



University of  
New Haven

## *Sport & Culture in Contemporary Czech Republic*

### SECTION I: Course Overview

**Course Code:** CUL351PRG

**Subject Area(s):** Cultural Studies

**Prerequisites:** None

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Total Contact Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes the role of sport in contemporary Czech society and the interrelationship between sport, identity, and politics in the Czech Republic from the end of the 19th century to the present day. Contemporary and historical sporting practices and events – including soccer, ice hockey, tennis, track and field, sailing, hiking, or *spartakiáda* – are analyzed to uncover issues around national identity, politics, gender, and the sport-media-market interface in the Czech context. Drawing on the Czech historical, sociological, and outdoor education studies, the course examines state and civic organization of sport and its political role in both totalitarian and democratic Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic. Students will actively engage in various aspects of the host culture throughout the term through case studies, onsite learning, and field research.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the historical development of sport in the Czech Republic from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.
- Explain the relationship between communist era policies and contemporary post-transition issues associated with national identity in the Czech Republic through the lens of sport.
- Apply theories from Czech sociology and outdoors education studies to the analysis of specific sporting practices in the Czech Republic.
- Examine the role of women in Czech sport, especially in those contexts where women's participation and contributions have been historically rendered invisible.
- Evaluate the extent to which material covered in class is expressed in the everyday life of the host society through direct experience while studying in Prague.

## ADDITIONAL COURSE FEES

This course requires payment of an additional fee to cover active learning components that are above and beyond typical course costs, such as site visits, entrance fees and other expenses. Please see the Course Overview online for further information.

## SECTION II: Instructor & Course Details

### INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

<b>Name:</b>	TBA
<b>Contact Information:</b>	TBA
<b>Term:</b>	SEMESTER

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

This class will meet once weekly for 150 minutes each session. All students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for the day's class session.

CEA enforces a mandatory attendance policy. You are therefore expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, including any field trips, site visits, guest lectures, etc. that are assigned by the instructor. The table below shows the number of class sessions you may miss before receiving a grade penalty.

ALLOWED ABSENCES – SEMESTER		
Courses Meeting X day(s) Per Week	Allowed Absence(s)	Automatic Failing Grade at X <sup>th</sup> absence
Courses meeting 1 day(s) per week	1 Absence	4 <sup>th</sup> Absence

For every additional absence beyond the allowed number, your final course grade will drop down to the subsequent letter grade (ex: A+ to A). As a student, you should understand that the grade penalties will apply if you are marked absent due to tardiness or leaving class early. In the table below, you will find the grade penalty associated with each excessive absence up to and including automatic course failure.

ATTENDANCE DOCKING PENALTIES				
Absence	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Penalty	No Penalty	0.5 Grade Docked	1 Grade Docked	Automatic Failure
HIGHEST POSSIBLE GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE PENALTIES				
Grade	A+	A	A-	F

CEA does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, no documentation is required for missing class. Similarly, excessive absences, and the grade penalty associated with each, will not be excused even if you are able to provide documentation that shows the absence was beyond your control. You should

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therefore only miss class when truly needed as illness or other unavoidable factors may force you to miss a class session later on in the term.

## GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Short Papers</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>

The instructor will calculate your course grades using the CEA Grading Scale shown below. As a CEA student, you should understand that credit transfer decisions—including earned grades for courses taken abroad—are ultimately made by your home institution.

CEA GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70 – 10.0	97.0 – 100%	4.00
A	9.40 – 9.69	94.0 – 96.9%	4.00
A-	9.00 – 9.39	90.0 – 93.9%	3.70
B+	8.70 – 8.99	87.0 – 89.9%	3.30
B	8.40 – 8.69	84.0 – 86.9%	3.00
B-	8.00 – 8.39	80.0 – 83.9%	2.70
C+	7.70 – 7.99	77.0 – 79.9%	2.30
C	7.40 – 7.69	74.0 – 76.9%	2.00
C-	7.00 – 7.39	70.0 – 73.9%	1.70
D	6.00 – 6.99	60.0 – 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00 – 5.99	0.00 – 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal	N/A	0.00
INC	Incomplete	N/A	0.00

## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time.

