CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Beginning Czech Language, Fast Track I
Course code: CZEC 1101 PRAG
Programs offering course: Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction: Czech
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course is designed to: develop students’ practical knowledge of the Czech language, allow students to function in everyday situations, (i.e., restaurants, grocery stores, ticket inspections, dorm, etc.) so as to allow greater integration with Czech culture and society, promote greater confidence in speaking Czech, provide the basic vocabulary to facilitate simple conversation about everyday topics present grammatical topics as tools allowing the use of language in everyday situations focus on situations, pronunciation, and understanding basic phrases.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

Upon the completion of the course, students will acquire the following knowledge and skills

• Listening: Students can understand familiar words and very basic phrases, concerning themselves; their family and immediate surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.
• Reading: Students can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues.
• Spoken Interaction: Students can interact a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at slower rate of speech and help them formulate what they are trying to say. They can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.
• Spoken Production: Students can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where they live and people they know.
• Writing: Students can fill in forms with personal details; for example entering their names, nationality and address in a hostel check-in form, and write simple texts about themselves and their areas of interest.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students who: (1) attended the Survival Czech Course offered by CIEE, (2) expect an introduction into the fundamentals of Czech grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. (3) are interested in a deeper immersion in the life and culture of the host country through the language (4) are interested in acquiring more extensive vocabulary and deeper understanding of language structures compared to the standard Beginning Czech Language I course (5) are considering studying Czech (or other Slavic languages) in the future.

Methods of Instruction

Classes will combine frontline teaching with interactive tasks, cooperative learning in small groups, pair work and role plays. They will include site visits, a trip to an important city or monument within the Czech Republic and a mandatory class excursion to a Czech elementary school.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Final Exam 20%
3. Video Project 10%
4. Presentation - Immersion 10%
5. Homework 10%
6. Excursion to a Czech School 10%
7. Active Participation in Class 20%

TOTAL 100%
Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

(written 10%, oral 10%)

Final Exam

(written 10%, oral 20%)

Students will take a midterm written test and an oral exam and a final written test and an oral exam. Prior to administering tests, students will receive mock tests to learn about the scope and type of exercises included in tests.

Video Project

Team work project (2-3 students). Students present a short video of a mini-dialog in Czech, using practical phrases and role-playing everyday situations. The video is to be uploaded on the course Canvas site. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester and are published on the course Canvas site.

Presentation - Immersion

Each student is required to present one immersion experience. Students will receive detailed information about the presentation and possible immersion topics at the beginning of the semester and can find them on the course Canvas site. The presentation is to be uploaded on the course Canvas site. If a student fails to deliver his/her presentation as scheduled, he/she will receive an F grade.

Homework

Homework assignments must be turned in on schedule. Late submission will result in lowering the grade.

Excursion to a Czech School

Czech language classes aim to provide basic awareness about Czech culture through an excursion to a Czech school and field trips to various places of interest.
within Prague. Field trips and class excursions are mandatory, they are constituent parts of the course. Missing a trip or an excursion is considered an absence in the course.

Active Participation in Class

To obtain the highest possible participation grade, students need to come to the class on time prepared. They do not leave the class unless they have a serious reason. Students need to show they are paying attention, demonstrate interest in the material and support their classmates with questions/comments about their work and the class in general. Active participation in Canvas discussions will also contribute to the participation grade.

Extra Work

Students can improve their final grade through participating in any of the Extra Work activities. The sign up for Tandem, Volunteering and Meet Czech Family program is at the beginning of the semester, if you wish to submit an extended immersion project, you have to sign up by Week 6. More information will be provided during the first week of the course.

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy

Assessment of students’ participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor’s or other students’ line of thought or argumentation.
The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students’ active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

**CIEE Prague Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences are treated equally regardless of reason for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

Missing classes will lead to the following penalties:

90-minute semester classes:

180-minute semester classes:
Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student’s home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.

Missing more than 20% of the total class hours will lead to a course failure, and potential program dismissal. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

Late arrival to class will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.

Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinator (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.

If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student’s presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, make-up assignment will only be allowed in approved circumstances, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor’s note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor’s notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.

Should a truly extraordinary situation arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.

Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.
For class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), always contact the Academic Assistant to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records. In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant within one week of the discrepancy date to have it corrected. Later claims will not be considered.

CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

**CIEE Academic Honesty Policy**

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one’s own.

The first principle is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

The second principle applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.
The third principle is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another’s work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

The penalty ranges from an F grade on the assignment, failure in the course to dismissal from the program. The Academic Director is consulted and involved in decision making in every case of a possible violation of academic honesty.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class 1.0  Hello - I'm...

Verb TO BE

Class 2.0  Hello - I'm...

Verbs -OVAT conjugation pattern

Days of the week

Reading:

Czech Fast Track course

Lesson 1

Week 2
Class 3.0  Food

I like...
Class 4.0  Food

Verbs -AT, conjugation pattern

Adjectives

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 2

Week 3
Class 5.0  My Week

Verbs -ET/-IT conjugation pattern

Class 6.0  My Week

Verbs - TO GO, TO READ, TO PLAY, TO DRINK, TO WRITE

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 3

Week 4
Class 7.0  My Hobbies
I like doing,

Class 8.0  My Hobbies
I can (I know how to)
I know

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 4

Week 5
Class 9.0 Family
Family members

Class 10.0 Family
Possessive pronouns

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 5

Week 6
Class 11.0 Appointment, At the Doctor's
Would you like to go
I can't, I must
Prepositions DO, NA, K

Class 12.0 Appointment, At the Doctor's
What's the problem?

I'm sick.

FRIDAY: Visit to a Czech School

Reading:

Czech Fast Track course

Lesson 6

Week 7
Class 13.0 MIDTERM WEEK

Midterm Test / Midterm Oral Exam

Class 14.0 MIDTERM WEEK

Midterm Test / Midterm Oral Exam

Week 8
Class 15.0 My Semester in Prague

Past tense - he / she / it / they

Class 16.0 My Semester in Prague

Past tense - I / you / we / you (pl.)

Reading:

Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 7

Week 9
Class 17.0 Weather

The weather was nice.

Class 18.0 Weather

It's a nice day.

It is supposed to be nice tomorrow.

Reading:

Czech Fast Track course

Lesson 8

Week 10
Class 19.0 Plans, Europe

Future tense

Class 20.0 Plans, Europe

Travelling

European countries

Week 11
Class 21.0 Holidays

Months

Class 22.0 Holidays
Czech holidays and traditions

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 10

Week 12
Class  23.0  Life in the CR x Life in the USA
Presentations

Class  24.0  Life in the CR x Life in the USA
Review

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 11

Week 13
Class  25.0  Final Week
Final Test / Final Oral Exam

Class  26.0  Final Week
Final Test / Final Oral Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Required Readings

- Čeština Fast Track – semestrální kurz / Czech Fast Track course (CIEE internal published material), Praha 2019.
- Czech-English, English-Czech Dictionary

Recommended Readings


Supplementary readings

- Handouts