**Art in Practice – Summer 2 (en plein air)**

**Course code:** ART 161

**Semester and year:** SUMMER 2, 2025

**Day and time:** June 23 – July 10, Mondays – Thursdays, 14:00 – 15:30

**Instructors:** Katerina Prusova (art historian), Aleksandra Jarosz Laszlo (art studio)

**Instructor contact:** Katerina.prusova@aauni.edu, Aleksandra Jarosz (email-tba)

**Consultation hours:** By request - Room 1.31

**Art fee:** 2500 CZK
**Art fees for this course will be used to cover:** admission to site visits – and payments to guests – basic art materials for the art studio practice

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| **Credits US/ECTS** | 3/6 | **Level** | Intermediate |
| **Length** | 3 weeks | **Pre-requisite** | Previous art studies preferred |
| **Contact hours** | 42 hours | **Course type** | Choose an item. Required/Elective |

# Course Description

Field trips with guided tours to galleries, exhibits and other nearby cultural sites in the city of Prague will be an integral component of the first part of the course. There will be a basic introduction to Prague’s art-cultural sites mostly nearby the campus; then a selection of best temporary contemporary art exhibits will be visited depending on the city’s cultural program. These activities will be combined with short preparatory lectures and discussions afterwards. Students may have opportunities to meet local artists and curators on site, if possible, and determined by the special interests of the students.

After introductory lectures with site visits for Prague’s specific art history and selected contemporary art exhibits, the class will move to the studio facilities for creative work inspired by Prague’s unique history and artistic heritage, which differed from the cultures of other European capitals and regions and so this can be a valuable source of inspiration for artists. Students will make creative works done predominantly en plein air (outdoors in nature) for drawing, and painting workshops – determined by interest of the students in the group. The first sessions will be devoted to exploring the art world with daily site visits and second-half for creative pursuits, inspired by the site visits.

The course is unique in its focus on the interplay between art history and contemporary art in the Prague context and teaching traditional art skills, innovation, and creativity – all essential requirements for successful progression to Higher Education and careers in the creative industries.

All levels are welcome.

# Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

* Recognize major historical sites and styles of Prague’s art and architecture and identify their basic characteristics from Romanesque to the Contemporary period.
* Contextualize the characteristics of selected forms and examples of Prague’s art history within the socio-cultural, historical, and political influences of their time.
* In the studios, students will begin by drawing while receiving basic instruction in technique. Identify methods, techniques, and the tools, which will be used in your course.AAU encourages active participation of students in the learning process. Teaching methods that engage students and develop their analytical skills are required. The relationship between instructors and students should be an interactive partnership. The teaching methodology thus shall be a combination of but not limited to: lectures, mini-lectures, group work, discussion, case study analyses, and student presentations.
* Develop techniques for drawing with value
* Develop techniques for painting with value, and with color
* Demonstrate growth in practical and professional artistic skills in drawing and painting
* Demonstrate a breadth of knowledge regarding Prague’s historical and contemporary art landscape

# Reading Material

## Required Textbook

* ***Prague – A Cultural History,*** by Richard Burton, Interlink Books (2009)

Students are expected to read materials assigned or distributed in class or made available in the college library.

## Recommended Materials

Selected readings may be recommended from the following publications among others:

* ***Prague – eleven centuries of architecture: historical guide*,** byJaroslava Stankova, Jiri Stursa, Svatopluk Vodera, PAV Publisher (1996)

# Teaching methodology

Introductory lectures with site visits for Prague’s specific art history and selected contemporary art exhibits, the class will move to the studio facilities for creative work inspired by the visits and Prague’s unique history and artistic heritage. There will be field trips with guided tours to cultural sites and architectural landmarks, galleries, exhibits, and other related cultural events in the city. One week and a half will be devoted to exploring the art world with daily site visits like thematic exhibitions and one week for creative pursuits, inspired by the exhibition visits in Prague. Based on themes of the exhibitions we visit, discussing art history or studying art techniques used in churches and palaces students will make creative works done in workshops for selective areas, including drawing, painting, photographs, or ceramics – determined by interest of the students in the group; however, the emphasis will be on drawings and paintings.

For the studio section, the artist/teacher will design workshops and discussions according to the interests of the students. The structure of the course´s interdisciplinary curriculum develops from taught workshops to increasingly self-directed study. Throughout the course, exhibition visits and workshops remain central to problem-solving and the development of observation skills. Students investigate a broad variety of Fine Art and Applied Art processes and concepts. Students are encouraged to engage with studio critiques and discussions, informed by contextual studies and weekly accompanied gallery visits. The small cohort’s size of students allows the teacher time for targeted one-to-one teaching in a supportive and creative environment. AAU is located close to several major museums and art galleries as well as a nearby garden. The program benefits from its creative and inspiring neighborhood in its center location.

Disciplines: life drawing, painting, sculpture, drawing, textiles, ceramics (depending on previous arrangements only).

Part one: Experiential excursions, Didactic, Group Discussion, Sketching

Part two: In the studio, students will begin by drawing and then painting while receiving basic instruction in technique. Identify methods, techniques, and the tools, which will be used in your course.AAU encourages active participation of students in the learning process. Teaching methods that engage students and develop their analytical skills are required. The relationship between instructors and students should be an interactive partnership. The teaching methodology thus shall be a combination of but not limited to: lectures, mini-lectures, group work, discussion, case study analyses, and student presentations.

