

Central European Studies Program

Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

The Central European Studies Program at Masaryk University is designed for students who want a challenging educational experience in the heart of Europe - and who want to develop the global perspective they will need to face the future. Courses include studies of the social, economic, political and cultural transformations that have shaped Central Europe at the end of the 20th century, and the changes facing Europe in a broader perspective in the beginning of the 21st century. Courses are in English, along with Czech language study. Masaryk University's program also offers a unique opportunity to students to gain experience as interns with Czech and international non-government organizations, businesses, and public institutions. Students in the U.S. can receive course credit through the State University of New York (SUNY), Oswego.

Masaryk University is named after the founder and first president of Czechoslovakia, Tomáš G. Masaryk, who supported the opening of the university because he knew that democracy depended directly on broadening access to higher education. As the second-largest city in the Czech Republic, Brno combines the vibrancy of a university city with a rich historic legacy. With a population of 400,000 and the capital of Moravia, the city is home to six universities and more than 35,000 students, and is within a few hours' travel of Prague, Budapest, Krakow, Vienna and Berlin.

In the heart of Europe...



the Czech Republic's "energetic second city...with all the charm and architectural drama of Prague, minus the crowds"

- *The Lonely Planet*



...and within a few hours by bus or train of:

Brno – Prague	(2.5 hours)
Budapest	(6 hours)
Bratislava	(1.5 hours)
Warsaw	(11 hours)
Vienna	(2 hours)
Berlin	(8 hours)

Course of Study:

► Transformation of Central European Economies

Instructors: Dr. Ivan Malý, Dr. Pavel Ondrčka
Contact hours: 45 Credits: 3 US semester / 6 ECTS

A background on the economic history of the Czech Republic and other Central European countries. Special emphasis will be placed on the split in Czechoslovakia and current economic developments. The course will also discuss public sector transformation, presenting basic characteristics of the transformation of the public sector in the Czech Republic compared to public sectors in some other "developed" countries as well as other post-communist countries. The role of public choice and political struggle in shaping the history, magnitude, structure, and development of the public sector will be described.

► Re-modernizing Civic and Political Culture After 1989

Instructors: Dr. Csaba Szaló with Dr. Radim Marada, Dr. Pavel Barša, Dr. Maxmilián Strmiska
Contact hours: 45 Credits: 3 US semester / 6 ECTS

The course encompasses a variety of themes concerning problems with adaptation of East and Central European populations to the transformed historical conditions after the political changes in 1989. Topics include: 1) the changing character of inter-ethnic relations and newly emerging conflicts; 2) strategies of coping with the intensified effects of globalization; 3) social and cultural resources for (and limits to) building a viable civil society; 4) reconstruction of political party systems. Problems of adapting will be discussed in inter-related terms of politics, society, and culture. Examples will be taken from different countries of the region and discussion will emphasize comparative perspectives.

► Central and East European Social Problems

Instructors: Dr. Ladislav Rabušic, Dr. Tomáš Sirovátka
Contact hours: 45 Credits: 3 US semester / 6 ECTS

Political, economic, and social changes which the countries of East Central Europe have been witnessing since 1989 have brought many new concepts, phenomena and challenges to the fore: a new role of the state within the lives of individuals, the labor market and unemployment, income inequality and wealth, democratization of education, social exclusion and poverty, decreasing population and new family behavior, the aging of society, and a new role for religion. The course will address these issues and will outline their roots as well as their possible effects on political and social structures. Efforts of social policy to tackle some of these phenomena will also be discussed.

► Czech Cultural Heritage

Instructor: Dr. Mikuláš Bek with Dr. Jiří Kroupa, Dr. Jiří Trávníček
Contact hours: 45 Credits: 3 US semester / 6 ECTS

This course looks at how literature, art and architecture, and music have contributed to the Czech cultural experience. In the case of the visual arts and music, the aim is to show how they have been shaped by both history and the cultural space of Central Europe, while the focus in literature is on the modern period, when writers such as Čapek, Skvorecký, Kundera and Hrabal have made Czech society and Czech cultural concerns such vivid a part of world literature. Readings will be from selected works in translation, and the course will also include visits to museums, exhibitions and concerts.

Czech Language

Instructor: Faculty
Contact hours: 45 Credits: 3 US semester / 6 ECTS

The aim of this course will be to provide participants with basic communicative competency through classes focused on grammar and conversation. In the first week of classes, students study intensive Czech four hours a day. Students are placed according to language ability.