

CZECH CULTURE 324: Us and Them: Czechs and Strangers

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-11, PAR 304

Professor Veronika Tuckerova
VeronikaTuckerova@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: Tues 11-12, and by appointment. CAL 408

How did Czechs imagine and construct themselves and the "other," and how, by contrast were they perceived by others? What did Czechs create, and how do they relate to other Slavs, Germans, Jews, and wider world? Is there a Czech identity and culture, distinct from others? To what extent did Czechs construct their identity based on the difference from others, and how accommodating they were to "strangers" in their midst? What was the role of translation, creation of language, and literature in negotiating identity? What did the Czechs gain and lose by attaining their own linguistically and nationally defined culture? We will read authors such as Herder, Hašek, Kafka, among others, and secondary texts on Central Europe, translation, nationalism, transnationalism, and "Orientalism." We will pay special attention to the role of language and translation, to Jews and anti-Semitism, Roma (Gypsies), Germans, and the complex identities of Prague German Jewish authors such as Kafka, Rilke, and Eisner.

Requirements:

Participation in discussions and presentation 30%; two response papers 40%; Final Paper 30%.

Week 1
August 30th
Introduction

Stranger amongst Us

Week 2
September 4th, 6th
Jan Neruda, *Prague Tales*

Week 3
September 11th, 13th
Karel Hynek Mácha, *May*

Week 4
September 18th, 20th
Herder, “On Slav Nations” (Reader)
Božena Němcová, *The Grandmother* (excerpt)

Czechs, Germans, and Jews in the Habsburg Monarchy

Week 5, September 25th, 27th
Jaroslav Hašek, *Bachura Scandal*

Response Paper I

Week 6, October 2nd, 4th
Eisner, Kafka and Prague; Scott Spector

Week 7, October 9th, 11th
Kafka, *Metamorphosis*, “Report to an Academy”

Week 8, October 16th, 18th
Kafka, “On Minor Literature”
Rilke, selections of poems

Week 9, October 23rd, 25th
Jiří Weil, *Life with a Star*

Week 10, October 30th, November 1st
Edward Said, *Orientalism* (selection)

Response Paper II

Post 1989: Further Away?

Week 11, November 6th, 8th
Josef Škvorecký, *When Eve Was Naked*

Week 12, November 13th, November 15th
Patrik Ouředník, *Europeana*

Week 13, November 20th
November 22nd – Thanksgiving

Ouředník,
Petra Hůlová, *All This Belongs to Me*.

Week 14, November 27th-29th
Petra Hůlová, *All This Belongs to Me*.

Week 15, December 4, December 6th
Wernisch, *In the Puppet Garden*
Translation

Final Paper Due December 7th

Literature:

Available in the bookstore:

Neruda, Jan, *Prague Tales*
Mácha, Karel Hynek, *May*.
Němcová, Božena, *The Grandmother*.
Hašek, Jaroslav, *Bachura Scandal*
Jiří Weil, *Life with a Star*.
Škvorecký, Josef, *When Eve Was Naked*.
Ouředník, Patrik, *Euroepana*.
Hůlová, Petra, *All This Belongs to Me*.
Wernisch, Ivan, *In the Puppet Garden*.
Said, Edward, *Orientalism*.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>