**Class Participation (10%):** Student participation is mandatory for all courses taken at a CEA Study Center. The instructor will use the rubric below when determining your participation grade. All students should understand that attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively toward the participation grade.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADING RUBRIC	
Student Participation Level	Grade
You make major & original contributions that spark discussion, offering critical comments clearly based on readings, research, & theoretical course topics.	<b>A+</b> (10.0 – 9.70)
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings & independent research.	<b>A/A-</b> (9.69 – 9.00)
You participate voluntarily and make useful contributions that are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	<b>B+/B</b> (8.99 – 8.40)
You make voluntary but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	<b>B-/C+</b> (8.39 – 7.70)
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	<b>C/C-</b> (7.69 – 7.00)
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject. You are not prepared for class and/or discussion of course readings.	<b>D</b> (6.99 – 6.00)
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion. You are consistently unprepared for class and/or discussion of the course readings.	<b>F</b> (5.99 – 0.00)

**Short Papers (20%):** You will write three short papers in response to the undertaken AICAP activities for this course. In your response papers, you should reflect on your experience, impressions, and observations from your direct engagement with Czech sport. You should connect your first-hand experiences and direct observations from the AICAP activity with our course literature and discussions. To demonstrate a clear connection to historical and sociological frameworks presented, you should reference at least three course readings.

**Midterm (25%) & Final Exam (25%):** The exams will assess your knowledge of both the historical specifics of sport in the Czech Republic, and the conceptual frameworks presented throughout the course. This will be done with a range of questions including definitions, short answers, and essay questions.

**Final Project (20%):** You will deliver an oral presentation for which you are to select a sport of your choice practiced in the Czech Republic, at any level, with or without formal governing bodies. You are to explore the evolution of this sport in the Czech Republic, its formal organization as well as its connection to Czech politics and Czech national identity. You will critically examine the impact of the Czech Republic's transition to democracy and transformations relevant to this sport in the post-communist era. During the last week of class you will present your findings to the class, in addition to handing in a paper of six to eight pages. This information should come from a combination of research and observation during your time in the Czech Republic. The instructor will provide further information during the course.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES (AICAP)

CEA courses are designed to include a variety of experiential learning activities that will take you out of the classroom and allow you to explore your local, host city. These activities may include field studies, guest lectures and/or activities offered through our Academically Integrated Cultural Activities Program (AICAP). Please check the Forms of Assessment section to find out if AICAP activities are related to any specific form of assessment. The following experiential learning activities are recommended for this course:

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- Ice-hockey match, hike in nature preserve Divoká Sarka, Museum of Communism.

## REQUIRED READINGS

Reading assignments for this course will come from the required text(s) and/or the selected reading(s) listed below. All required readings—whether assigned from the text or assigned as a selected reading—must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor.

- I. SELECTED READING(S):** The selected readings for this course are listed below. You will not need to purchase these readings; the instructor will provide these selected readings to you in class (either in paper or electronic format).

Bauer, T. and Fortune, Y. *Revisiting the Emil Zatopek Myth: Running by Jean Echenoz*, The International Journal of the History of Sport, Vol. 34 (16), 2007, pp. 1703-1718.

Borrero, M. *Sport in Russia and Eastern Europe*. In Edelman, R. and Wilson, W. (eds). Oxford Handbook of Sports History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 319-330.

Bren, P. *Weekend Getaways: the Chata, the Tramp and the Politics of Private Life in Post-1968 Czechoslovakia*. In Crowley, D. and Reid, S. (eds.) Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc (1<sup>st</sup> Edition). Oxford: Berg, 2002, pp. 123-140.

Cenek, J. and Smolik, J. Nationalism and Its Manifestations in Sport: the Case of Football Hooliganism in the Czech Republic. In Cordell, K., and Jajecznik, K. (eds.), The Transformation of Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe, University of Warsaw, 2015, pp. 138-153.

Collins, M. *Epilogue: Eastern European Sport: Which Ways from the Current Crossroads?*, The International Journal of the History of Sport, 21:5, 2004, pp. 833-843.

