

Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze | VŠE

University of Economics, Prague

ESAC Summer Course 2013

Course: Jews and Judaism in Central Europe

Course Code: HUM 4670 (Graduate level)

Each course is worth 4 US/7 ECTS semester credits (Two course maximum, for a total of 8 US/14 ECTS credits)

45 direct contact hours (includes class lectures, mandatory site visits and direct instruction). Mandatory site visits are listed below, including a trip to Terezin Concentration Camp.

Instructor: PhDr. Kateřina Průšová

Office Hours: by appointment

Phone: +00420775357975

E-mail: katerina.prusova@aauni.edu

Catalog Description

Most Jews living in the US, where is the largest Jewish community in the world, trace their descent to Central and Eastern Europe. The students study the religious and cultural heritage accumulated by generations of Jews living in Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and above all Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. Sefardi tradition and Maimonides are presented in one of the first lectures of the cycle, however the course focuses on Ashkenazi Judaism from Medieval to Modern Times. Chassidism and Jewish enlightenment are attentively analyzed as well as Jewish emancipation and integration into the modern society. The course also deals with various factors leading to Holocaust disaster from romantic ideas born in the 19th century to modern anti-semitism. Students will benefit from visits to the Jewish museum in Prague where the wealth of Central European Jewry was accumulated by Nazis who planned to establish in Prague a museum of „an extinct nation“.

Course Prerequisites

Major or minor in Jewish Studies (discuss with professor for approval)

Project Requirements for Graduate Level Credits:

1. Completion of independent Jewish Studies Course Project and Presentation - Graduate Student must provide the class with a 25 minute presentation - a comprehensive overview of a historical event that had a long term, significant impact on Judaism today. Research must include the historical overview from every possible perspective. Student may select the topic but must work closely with Professor to ensure research is relevant to the course and useful for the student's capstone research project.

2. Site Visits - Graduate student must conduct 2 additional independent site visits with organizations/companies relevant to their chosen area of study. They must fully document these interviews and submit a 6-10 page (double-spaced) synopsis and evaluation of each site visit which relates to chosen area of study. Site Visit Synopsis should provide a foundation for the student's Capstone project. This is an opportunity for the student to get real-world experience and knowledge from key players in their area of research.

3. Graduate Capstone - In preparation for the Graduate student's Master's Capstone project, the student will conduct extensive data collection and analysis in their chosen area of study. This data collection must be all inclusive, factual accurate and relevant to the selected topic and you must integrate your site visit results into your final paper. The Capstone project must demonstrate the student's knowledge of issues involved from a historical perspective along with the impact on the shaping of Central Europe as it exists today. The Capstone will be between 20-30 pages, double spaced, with a complete bibliography. An extension on the due date will be granted to allow students extra time for data collection and research.

University of Economics Grading Scale

A	90 %	–	100 %
B	75 %	–	89 %
C	60 %	–	74 %
D/F	0 %	–	59 %

Course Purpose

Upon a successful completion of the course the student will be able to find his or her way through Jewish history in the area, understand Jewish experience in Prague and other Central European Centers like Cracow, explore coexistence of Jewish population within plurality of cultures in the region and discuss the acquainted knowledge about Jewish existence before Auschwitz.

Content of the Course

1. Student's personal experience with Jewish life in the USA, variety of the Jewish Diaspora, Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews, Jewish identities in the present day State of Israel
2. Holy Roman Empire, the beginnings of Ashkenazi settlement in Rhineland and its movement eastwards; Yiddish as the vernacular language of Ashkenazi Jews
3. Ancient Palestine and the Hebrew Bible; Rabbinic Judaism and Talmud.
4. Jews of Andalusia; Maimonides – Jews in the Muslim world
5. Jews and Medieval Christianity, social and economic basis of anti-judaism
6. Jewish communities in the Lands of Bohemian Crown up to the turn of the 20th C.
7. Jews in Poland and the Cracow community. Chassidism and the Jewish Enlightenment. Moses Mendelssohn.

8. Emancipation of the Jews in the Austrian Empire, Theodor Herzl and Zionism; Modern intellectuals and their relation to Judaism: Heine, Marx, Freud and Kafka.
9. Persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany, the Wannsee conference and the „Final Solution of the Jewish Question“.
10. Excursion to the Jewish Museum in Prague.
11. Excursion to Franz Kafka Museum
12. Portfolios due. Finals, presentation of projects.

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the policies of VSE, class attendance is mandatory. If a student is absent for more than 2 class sessions in a twelve week course, the final grade for the course will be lowered 5% for each additional absence.

Academic Honesty

VSE has a zero tolerance for plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. Cheating on exams and quizzes will result in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism, submitting written assignments that are not your own work, but work copied from, books, articles, internet without citations, papers of classmates and papers prepared by person(s) other than yourself may result in a failing grade for the course. The suspected work will be turned over to the Academic Program Director for evaluation and final decision. See the Student Honor Code for detailed policy.

Course Requirements

Learner is encouraged to think independently about problems and to develop this ability through the class discussions, his or her independent study including an integrative project and a journal reflecting his or her personal experience of the Central European area.

Participation: Participation extends beyond mere attendance. Expect your instructor to keep track of how often you contribute to class discussion.

Quizzes: Will take place at most of the classes on a problem covered in the class and a previously assigned reading. Quizzes can not be made up if missed. Combined they make up 25% of the students grade.

Final Exam: Final exam will have a form of a short essay on an assigned topic covered previously in the class.

Portfolio: Documenting everyday personal meeting with history, economy, politics, culture and thinking and its presentation in an interesting way. In a portfolio learner can collect information and ideas that will be used in the project. Visual form is encouraged.

Project - In preparation for the project, the student will conduct extensive data collection and analysis in their chosen area of study. The topic of your paper will be up to you with approval of myself. Together we will find a topic that will be worthy of supporting new knowledge and a topic that won't end in a dead end for you. This data collection must incorporate the

materials covered in the History of Central Europe course. The project must demonstrate the student's knowledge of issues involved in the selected paper topic. It will be about 6-10 pages, double spaced, with a complete bibliography.

General Requirements

- The University's rules on academic integrity (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOR CODE.

Criteria for Determination of Final Grade, including Evaluation Methods

Activity	Percent	Description
Quizzes	20%	Objective based on weekly reading assignments
Final Exam	20%	Written exam based on lectures and readings
Project	20%	An integrative project and a paper on a selected topic. 6-10 pages
Portfolio	20%	Documenting everyday personal experience with history, economy, politics, culture and thinking.
Participation	20%	Activity in the classroom and on the field trips.

Readings:

Additional Readings will be assigned electronically and a course pack will be provided.

Encyclopedia Judaica, 26 volumes, MacMillan, 2006.

Paul Kriwacek, Yiddish Civilization – The Rise and Fall of Forgotten Nation, London, 2006.

Paul Johnson, A History of Jews, Weiden & Nicolson, 1988.

H.J. Kieval, Languages of Community: The Jewish Experience in the Czech Lands, University of California Press, 2000.

K. Seeskin, The Cambridge Companion to Maimonides, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

R. Chazan, Medieval Stereotypes and Modern Antisemitism, University of California Press, 1997.

A. Elon, The Pity of it All: A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch 1743-1933, Picador, 2002.

M.A. Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany, Oxford University Press, 1999.

Date Prepared and By Whom Prepared: PhDr. Kateřina Průšová, July 2012