



Laura Melone in Prague

I got to spend my Spring 2015 semester studying in Prague through the Charles University CIEE program, and I had the time of my life. Both the English and History departments at Lehigh made it easy for me to leave for the semester. Though there weren't many classes focusing on English or Czech literature in my specific program, I brought my knowledge of social issues to Prague. In English department classes, we speak about people who are constantly marginalized or oppressed over centuries and how they offer their voices through works of literature. The Roma people are a marginalized group in the Czech Republic, because of their "gypsy" roots. Sometimes, discrimination is so severe that they send the children of Roma people to special education schools and most Roma adults cannot get hired for jobs because of their ethnicity. The knowledge about groups that have been oppressed in the United States, which I have gained through the English Department at Lehigh, has made me understand more about the importance of equality for people in both the United States and all over the world.

Laura Melone '16