

COURSE DETAIL

HUMOR AND CZECH CULTURE

Country

Czech Republic

Host Institution

Charles University

Program(s)

Central European Studies

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Slavic Studies Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

154

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

HUMOR AND CZECH CULTURE

UCEAP Transcript Title

HUMOR&CZECH CULTURE

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course applies an interdisciplinary approach to the phenomenon of humor, combining literary studies, culture studies, rhetoric, philosophy, ethics, and psychology. The first part of the course presents a historical introduction, comparing examples of humor and comedy from different parts of the world and different eras (from Aristophanes to Kharms and contemporary comedians). Key concepts such as satire, irony, parody, black humor, wit, hyperbole, absurd humor, etc. are discussed along with major philosophical theories of humor. Current problems including the limits of humor, political correctness, identity, and outgroup derogation are introduced, to be further discussed in the second part of the course. The second part of the course focuses on Czech culture and the many ways humor is present in it. Apart from literary masterpieces by Hašek, Kafka, Havel, Kundera, and others, the course reviews comedy in theatre (Ja'ra Cimrman Theatre), film (Czechoslovak New Wave) and other forms of art. The readings include excerpts from a humorous texts and short theoretical texts pertaining to the type of humor or the problem presented.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

CUFA ART 312

Host Institution Course Title

HUMOR AND CZECH CULTURE

Host Institution Campus

ARTS

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

East and Central European Studies

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