UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
COL 5037S SLA SLA325F

MAGIC PRAGUE
QUESTIONS OF LITERARY CITYSCAPE
Fall 2014
We 10-12, Graduates 10-1 TBA,

INSTRUCTOR: Veronika Ambros
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Office Hours: Thursday 12-1, St. Joseph Street Alumni Hall, #405, We 1-2 Centre for
Comparative Literature BT; or by appointment
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Prague as a meeting point of different cultures attracted a variety of artists and scholars. Inspired by the book *Magic Prague* of the Italian literary scholar Angelo Ripellino, this class explores the myth of Prague in selected works by Jan Neruda, Franz Kafka, R.M. Rilke, Paul Wegener, G. Apollinaire, B. Hrabal, and others. A number of secondary texts will help to discuss questions of literary cityscapes, of centre and margin, of multiculturalism and nationalism in different genres. Readings in English and for the specialists in the original.

**Requirements:**

**Undergraduate students:**
- Attendance and participation - 20%
- 2 essays (5 pages, 30% each) - 60%
- 10 reader responses every class - 20% due every Monday at noon

**Deadlines:**
- First essay: October 17
- Second essay: November 28

**Graduate students:**
- Attendance and participation: 10%
- Presentation: 20%
- 1 essay (20 page) 50%
- 10 reader responses every class - 20% due Monday noon
- **Deadline:** December 5

The written assignments have to follow the MLA guidelines: [www.mlahandbook.org](http://www.mlahandbook.org)

The following books can be purchased:
- Neruda – *Prague Tales*
  http://www.amazon.com/Prague-Tales-Central-European-Classics/dp/9639116238

- Ripellino – *Magic Prague*
  http://www.amazon.com/Magic-Prague-Angelo-Maria-Ripellino/dp/0330337793


- Kundera – *Ignorance*
Program

1 September 12  Introduction

2 September 19  Legends and Poetry

All

Ingeborg Bachmann, "Prague, January '64" 140
---. "Bohemia Lies by the Sea" 141
Paul Celan, "In Prague" 138
Allen Ginsberg, "Kral Majales" 150
František Halas, "Mala Strana Night Vision" 93, "Prague" 94
Nazim Hikmet Faust’s House,
Vítězslav Nezval, "City of Spires" 88, "Prague with Fingers of Rain" 90
Philippe Soupault, "To Prague" 85
in Delbos, Stephan ed. From a Terrace in Prague A Prague Poetry Anthology Prague, Litteraria Pragensia, 2011


Graduates

Viewing: Student from Prague /Golem

3 September 26   The City as a Small Town

Undergraduates „How it happened…, “Mr. Rysanek and Mr.Schlegel, Three Lilies „

Graduates Jan Neruda Prague Tales [Povídky malostranské]

Additional Readings:


Graduates
4 October 3  Multiculturalism and Nationalism
Rilke “Hradčany“, „Out of Smíchov“ Delbos 36-7;
J.S.Machar Old Town Square“ Delbos 83,
A. Sova „Old and new Prague“, Delbos 34-35.

Rainer Maria Rilke “King Bohusch” in Two Stories of Prague, Foreword7-54

Additional Readings:

Graduates Mikhail Bakhtin, „Chronotope“ 243-258

5 October 10  City as Tourist Attraction

All


Graduates


6 October 17  Prague between Reality and Imagination

All

Additional Readings:

Graduates
Deleuze Gilles and Guattari Félix ”What is a Minor Literature?” – In Mississippi Review, Vol. 11, No. 3, Essays Literary Criticism (Winter/Spring, 1983), 13-33

7 October 24  Hašek’s Prague and her “Mental Life”

All

Additional Reading:


8 October 31 Prague as the Set of the Process
Franz Kafka The Trial [Der Proceß ]

All

Graduates

9 November 7 Magic Prague
All
Angelo Ripellino Magic Prague Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994


10 November 14 Stars in the Golden City
Jiří Weil Life with a Star
Additional Readings:

Derek Sayer “Modernism, Seen from Prague, March 1937” *Artl@$ Bulletin* Volume 3 Issue 1, 19-29.

**Graduates**


**Viewing:**
Veit Harlan *Die Goldene Stadt* [The Golden City, 1942]

11 November 21  The “Belly” of Prague

All
Cross Currents [http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?id=crosscc%2C%20Bohumil;rgn=author;view=image;seq=0000290;idno=ANW0935.1986.001;node=ANW0935.1986.001%3A25


Additional Readings:

**Graduates**

12 November 28 Nostalgia for Prague?


Additional Readings:
**Graduates**
Jáchym Topol *Výlet k nádražní hale = A trip to the train station* Alex Zucker, trans.  illustroval Michal Cihlář. Praha : Plus, 2011
Selected Readings

Primary Texts
Harlan Veit *Die Goldene Stadt* [The Golden City, 1942], Film
Hrabal Bohumil *To Loud a Solitude* Cross currents. Volume 5(1986), pp. 278-332. [Cross Currents](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=crossc;cc=crossc;q1=Hrabal%2C%20Bohumil;rgn=author;view=image;seq=0000290;idno=ANW0935.1986.001;node=ANW0935.1986.001%3A25)
Madsen Ole Christian *Prague*. 2006. Film. Print
Machar J.S.Old Town Square“ In. Delbos 83
---.“Hradčany“, „Out of Smíchov“ Delbos 36-7.

Secondary Sources


---. *Rene Rilkes Prager Jahre*. Düüseldorf: Diedrichs, 1953. PT 2635165Z663


