**Field Research: Urban Neighborhood Analysis**

(Cultural Collections Project 3)

This field research activity involves traveling to a neighborhood in Prague that is outside of the major tourist areas in Prague 1 (Old Town, Jewish Quarter), taking some observation notes, capturing some related photographs, and sharing your impressions on your portfolio page using some descriptive text with accompanying Weebly slide show block. You will need a mobile phone with camera to complete this field research activity. You can travel with another person to a selected neighborhood, but please take independent notes and photographs to analyze the neighborhood on your own. This is an individual project.

Before Field Research: Pick a neighborhood that you would like to explore. It should be outside of central Prague, away from the old town square and the Jewish quarter—the sections of town most frequented by tourists. Part of the reason we do this activity early in the program is to 1) give you a chance to explore a different part of Prague after you have seen the major tourist areas, 2) give you a chance to navigate the local transit system without the help of one of the program instructors, and 3) get you noticing, observing, and capturing data in the field, particularly by exploring and noticing places that might take you away from the “beaten path”--something we will be repeating for other field research activities while in Prague.

During Field Research: We have dedicated about two hours for this activity, including travel time to your selected neighborhood and back. Take up to an hour to walk around your selected neighborhood, at least a few different blocks to get a sense of the space. Sit and observe for awhile. Use the questions below as a guide to take some field notes (can be audio-recorded via an app on your phone, typed into a note-taking app on your phone, or written in pen/pencil). Capture photographs that help to illustrate things you are noticing in your observations and notes. In the field, you can take as many photographs as you like and later select the most relevant or telling photos to share on Weebly.

*Human Activity: How do people use this neighborhood? How many people do you see and what does it look like they are doing? Is it predominantly residential or business? What types of businesses are present? Who occupies these residential or business spaces? What do they look like? Are they homogenous or diverse? Are homes owned or rented? Do you get any ideas of the family structures (e.g., intergenerational, people living alone)? What is considered private and public?*

*Infrastructure: What are the buildings like? What are they made of? What is their condition? How might they have been used in the past? How do people get around? Are there roads, sidewalks, paths, public/private transit? Are yards and streets tidy and free of trash? What services are available to the people who live or work here (e.g., ATMs, convenience stores, churches, schools)? Do you see recycling?*

*Natural World: How present or absent is the natural world in this neighborhood? Are recreation areas available? Are plant and animal life present? Are the animals pets or part of the natural world? What of the natural world is visible, heard, or smelled? Are parks and greenspaces part of the neighborhood and what are the conditions of these areas?*

After Field Research: After taking notes and photographs in your selected neighborhood, we will be gathering back at NC State's European Center in Prague to discuss/debrief. When you return to your hotel room tonight, open your Weebly portfolio page and drag a “slideshow” block into your “cultural collections project 3” section. Choose at least ten photographs that best tell the story of your neighborhood and add them to your Weebly slideshow. Above your photographs, write a short summary statement about your neighborhood, a few paragraphs long. What story do your photos tell? Why did you select them? Did you learn anything by doing this? What did you learn about being an explorer or field researcher? Did it raise questions for you about what you saw? Please finish this activity by the end of the day today, so your neighborhood will be fresh in your mind and you won’t fall behind on the other projects to come.

This article and map provides an overview of some of the Prague neighborhoods you may wish to visit: <http://www.praguenet.com/praguemap.html>

This field research activity is adapted from:

Brewer, E., & Solberg, J. (2009). Preparatory courses for students going to divergent sites: Two examples. In E. Brewer & K. Cunningham (Eds.), *Integrating study abroad into the curriculum: Theory and practice across the disciplines* (pp. 41-62). Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.

Krusko, N. (2009). Health and microcredit: Beloit as a laboratory for understanding Nicaragua. In E. Brewer & K. Cunningham (Eds.), *Integrating study abroad into the curriculum: Theory and practice across the disciplines* (pp. 155-171). Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.