refining the creative work in Module 2.

Module 2: Incubation

This module is devoted to deepening and developing the creative work done in the first module through focused critiques and discussion. During the reflection at the end of this module students are expected to be able to reflect critically on the impulses from the Czech environment that inform their creative work and to offer an assessment from their position as outsider-insiders on the role of arts and artists in Czech society today. Based upon critique, they also concretize the concept for the final exhibition and develop a work plan for completing it in stages in Module 3.

Module 3: Refinement, Presentation, and Evaluation

This module is devoted to refining creative work based on critiques and preparing the work for installation and presentation. The module requires student spoken and written reflections on the topics explored as well as the process and technical components of their creative work.

Required Readings

This is a studio-based course with required readings customized each semester for the student's specific creative direction. Required readings may include:

Burian, J. M. (2000). *Czech Theatre of the 1990's* In *Modern Czech Theatre: Reflector and Conscience of a Nation*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. pp.199-229.

- Lappin, Elena, ed. (1997) *Daylight in the Nightclub Inferno: Czech Fiction from the Post-Kundera Generation*. North Haven, Connecticut: Catbird Press.
- Bůchler, Alexandra, ed. *Six Czech Poets.* (2007). Todmorden, United Kingdom: Arc Publications
- Vojtech Lahoda & Karel Srp (n.d.) *Czech Art 1900-1990 from the Collections at the Prague City Gallery/House of the Golden Ring*. Prague: Prague City Gallery.
- Rišlinková, Helena, Lendelova, Lucia & Pospěch, Tomáš (2002) *Czech and Slovak Photography of the 1980s and 1990s*. Olomouc: Museum of Art.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:

Weekly assignments include specialized readings as assigned, journaling, and creative work in the designated studio area. Students are required to be on time to all scheduled studio classes, to be prepared with creative work for critique, and to participate actively.

- **Weekly Assignments:** Weekly assignments aimed at developing individual creative work in the visual arts, theatre, or creative writing.
- **Exhibition, Performance, or Reading:** Final exhibition, performance, or reading and directed discussion with guests.
- **Attendance and Participation:** Students are required to be on time to all lectures and site visits and to participate actively in studio work, critiques, and meetings with guests artists or writers.

Assessment:

Weekly Assignments	60%
Exhibition, Performance or Reading	30%
Attendance and Participation	10%

Grading Scale:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy artists and professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak to us.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

- Respect differences of opinion (classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.