Duke, V. *The Flood from the East? Perestroika and the Migration of Sports Talent from Eastern Europe*. In Bale, J. and Maguire, J. (eds.) The Global Sports Arena: Athletic Talent Migration in an Interdependent World, London: Frank Cass, 1994, pp. 153-170.

Fialova, L. *Women and Sport in the Czech Republic*. In Pfister, T. and Hartmann-Tews, I. (eds.) Sport and Women: Social Issues in International Perspective. Routledge: London, 2003, pp. 102-117.

Jandasek, L. The Sokol Movement in Czechoslovakia. The Slavonic and East European Review, Vol. 11 (31), 1932, pp. 65-80.

Jirasek, I., Martin, A., and Turcova, I. *Games and Play: Jaroslav Foglar's Influence on Czech education in nature*. Horizons. Vol 45, 2009, pp. 28-32.

Jokisipila, M. *Maple Leaf, Hammer, and Sickle: International Ice Hockey during the Cold War*. Sport History Review, Vol. 37 (1), 2006, pp. 36-53.

Kostka, V. Czechoslovakia. In Riordan, J. (ed.). Sport under Communism: the USSR, Czechoslovakia, GDR, China, Cuba. (1<sup>st</sup> Edition). Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1978, pp. 55-67.

Kvasnicka, T. *Equipment and Changing Outdoor Culture in the Czech Republic. Anthropology of East Europe Review*. Vol 25 (1), 2009, pp. 53-63.

Martin, A., Turcova, I. and Neuman, J. *Turistika activities and games, dramaturgy, and the Czech outdoor experience*. In Humberstone, B., Prince, H. (eds). Routledge International Handbook of Outdoor Studies. London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 297-306.

Martin A. et al. *Czech education in nature traditions*. History of Education Review. Vol. 41 (1), 2020, pp. 31-43.

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Nolte, C. "Every Czech a Sokol!": *Feminism and Nationalism in the Czech Sokol Movement*. *Austrian History Yearbook*, Vol. 24, 2003, pp. 79-100.

Numerato, D. *Between small everyday practices and glorious symbolic acts: sport-based resistance against the communist regime in Czechoslovakia*. *Sport in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics*, Vol. 13 (1), 2010, pp. 107-120.

Numerato, D. *Sports as Resistance: Czech Hockey Protest in Czechoslovakia in 1969*. In Kratzmueller, B. et al. *Sport and the Construction of Identities*. Vienna: Verlag Turia & Kant, 2007, pp. 704-712.

Numerato, D. *Revisiting Weber's Concept of Disenchantment: An Examination of the Re-enchantment with Sailing in the Post-Communist Czech Republic*. *Sociology, Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies*, 2009, Vol. 43 (3), 2009, pp. 439-456.

Oates-Indruchova, L. *The Ideology of a Genderless Sporting Body. Reflections on the Czech State-Socialist Concept of a Physical Culture*. In Segal, N. Cook, R. and Taylor, L. (eds.) *Indeterminate Bodies*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003, pp. 48-66.

Poupaux, S. *Soviet and Post-Soviet Sport*. In Andreff, W. and Szymanski, S. (eds.) *Handbook of the Economics of Sport*. Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2006, pp. 316-324.

Riordan, J. *The Impact of Communism on Sport*. In Riordan, J. and Krueger, A. (eds.) *The International Politics of Sport in the Twentieth Century*. London: Routledge, 1999, pp. 48-67.

Roubal, P. *Politics of Gymnastics: Mass Gymnastic Displays Under Communism in Central and Eastern Europe*, *Body & Society*, Vol. 9 (2), 2003, pp. 1-25.

Slepickova, I. *Czech Women in the Sports Media*. In Bruce, T., Howden, J. and Markula, P. (eds.), *Sportswomen in the Olympics*, Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2010, pp. 153-165.

Soares, J. *Cold War, Hot Ice: International Ice Hockey: 1947-1980*. *Journal of Sport History*. Vol. 32 (2), 2007, pp. 207-230.

Spacek, O. *Sporting activities and social stratification in the Czech Republic: a temporal perspective*. *European Journal for Sport and Society*, Vol. 13 (4), 2016, pp. 256-273.

