Advanced Seminar in Baroque Culture

HIST 4162/MUSC 4360/THEA 4735
Study Abroad in Český Krumlov, Czech Republic
May 28 to June 28, 2027



Course Description

The Advanced Seminar in Baroque Culture, held at UNESCO world heritage site Český Krumlov (Czech Republic), is offered by Dalhousie University's Fountain School of Performing Arts and the University of King's College 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 onsite at the Schwarzenberg castle. The court theatre at Český Krumlov is one of two 18th-century theatres worldwide with moving stage sets and stage machinery intact, complemented by a large collection of Baroque costumes and extensive archival materials, including musical scores of the 17th and 18th centuries. The location presents unparalleled opportunities for students to experience first-hand the splendour of Baroque culture.

Students will be introduced to the key aspects of 17th- and 18th-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 complete daily readings, two writings assignments (typically an analysis of primary source documents for each of the history and musicology/theatre sections), and a 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 2027 will be Dr. Gregory Hanlon (History) and Dr. Elizabeth Rouget (Musicology).

Special Events and Weekend Activities

We normally spend the first weekend in Krumlov acclimatizing to the town. Activities include a welcome dinner; seeing museums, art galleries, churches; going water rafting; hiking up to the sanctuary or visiting the castle gardens. At some point during the second week there is usually a 2-night excursion to **Prague**, where students will attend an opera performance at the Estates Theatre. Faculty often lead semiprivate 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** takes place on the weekend of June 18-20, 2027. Students rent costumes, thereby gaining free admission to the town centre. Activities include Renaissance performances, processionals and tournaments. The final 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.



Travel Arrangements and Accommodation

Students are responsible for making their own flight arrangements and to meet the group at the Prague airport on the Friday afternoon before the course begins. A shuttle will take students directly from Prague to Krumlov. Similarly, there is one designated departure time when the shuttle will take students from Krumlov back to Prague, the Monday morning following Baroque Night. While in Krumlov, the class lives on premises at the castle in the Český Krumlov Study Centre (two students per room). Each room has a private washroom with shower. Breakfast is included and there is a shared common area.

Student Experience

Here are some comments from students who have taken the course:

"*This course was more than I could have hoped for."*

"It was an incredible experience filled with academics and adventures. I grew as a person, as a student, and as a traveler."

"The friendships I made during the month in Český Krumlov will last a lifetime."



The following websites will help acquaint you with the area and the course:

- 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

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. **Tuition fees are based on Dal fees for 2026-27 and may be subject to slight increase for summer semester. Accommodation rates for 2027 are not yet known.*

Canadian Students & Permanent Residents		International Students	
***Base Tuition:**	$1806 (6 credit hours)	***Base Tuition:**	$1806 (6 credit hours)
Auxiliary Fee:	$1350	***International Fee:**	$4,937
Round-trip Air Fare:	$1800	**Auxiliary Fee:**	$1350
Accommodation:	$1958 (includes visit to Prague)	**Round-trip Air Fare:**	$1800
APPROX TOTAL:	**$6,914**	**Accommodation:**	$1958 (includes visit to Prague)
		APPROX TOTAL:	**$11,851**

Personal spending: About $1000 (food, drink, theatre tickets, travel, shopping - this depends on your spending habits).

What do my fees cover?

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

Optional events/costs (estimated prices in CAD below):

- Baroque Night (including Opera in Baroque Theatre): $200
- Prague Opera: $30
- Baroque Theatre Workshop: $50
- Costume rental: $50

Application and Registration

Students interested in the class must complete an online application and pay a non-refundable deposit of CAD $350 to Student Accounts **by January 15**. Once your application is approved and your deposit is paid, Dal's Fountain School will give you permission for the class. Summer classes are available for registration in February 2027. 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. The online application form is found at https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/ile/Apply/Applynow_fieldcourse.html

All students are required to take part in an online pre-departure orientation course. You must hold a passport that is valid for six months after your return date in order to travel. See the International Learning Experiences web site for details. The web site also provides valuable information on passports, financial aid, and other general tips on studying abroad. https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/ile/travel_abroad.html.





Financial Assistance

- Students in programs at the Fountain School of Performing Arts may apply for **FSPA Summer Program Awards** (several awards, minimum value $1000 each). The deadline to apply is **February 5**. For details see https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/school-of-performing-arts/about/scholarships-and-awards/summer_program_awards.html
- Students in Dalhousie/King's Theatre programs should consider applying for the **Jopling Award for Out of Country Theatre Studies**, valued at $1000. Applications are due by **February 5.** For details see https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/school-of-performing-arts/programs/theatre-programs/awards-and-accreditation/jopling-award-for-out-of-country-theatre-studies.html
- Dalhousie students are encouraged to visit the **International Learning Experiences** website for more funding opportunities, including the International Student Services SWIF (Study/Work International Fund) program and the Go Beyond Borders bursary program: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/ile.html.

Contact: Interested students should contact Marie Raynard, Academic Program Administrator at the Fountain School of Performing Arts, so that you can be added to the email list: marie.raynard@dal.ca. Note that being on the email list does not mean that you are committed to the class, but that you are interested in receiving further information as the course planning unfolds.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

FOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS