Czech 301K
Prague, Magic, and the Struggle for Power---Summer 2012

CZ 301K (Also listed as HIS S306N, R S306, REE S302) – Unique ID: CZ 87867, R S 87513, REE 87777, HIS 85417
instructor: Jason Roberts
MTWHF 11:30-1:00PM
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office hour:
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Welcome to UT's Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies!

My name is Jason Roberts, and I would like to welcome you to the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and to CZ 301K, *Magic and Power in Prague*. Yes, this is a course about magic, but what is magic? In this course we examine authentic historical texts from four different magical traditions to find the truth behind the fiction and the historical events that sometimes permitted and sometimes persecuted the religions, philosophies, and sciences we have come to call "magic." In this course you will study post-Reformation Bohemia and the practice of magic during the reign of Holy Roman Emperor, Rudolph II. We will concern ourselves primarily with how the practice of magic affected politics and religion as well as with how politics and religion affected the practice of magic. You will also expand your knowledge of history of Bohemia and the city of Prague and begin to separate four very different mystical and religious traditions, which are too often misleadingly grouped together under the undifferentiated term "magic."

Jason Roberts M.A., Assistant Instructor,
Dept. of Slavic Studies, Dept. of Germanic Studies, UT-Austin

CZ 301K is a lower division course. The course and the readings are in English. No knowledge of the Czech language is required. CZ 301K meets one hour per day Monday – Friday. In addition, you should plan to spend at least two hours each day studying outside of the class.

Required texts

(1)	**Title:**	**The Magic Circle of Rudolph II: Alchemy and Astrology in Renaisance Prague**
	Author:	**Peter Marshall**
	ISBN:	**0802715516**
(2)	**Title:**	**Malleus Maleficarum: The Original Guide to the Catching and Burning of Witches**
	Author:	**Mike Rosen**
	ISBN:	**1593622139**
(3)	**Title:**	**The Golem and the Wondrous Deeds of the Maharal of Prague**
	Author:	**Yudl Rosenberg**
	ISBN:	**0300143206**

Most of the readings for this course will be made available to you as .pdf documents through the course blackboard site. I have taken great care to ensure that those documents are all in the public domain and to find documents with high quality resolution so that they can be read on digital devices thus sparing the expense of printing. In addition, *The Magic Circle of Rudolph II: Alchemy and Astrology in Renaisance Prague* is available as an ebook. You may of course print these materials out if you prefer, but all of the .pdf materials have been prepared so as to be readable on an iPad, Kindle, etc. and of course, your computer screen.

Grading

CZ 301K students are evaluated according to the following criteria:

A. **5 take-home essay tests = 75%** Each test covers the material from the previous week.

B. **Homework and class assignments = 25%** Students are expected to complete the homework and participate actively in group activities and class discussion.

The five take-home essay tests for CZ 301K are equally weighted at 15% of your final grade. On Friday each week you will receive a prompt to guide you in the writing of your 3 page essay which must be emailed to me as a word document in 12 pt Times New Roman font by 12 noon on Saturday. Documented medical or family emergencies, religious holidays, and military service , which can be substantiated, will be treated as exceptions. **There are no incompletes given in Czech 301K**. A grade of C or better is required to pass (i.e., a C- is not a passing grade).

The letter grades will be broken down according to the following scale:

A	93 - 100 %	C	73 – 76.9 %
A-	90 - 92.9 %	C-	70 – 72.9 %
B+	87 – 89.9 %	D+	67 – 69.9 %
B	83 – 86.9 %	D	63 – 66.9 %
B-	80 – 82.9 %	D-	60 – 62.9 %
C+	77 – 79.9 %	F	0 – 59.9 %

Attendance
Make-up work will be allowed in exceptional situations, such as during documented medical illnesses, observance of religious holidays, military service, or family emergencies. Please notify me in writing as soon as possible to arrange for the make-up and provide written documentation promptly.

If you must miss class for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible and arrange with a classmate to receive handouts from class and to find out what was covered in the day's lesson. **You are allowed two (2) undocumented absences without attendance repercussions. Each further undocumented absence lowers your course grade by one grade** (i.e., if you have an A- and miss five (5) sessions without documentation, your final grade will be a B+). Documentation should be provided on official letterhead from your doctor, clergyman, or military superior. It must state the date and time of your appointment or obligation explicitly, as well as the duration of your absence and contact information of the issuing person. In case of serious illness, hospitalization, chronic disease, death in the family, severe mental health problems I will evaluate the situation on a case-by-case basis.

Homework
The homework for CZ 301K primarily consists of daily readings. There are often worksheets or assignments that accompany the reading assignments, which you will hand in for credit. The readings are significant (up to 50 pages per day on a few occasions,) if you cannot commit to reading the material you should consider taking the course in the future when you are able to do so.

Class Discussion
I foster a classroom atmosphere in which everyone will be treated respectfully. Classroom discussion of the material is an important part of the learning process and it is important for you to feel safe and relaxed so that you can speak up in front of the class without any anxiety, even if you are not certain that your contribution is correct. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything in the classroom that prevents you from speaking in class.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?
We value your feedback. If you enjoy your class, let me know. If there are any aspects of the class that you do not feel comfortable with, please inform me. If you are not comfortable with approaching me, feel free to contact Dr. Mary Neuburger at burgerm@austin.utexas.edu.

Additional Slavic course offerings

- ➔ If you would like information about majoring or minoring in Slavic, see Dr. Bella Jordan**,** Undergraduate Advisor for Slavic Studies (CAL 3; belka@mail.utexas.edu) or visit the department's webpage: http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic/

Use of e-mail for official correspondence to students

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html.

The class will be using its Blackboard site, accessible to each of you at https://courses.utexas.edu or through your UT Direct account. E-mail reminders and updates will be sent though Blackboard. The instructor answers university e-mail during business hours (M-F 8am-5pm). Do not expect a response after hours, immediately before class time or on weekends.

Documented disability statement
Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD. D*etails of a student's disability are confidential. Faculty do not ask questions related to a student's condition or diagnosis when receiving an official accommodation letter.*

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).

- Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).

- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

Behavior concerns advice line (BCAL)
If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency evacuation policy
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

(1) Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work, unless the instructor explicitly allows collaboration.
(2) You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students.
(3) Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.
(4) During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.