Svoboda, A. and Numerato, D. *Socio-cultural Transformations of Tennis in the Czech Republic*. In Lake, R. (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Tennis: History, Culture, Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2019, chapter 13.

Turcova, I. *The Czech approach to outdoor adventure and experiential education: the influence of Jaroslav Foglar's work*. *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*. Vol. 17 (4), 2017, pp. 321-337.

Valkanova, Y. *Constructions of nature and emerging ideas in children's education and care*. In David, T., Gooch, K., and Powell, S. (eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Philosophies and Theories of Early Childhood Education and Care*, New York: Routledge, 2016, pp. 11-18.

Waic, M. *Sport in Czechoslovakia 1945-1989*. In Waic, M. et. al. (eds.) *In the Shadow of Totalitarianism: Sport and the Olympic Movement in the "Visegrad Countries" 1945-1989*, Prague: Karolinum Press, 2015, pp. 1-40.

Zwicker, S., *Sport in the Czech and Slovak Republics and the Former Czechoslovakia and the Challenge of Its Historiography*, *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 38 (3), 2011, pp. 373-385.

## RECOMMENDED READINGS

The recommended reading(s) and/or text(s) for this course are below. These recommended readings are not mandatory, but they will assist you with research and understanding course content.

Cronin, M. and Holt, R. *The Globalisation of Sport*. *History Today* 53(7), 2003, pp. 26-33.

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Crossan, W. *Expanding game, expanding opportunity: the effect of athlete migration on Czech ice hockey from 1993 to 2018*, *Sports in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics*. Vol. 23 (3), 2019, pp. 377-398.

De Bosscher, V. Comparing Tennis Success Among Countries. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol 25 (1), 2003, pp. 49-68.

Frey, J. and Eitzen, D. . Sport and Society. *Annual Review of Sociology* 17, 1991, pp. 503-522.

Giulianotti, R. *Sport: A Critical Sociology* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016, 296 pp.

Kavalir, P. *Sport in the Value System of Czech Adolescents: Continuity and Change*. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 21 (5), 2004, pp. 742-761.

Keshock, C. *Historical, psychological and cultural influences upon the sport success of Czechoslovakian athletes*, *European Journal for Sport and Society*, Vol. 6 (2), 2009, pp. 179-188.

Leichtova, M., and Zakravska, J. Cold-War on ice? Soviet ice-hockey dominance and foreign policy. *Sports in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics*, 2020.

Numerato, D. and Flemr, L. *The Czech Republic*. In O'Boyle, I., and Bradbury, T. (eds.) *Sport Governance: International Case Studies* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), London: Routledge, 2013, pp. 229–242.

Numerato, D. *Czech Sport Governing Bodies and Social Capital*. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*. Vol 41 (3-4), 2008, pp. 283-294.

Nolte, C. *The Sokol in the Czech Lands to 1914: Training for the Nation* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). New York: Palgrave, 2002, 253 pp.

Poupaux, S. and Andreff, W. *The Institutional Dimension of the Sports Economy in Transition Countries*. In Parent, M. and Slack, T. (eds.) *International Perspectives on the Management of Sport* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), London: Routledge, 2007, pp. 99-123.

Riordan, J. *Sport, Politics and Communism* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition). Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1991, 166 pp.

Roubal, P. *Spartakiads: The Politics of Physical Culture in Communist Czechoslovakia* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition). Prague: Karolinum Press, 2019, 421 pp.

Turčová, I., Martin A., and Neuman, J. *Diversity in language: Outdoor terminology in the Czech Republic and Britain*, *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*, Vol. 5 (2), 2005, pp. 101-117.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In order to ensure your success abroad, CEA has provided the academic resources listed below. In addition to these resources, each CEA Study Center provides students with a physical library and study areas for group work. The Academic Affairs Office at each CEA Study Center also compiles a bank of detailed information regarding libraries, documentation centers, research institutes, and archival materials located in the host city.

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA student, you will be given access to the online library of CEA's School of Record, the University of New Haven (UNH). You can use this online library to access databases and additional resources while performing research abroad. You may access the UNH online library [here](#) or through your MyCEA Account. You must comply with UNH Policies regarding library usage.
- **CEAClassroom – Moodle:** CEA instructors use Moodle, an interactive virtual learning environment. This web-based platform provides you with constant and direct access to the course syllabus, daily schedule of class lectures and assignments, non-textbook required readings, and additional resources.

