

Spirituality and Art

Course annotation:

This optional course explores the relationship between spirituality and art from both theoretical and experiential perspectives. In the initial sessions, we will examine key concepts, approaches, and examples that illustrate how spiritual themes manifest in visual art across different periods and cultural contexts.

Following the introductory theoretical block, the course will adopt an experiential format. Every two weeks, we will visit selected art exhibitions in Prague (participants cover their own entrance fees). Each visit will be followed by a reflective discussion in a nearby café, where students will have the opportunity to critically engage with the exhibited works, share their observations, and relate them to broader themes of spirituality, meaning-making, and aesthetic experience.

The goal of the course is to deepen students' understanding of the mutual influences between spirituality and artistic expression, and to support the development of their reflective and interpretive skills.

Requirements for Course Credit:

To successfully complete the course, the following requirements must be met:

1. Active participation in class: active engagement in discussions and in-class activities is expected.
2. Exhibition visit, completion of the assigned task, and participation in the subsequent group reflection.
3. Creation of a portfolio: After each exhibition visit, write approximately one A4 page of notes (a selected artwork and your reflection on it). Submit the complete portfolio in the submission system at the end of the course.
4. Exhibition dates are scheduled during class time; exact times, dates, and locations will always be provided in advance before each gallery visit. Times and dates might change. Any absence will be handled individually.
5. Each student pays their own admission fee.
6. Please keep in mind that the gallery visit and the subsequent reflection will exceed the usual 90 minutes, so plan extra time! This is precisely why the course takes place once every two weeks.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

3.2.2026	Spirituality and Art I
10.2.2026	Spirituality and Art II
24.2.2026	<i>Gallery exhibition visit (Trade Fair Palace)</i>
10.3	<i>Gallery exhibition visit (Old Masters, Sternberg / Schwarzenberg Palace)</i>
24.3	<i>Gallery exhibition visit (DOX Centre for Contemporary Art)</i>
7.4	<i>Gallery exhibition visit (selected churches)</i>
21.4	<i>Gallery exhibition visit (Kampa)</i>
5.5	<i>Gallery exhibition visit (Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia)</i>
19.5	<i>Gallery exhibition visit – your own choice</i>