

10. - 12. The Theme of the Holocaust in Czech Literature

Lecturer: Petr Bubeníček

10) The Theme of the Holocaust in Czech Literature Lecture One

11) The Theme of the Holocaust in Czech Literature Lecture Two

12) The film: *The Cremator* will be presented

The three lectures will deal with the theme of the Holocaust in Czech Literature, with special emphasis on the so-called second wave of postwar Czech literature. Works by authors who themselves fell victim to the Holocaust (e.g. Arnošt Lustig) as well as by writers who became acquainted with it in a mediated way (e.g. Ladislav Fuks) will be included. On the basis of the interpretation of two important works – *The Cremator* and *A Prayer for Katerina Horowitzova* – we will examine two different ways in which writers cope with the inhumanity of their times and work with their characters, exposing them to extreme situations marked by death or pain on the one hand, and by the temptation to seize power on the other.

The course also deals with the relationships between literary and film works. One of the lectures will be devoted to the projection of a film. The participants will trace such issues as film adaptation methods, shifts of both meaning and style, differences in narrative techniques and treatment of time, the esthetic structures of the literary text and film and the social function of the work.

Recommended reading:

- Fuks, Ladislav. *The Cremator*. Translated by Eva M. Kandler. London: Marion Boyars, 1984.
- Lustig, Arnošt. *A Prayer for Katerina Horowitzova*. Translated by Jeanne W. Němcová. New York: Harper & Row, 1973.