# Course Schedule

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Class Agenda** |
| Session 1**June 23** | **Topic:** Introductions then lecture and site visits: Vyšehrad **Description:** From pre-Christian cultures to Christian language of images and architecture (kp)**Reading:** Students should watch *Magic Prague*, a short documentary film for BBC (on Youtube) about Prague’s cultural history and its uniqueness.**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
| Session 2**June 24** | **Topic:** The Charles Bridge & Vrbovska Garden in Mala Strana.**Description:** Baroque statutes in public spaces (kp)**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” Intro & Chap. 1 “How to Read Prague”**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
| Session 3**June 25** | **Topic:** Frantisek Kupka at Prague National Gallery – & Stromovka**Description:** Modernism, Abstract painting & geometry of the universe (kp)**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” Chap. 5 “Prague Modern - 1900-1948”**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
| Session 4**June 26** | **Topic:** Contemporary art I (ajl)**Description: “**The Call of the Wild” Kristyna & Marek Milde; “And We’ll Never be Parted” Anna Eva Bergman & Hans Hartung, at Kunsthalle; “The Palace of (Leisure) Time” at Chateau Troja – curator Veronika Cechova **Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” Chap. 8 “From Velvet to Velcro”**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
| Session 5**June 30** | **Topic:** Strahov Library, Petrin, Loretta, Prague Castle - Belvedere**Description:** Symbolicism in art, including the Black Madonna (kp)**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” Chap. 7 “Martyrs & Puppets”**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
| Session 6**July 1** | **Topic:** Women Artists in art history with a Prague focus**Description:** Site visit to Wallenstein Riding School exhibit “Women Artists 1300-1900” (kp) – emphasis on the Wallenstein garden **Reading:** none**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
| Session 7**July 2** | **Topic:** Introductions, student presentations & Contemporary Art II (ajl)**Description:** David Lynch “Up in Flames” at DOX Centre for Contemporary Art **Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” Chap. 3 “Josef K. and Josef Svejk: Trials and Triumphs”**Assignments/deadlines:** work on individual sketch book |
|  | **Shift to art studio section of the course** |
| Session 8**July 3** | **Topic:** Intro to En Plein Air, materials & techniques for drawing & painting(ajl)**Description:** works on paper: dry techniques – pencil, chalk, charcoal**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” based on art studio activities**Assignments/deadlines:** tba |
| Session 9**July 7** | **Topic:** Art Studio Workshop 1 (ajl)**Description:** En Plein Air – Art – urban sketching – practicing on location drawing and walking**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” based on art studio activities**Assignments/deadlines:** tba |
| Session 10**July 8** | **Topic:** Art Studio Workshop 2 (ajl)**Description:** En Plein Air in Prague gardens – everything is connected: nature, human, architecture and all the things in-between.**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” based on art studio activities**Assignments/deadlines:** tba |
| Session 11**July 9** | **Topic:** Art Studio Workshop 3 (ajl)**Description:** En Plein Air – relationship between humans and the environment, individual projects in the art studio**Reading:** “Prague–A Cultural History” based on studio works**Assignments/deadlines:** tba |
| Session 12**July 10** | **Topic:** Art Studio Workshop 4 (ajl)**Description:** Completion of final art projects and final exhibition**Reading:** none**Assignments/deadlines:** final works for presentation |

# Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Workload (average)** | **Weight in Final Grade** | **Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes** | **Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes\*** |
| Attendance and Class Participation | 45 | 20% | Active and engaged participation in all group discussions, site visits and workshops.  | 1, 2 |
| Sketchbook or visual-journal & mid-course Presentation | 40h | 25% | Demonstrate an active interest and understanding of the art history of Prague in sketches/visual journal. | 1, 2 |
| Studio assignments | 40h  | 25% | Follow the requirements of the assigned projects. Show creativity and serious effort. | 1, 3 |
| Final project presented with a short written text | 25h | 30% | Demonstrate absorption of course content, original creativity, and a sufficient amount of serious effort | 1, 2, 3 |
| **TOTAL** | **150** | **100%** |  |  |

\*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Action

# Detailed description of the assignments

**Assessment breakdown**

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| --- | --- |
| **Class Participation** | **Percentage** |
| Active attendance and participation in group discussions/activities | 40% |
| Ability to effectively analyze and communicate opinions when called upon | 30% |
| Ability to assimilate and express the art historical information presented | 30% |

**Assessment breakdown**

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| --- | --- |
| **Studio Assignments** | **Percentage** |
| Demonstrate an understanding of the technical problems of drawing and painting presented for each workshop | 30% |
| Ability to assimilate the art historical information presented along with technical accomplishment | 20% |
| Ability for originality and creativity | 25% |
| Demonstration of artistic talent, effort and progress | 25% |

# General Requirements and School Policies

## General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU’s academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules in the Academic Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work. Please see the AAU intranet for a [summary of key policies](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xoNETY9yqNMwNP-06wDzM2VmgMIOire-?usp=sharing) regarding coursework.

## Course specific requirements

There are no special requirements or deviations from AAU policies for this course.

# Grading Scale

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Percentage\*** | **Description** |
| A | 95–100 | **Excellent performance**. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject. |
| A– | 90–94 |
| B+ | 87–89 | **Good performance**. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort. |
| B | 83–86 |
| B– | 80–82 |
| C+ | 77–79 | **Fair performance**. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work. |
| C | 73–76 |
| C– | 70–72 |
| D+ | 65–69 | **Poor**. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student’s work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives. |
| D | 60–64 |
| F | 0–59 | **Fail**. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course. |

\* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by: Tony Ozuna

Date: 21/5/2025

Approved by: Victoria Saraceno

Date: 10/6/2025