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Moodle includes the normal array of forums, up-loadable and downloadable databases, wikis, and related academic support designed for helping you achieve the learning objectives listed in this syllabus.

During the first week of class, CEA academic staff and/or faculty will help you navigate through the many functions and resources Moodle provides. While you may print a hard copy version of the syllabus, you should always check Moodle for the most up-to-date information regarding this course. The instructor will use Moodle to make announcements and updates to the course and/or syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to all Moodle materials and that you monitor Moodle on a daily basis in case there are any changes made to course assignments or scheduling.

To access Moodle: Please log-in to your MyCEA account using your normal username and password. Click on the “While You’re Abroad Tab” and make sure you are under the “Academics” sub-menu. There you will see a link above your schedule that says “View Online Courses” select this link to be taken to your Moodle environment.



**COURSE CALENDAR**  
*Sport & Culture in Contemporary Czech Republic*

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITY	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Introduction:</b> Review Syllabus, Classroom Policies</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What's Happening Currently in Czech Sport?</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Course Overview Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>	Syllabus and CEA Academic Policies
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Czechs and the Outdoors:</b> Czech Intellectual Traditions: J.A. Komensky &amp; J. Foglar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>	Jirasek, Martin, Turcova, pp. 28-32 Turcova, pp. 321-337 Martin, et al., pp. 31-43
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Czechs and the Outdoors:</b> Hike to Nature Preserve Divoka Sarka</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AICAP Activity 1</b> <i>Divoka Sarka</i></p>	Martin, Turcova, Neuman, pp. 297-306 Valkanova, pp. 11-18 Kvasnicka, pp. 53-63
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Kdo nesкаче neni Cech!</i></b> Sport &amp; Construction of Czech National Identity</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>	Nolte, pp. 79-100 Jandasek, pp. 65-80 Borrero, pp. 319-330 <b>Short Paper 1 due</b>
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The USSR &amp; Cold-War:</b> Sport as a Political Instrument</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>	Jokisipila, pp. 36-53 Soares, pp. 207-230 Poupaux, pp. 316-324
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Czechoslovak Sport during Communism (1945-1968)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AICAP Activity 2</b> <i>Museum of Communism</i></p>	Kostka, pp. pp. 55-67 Riordan, J., pp. 48-67 Waic, pp. 1-40
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prague Spring:</b> Sport and Political Resistance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture &amp; Discussion</p>	Numerato, pp. 107-120 Bren, pp. 123-140 Numerato, pp. 319-330 <b>Short Paper 2 due</b>

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8	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
9	<b>Normalization:</b> Czechoslovak Sport during Communism (1968-1989)	Lecture & Discussion	Roubal, pp. 1-25 Zwicker, pp. 373-385
10	<b>Transition to Democracy:</b> Transformation of Czech Sport after 1989	Lecture & Discussion	Spacek, pp. 256-273 Collins, pp. 833-843 Duke, pp. 153-170
11	<b>Selected Czech Sports &amp; Athletes</b>	<b>AICAP Activity 3</b> <i>Ice Hockey Match</i>	Cenek, Smolik, pp. 138-153 Bauer, Fortune, pp. 1703-1718
12	<b>Selected Czech Sports &amp; Athletes</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Numerato, pp. 439-456 Svoboda, Numerato, chapter 13 <b>Short Paper 3 due</b>
13	<b>Gender, Social Roles &amp; Media</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Oates-Indruchova, pp. 48-66 Fialova, pp. 102-117 Slepickova, pp. 153-165
14	<b>Final Project Presentations</b>	Charting the spaces in fields of sporting disciplines	<b>Final Project due</b>
15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

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## SECTION III: CEA Academic Policies

The policies listed in this section outline general expectations for CEA students. You should carefully review these policies to ensure success in your courses and during your time abroad. Furthermore, as a participant in the CEA program, you are expected to review and understand all CEA Student Policies, including the academic policies outlined on our website. CEA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time. For the most up to date policies, please review the policies on our website.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)

General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)