CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Intermediate Czech Language, I
Course code: CZEC 2001 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 aims to develop knowledge of Czech at the intermediate level. It aims to provide linguistic tools to enable successful communication in many situations and to facilitate better understanding of the Czech cultural and social context.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- **Listening**: Students can follow basic news, general conversation and understand announcements
- **Reading**: Students can read and understand texts on familiar topics and simple news items
- **Speaking**: Students can hold conversation on known topics, can answer questions about themselves and can ask for information.
- **Writing**: Students can write e-mails and short texts on familiar topics, including PowerPoint presentations.
- **Vocabulary**: Students will acquire broader and more specialized vocabulary related to specific situations and topics

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students who meet the following requirements: (1) are able to read and comprehend a simple newspaper or magazine article, (2) are able to communicate about everyday topics, (3) are able to write one page essay on familiar topics (where they live, why they want to study the Czech language, etc.), (4) have
acquired basic vocabulary and understand fundamental principles of Czech grammar (conjugation, declension, syntax, etc.)

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.

Assessment and Final Grade

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

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

(written 10%, oral 10%)

Final Exam

(Written 10%, Oral 10%)

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.

2 Presentations - 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.

Journal

Each student is required to keep a Czech journal on a daily basis. A minimum number of sentences of journal entry is 5. Journals will be collected each class, i.e. twice a week.

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.

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**90-minute semester classes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of 90-minute classes</th>
<th>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</th>
<th>Minimum penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>one to two 90-minute classes</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
<td>no penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>three 90-minute classes</td>
<td>10.1–15%</td>
<td>reduction of the final grade by 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>four 90-minute classes</td>
<td>15.1–17%</td>
<td>reduction of the final grade by 5%; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>five 90-minute classes</td>
<td>17.1–20%</td>
<td>reduction of the final grade by 7%; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six and more 90-minute classes</td>
<td>more than 20%</td>
<td>automatic <strong>course failure</strong> and possible expulsion</td>
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</tbody>
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<th>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</th>
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<td>one 180-minute class</td>
<td>up to 10%</td>
<td>no penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>two 180-minute classes</td>
<td>10.1–20%</td>
<td>reduction of the final grade by 5%; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
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<tr>
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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.

Weekly Schedule

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

   Introduction

Class 2.0 Hello - I'm...

   Consolidation - basic terminology
   Gender, pronouns, form

Reading:

handout

Week 2
Class 3.0 Life in the CR and in the US
The accusative - revision

Class 4.0  Life in the CR and in the US

Adjectives, adverbs - comparative, superlative

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate

Lesson 1

Week 3

Class 5.0  Free Time, Social Life

The conditional

Class 6.0  Free Time, Social Life

"Kdyby" conditional clauses

Week 4

Class 7.0  Food, Healthy Diet, Dinner Invitation

Traditional party / celebration food

Class 8.0  Food, Healthy Diet, Dinner Invitation

Dativ plural - prepositions, verbs

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate
Lesson 3

Week 5
Class 9.0  Traveling

Best place to visit in the CR

Class 10.0  Traveling

The Locative, Relative Clauses ("který")

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate

Lesson 44

Week 6
Class 11.0  .

Presentations

Class 12.0  .

Revision

FRIDAY: Visit to a Czech School

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 Appearance and Personality Traits

The instrumental

Class 16.0 Appearance and Personality Traits

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate

Lesson 5

Week 9
Class 17.0 Prague

Possessive Adjectives

Class 18.0 Prague

Declension of nouns of foreign origin

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate

Lesson 5

Week 10
Class 19.0 Life Style
Reflexive Passive

Class 20.0 Life Style

Time clauses, "aby" clauses

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate

Lesson 8

Week 11

Class 21.0 Czech Republic

Compound passive forms

Verbal nouns

Class 22.0 Czech Republic - history and present

Sentences transformations

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate

Lesson 8

Week 12

Class 23.0 Life in Europe

Presentations
Course Materials
Readings

Required Readings

- Czech-English, English-Czech Dictionary

Recommended Readings


Supplementary readings

- Handouts