



CIEE Study Abroad

Course title:	Psychology of Transition and Transformation
Course number:	PSYC 3001 CIEE / POLI 3002 CIEE
Programs offering course:	CIEE Summer Online
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020

Course Description

What happens when you suddenly find yourself in the society of unknown rules and most of your previous knowledge is useless? What are the psychological pre-conditions but also consequences of the political changes in the 1990s and how can we account for them in psychological terms? How can we link it to some social issues moving the Czech society now? These are some of the key questions explored in this multidisciplinary course, which employs critical social psychology as its main theoretical source although other theoretical perspectives are also included. The course examines problems related to socialization in the totalitarian regime, demands political changes towards democracy put on individuals in the Czech society, and whether we can find traces of these unique experiences in the present day society. The communist regime was strongly linked with regulated socialization in chosen institutions and forced civil participation, which in fact resulted in people's retreat to private life and on an authentic community participation. The course examines the effects of the totalitarian past on the Czech society as a whole as well as on individuals and presents cultural specifics related to non-violent change of the society from totality to democracy. In addition, it analyzes the concept of the post-totalitarian syndrome in relation to some current issues in the Czech society, including xenophobia and prejudice towards immigrants and other minorities, and explores the changes in gender equality and the transformation of the health and social services, particularly in regard to mental health.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Analyze and illustrate the specifics of gender order in Central and Eastern Europe;
- Critically examine the interplay between the local and transnational dimension of gender and apply what they have learned in Prague to their situation at home;
- Develop critical thinking skills related to gender, particularly gender sensitizing;
- Assess the dominant gender ideologies, stereotypes and myths, and critically discuss the different social institutions and processes, including family, work place, labor market and politics, that continue to perpetuate gender inequalities of various degrees across the globe;
- Acquire an in-depth insight into the definitions of gender, gender order under state socialism and its present impact, and critically evaluate the public/private divide, the role of the media and representation in the perpetuation/change of gender roles, and sexuality and sexual politics.



CIEE Summer Online courses will involve asynchronous instruction. Instructors will apply theory and deliver the learning objectives using a rich array of online teaching methods and resources from CIEE host countries and communities. Full details, including dates and deadlines for assessments, will be provided in the final syllabus shortly before online learning begins.