University of California, San Diego  
Global Seminars I  
Summer 2018  

LTWL 172  

Special Topics in Literature:  
Kafka, Prague and Modernism  

Tuesday, Wednesday  
Lectures & discussions  
2:00-5:00pm  

Thursday and Friday Excursions  
9:00am-1:00pm  

Summer Session I  
July 2-August 4  

Global Seminar  
UCSD  

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DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic themes in the study of culture in the form of architectural, cinematic, literary and musical expressions.

2. To gain an understanding of the complex histories of British culture in the twentieth century, with a focus on the post-war period (1945 to present).

3. A study of popular culture as a significant part of British society and global life.

4. To gain a familiarity with basic theoretical debates on various cultural theoretical themes.

5. To be able to make connections between the content of this course and current events.

6. To improve one’s writing and critical skills.

PREREQUISITES:
No prior knowledge of any topic in particular is required for this course. This is, however, an upper-division course. So, students are expected to be prepared to do reading, writing and to engage in-depth critical thinking.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Textbooks are available for purchase at Groundwork’s bookstore

1. Franz Kafka: The Complete Stories
2. Course Reader (available at Cal Copy)
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Assignments:

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

- Midterm Essay: 30%
- Final Exam: 50%
- Attendance and Participation: 20%

**Hours:**

Students are expected to have 120 hours of work for EACH five-week course. Of this, 30-40 hours (6-8 hours per week) must be direct contact hours for each course.

**Reading:**

It is important for each student to know that this upper-division course requires weekly reading. For each week you are required to read approximately 80-100 pages.

You will be expected to understand the readings and create thesis statements and make support of your claims with evidence in your writings.

**EXAMS:**

- The mid-term will be a 4 to 5 page (1000 words) analytical essay, discussing and critically addressing one of the essay questions. A list of the essay questions will be available a week before the deadline, so you will have a week to complete the mid-term paper. Your participation in class and readings should prepare you for the mid-term exam.

- The final exam will an in-class comprehensive exam.

**CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:**

- Attendance and Participation:

  Active class participation for each week compromises 20% of your grade, so class discussion is a course requirement. Be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during class throughout the course.
• Late Papers:
Late papers will be penalized a half letter grade for each class that they are late. Please turn in your papers in class, not via email or fax.

• Plagiarism:
The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism.

• Assistance
In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me on the first day of class.

Schedule for the course

• Monday to Wednesday: 2:00pm – 5:00pm in class

• Thursday – Excursion only day.

• There will be no scheduled activity on weekends.

Excursions
LTLW 172 excursions revolve around the literary culture of Prague in the 20th century. But there will be excursions that focus on key historical events in Czech history. The Kafka Museum and Frank Kafka Society provides information on the history and personal life of Prague’s most famous writer. Karlovy Vary, Karlovy Vary, and Sedlec Ossuary are sites outside of Prague, where students will become more acquainted with Czech history. Theresienstadt Concentration Camp is a haunting site and a place to study the writings of Jewish writer, Clementine Kramer, who died at the camp. The Battle of Austerlitz was one of the most important battlefields of Napoleonic Wars. Students will learn the history of Czechoslovakian nationalism based on the post-war period leading up to WWI, when Czechoslovakia declared independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918.
List of Places to visit and activities

1. Kafka Museum
2. Austerlitz Battlefield, 
3. Sedlec Ossuary,
4. Karlovy Vary,
5. Theresienstadt Concentration Camp
6. Karlstejn Castle
7. Frank Kafka Society (Siroka 14)

Schedule of Lectures

July 2-6

July 2, Monday: Orientation
July 3, Tuesday: Introduction to the course
July 4, Wednesday: What is Modernism?
July 5, Thursday: Excursion
July 6, Friday: Excursion

July 9-13

July 10, Tuesday: From Dostoyevsky to Pound
July 11, Wednesday: Czech Modernism
July 12, Thursday: Excursion
July 13, Friday: Excursion
**July 16-20**

July 17, Tuesday: Kafka I

July 18, Wednesday: Kafka II

July 19, Thursday: Excursion
July 20, Friday: Excursion

**July 23-27**

July 24, Tuesday: New Kafka III

July 25, Wednesday: New Wave cinema II

July 26, Thursday: Excursion
July 27, Friday: Excursion

**July 30-August 3**

July 31, Tuesday: Kafka in Postmodern times

August 1, Wednesday: Conclusion

August 2, Thursday: Excursion
August 3, Friday: Excursion