

# Advanced Seminar in Baroque Culture

HIST 4162/MUSC 4360/THEA 4735

Study Abroad Program at Český Krumlov

26 May - 26 June 2017



## Course Description

The Advanced Seminar in Baroque Culture, held at UNESCO world heritage site Český Krumlov (Czech Republic), is offered by Dalhousie University each year during the month of June. Taught by two faculty members – an historian and either a theatre scholar or a musicologist – the course is offered to upper-level undergraduate students in the arts and social sciences on-site at the Schwarzenberg castle. The court theatre at Český Krumlov is one of two eighteenth-century theatres worldwide with moving stage sets and stage machinery in tact, complemented by a large collection of Baroque costumes and extensive archival materials, including musical



scores of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The location presents unparalleled opportunities for students to experience first-hand the splendor of Baroque culture.

Students will be introduced to the key aspects of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century European history along with a first-hand view of some of the most important aspects of early modern theatre, opera, costumes, and stage technology. There will be ample opportunity to consider the connections between course readings and primary source documents in dialogue with material culture, especially the castle theatre's machinery, stock of original scenery and props, and collection of historical costumes. The course concludes with 'Baroque Night', an evening of early modern courtly entertainment, including *commedia dell'arte* figures, Baroque dance, excerpts of an experimental opera performance in the court theatre and a lavish banquet, complete with Baroque fireworks.

This course is equivalent to 6 credit hours, completed in the span of four weeks. Students will need to complete daily readings, two writings



assignments (typically an analysis of primary source documents for each of the history and musicology/theatre sections), and a 3-hour final exam. Classes run daily from approximately 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm, although the schedule might vary in view of excursions and other opportunities for experiential learning as they arise. Ability to read music is helpful but not required. The course instructors for 2017 are slated to be

Professor Gregory Hanlon (History, Dalhousie) and Dr. Estelle Joubert (Musicology, Dalhousie).

## Special Events and Weekend Activities

We typically spend the first weekend in Krumlov acclimatizing to the new town. Activities include seeing museums, art galleries, churches; going water rafting; hiking up to the sanctuary or visiting the castle gardens. The second weekend is spent in **Prague**, where students will



attend an opera performance at the Estates Theatre. Professors Gregory Hanlon and Peter Perina usually offer semi-private walking tours in various areas of the city. Students also have free time to explore castles, museums, and other leisure activities. The town's **Five Petalled Rose Festival** occupies the third weekend of the course, for which students rent costumes, thereby gaining free admission to the town centre. Activities include Renaissance

performances, processions and tournaments. The fourth weekend features **Baroque Night**, including Baroque dance, music, a performance of opera excerpts in the Baroque theatre and Baroque fireworks. Since Krumlov is not easily accessible by train or bus from major European centres, students who wish to travel around Europe are strongly advised to do so either before or after the course.

## Costs

The following are **approximate** figures in Canadian dollars and may vary, as they are subject to exchange rates. They are intended to give you a basic sense of potential expenses.

<b>*Base Tuition:</b>	\$1440 (6 credit hours)
<b>Auxiliary Fee:</b>	\$600
<b>International Student Fee:</b>	\$1740
<b>Air Fare:</b>	\$1500 (approximate – may be less)
<b>Accommodation:</b>	\$1000 to \$1200 (includes visit to Prague)
<b>APPROX TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$6480</b>
 <b>Personal spending:</b>	 About \$1000 (food, drink, theatre tickets, travel, shopping this all depends on your spending habits)



### What do my fees cover?

- Group bus from Linz Airport to Český Krumlov
- Rental of study room at Český Krumlov Castle (with internet access and printer)
- Group bus to and from Prague for short visit
- Group bus from Český Krumlov to Linz Airport

### Optional tickets for purchase via Infocenter in Krumlov:

- Ticket for Baroque Night
- Ticket for Prague Opera
- Revolving Theatre

### International Students Please Note:

International students will have to pay the international differential amount when registered for this course unless they have exceeded their max amount or are otherwise exempt.

### Student Experience

Lesley Brechin, Administrative Officer at the Fountain School for Performing Arts, can put prospective students in contact with past students ([lesley.Brechin@Dal.Ca](mailto:lesley.Brechin@Dal.Ca)). Additionally, the following websites may be of use:

- The official photo site for the Baroque Night held June 24, 2016: [http://www.ckrumlov.info/docs/en/festival\\_komorni\\_hudby\\_2016\\_fotogalerie.xml](http://www.ckrumlov.info/docs/en/festival_komorni_hudby_2016_fotogalerie.xml)
- The course Facebook page which has more photos and also a couple of videos: <https://www.facebook.com/krumlovseminar>
- Direct video links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2Qaz7IX-D0> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwdsgcrg6rg>



### Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

Students are responsible for making their own flight arrangements, and to meet the group at the Linz airport, usually on the Friday afternoon before the course begins. A shuttle will take students directly from Linz to Krumlov. Similarly, there is one designated departure time when the shuttle will take students from Krumlov back to Linz, usually the Monday morning following Baroque Night.

The 2017 class will be the first to stay on premises at the castle in newly renovated rooms (2 students per room), sharing one bathroom with the adjacent room. Breakfast will be included, and there is a shared common area.

## Reservation and Registration

A non-refundable deposit of CAD \$ 350 is required by January 31 in order to secure a place in the course. Given the fragility of material culture at Krumlov, the course is limited to 25 students, and admission is granted on a first-come first-served basis. Dalhousie University requires all students to take part in an online pre-departure orientation course. Students must complete this course prior to departure, and send the certificate to Lesley Brechin at the Fountain School of Performing Arts. You must hold a passport that is valid for six months after your return date in order to travel.



## Contact

Interested students should contact Lesley Brechin, Administrative Officer at the Fountain School of Performing Arts, so that you can be added to the email list. Note that being on the email list does not mean that you are committed to the class, but rather, that you are interested in receiving further information as the course planning unfolds.

Lesley Brechin: [lesley.brechin@dal.ca](mailto:lesley.brechin@dal.ca)