CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Advanced Czech Language, I
Course code: CZEC 3001 PRAG
Programs offering course: Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction: Czech
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course develops knowledge of the Czech language at the advanced level. It aims to facilitate successful communication, both oral and written, in a variety of situations and levels of formality using correct grammatical and lexical structures. Work with authentic texts, audio and video recordings allow for exposure to different stylistic varieties and contexts, and help expand vocabulary.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Acquire the following knowledge and skills:
  - Listening: Students can follow different regional and individual varieties of spoken Czech on various topics related to everyday life, social, cultural and historical events
  - Reading: Students can read and understand texts on a variety of topics
  - Speaking: Students use Czech can hold conversation on familiar topics, can answer questions about themselves and can ask for information.
  - Writing: Students can write personal and short general texts related to their subject of study, including presentations.
  - Vocabulary: Students will acquire vocabulary related to the topics covered in the course as well as their areas of study.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students who meet the following requirements: (1) can read and understand both simple and complex newspaper or magazine articles; (2) can use Czech in a variety of situations and can expand on a variety of topics; (3) can write one page text on general topics; (4) have acquired extensive vocabulary; (5) can understand and use 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. Presentation - Academic 10%
4. Presentation - Immersion 10%
5. Essay 10%
6. Homework 10%
7. Active Participation in Class 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Midterm Exam

Final Exam

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.

Presentation - Academic

Each student is required to prepare a presentation on his/her academic experience, summarizing their study in the U.S and in Prague, comparing the two. 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.

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. 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.

Essay

Each student is required to submit a 500-word essay either expanding on a particular immersion experience or reporting on a visit to an event (concert, opera, theater performance, etc.) he/she visited. Students are required to seek an approval from the teacher for the chosen topic.

Homework

Active Participation in Class

Students are expected to participate actively in class activities, be pro-active in their language learning (bringing in samples of Czech language texts encountered during their stay in Prague and other similar material) and submit home assignments. Short quizzes will be administered throughout the course checking students’ home preparation and assessing progress.

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.

Excursions, Trips

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.

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.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program.

If you will miss a class for any reason, notify the Program Coordinator and your instructor beforehand via Canvas. You are responsible for any materials covered in class during your absence, and except in the specific cases listed below, credit will not be granted for missed assessments.

Excessive absences will result in a notification letter, and finally a warning letter, sent to you and your home school, based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of course hours missed</th>
<th>Number of CIEE classes</th>
<th>Minimum penalty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>One to Three 90-min. classes; or One 180-min. class</td>
<td>No penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% - 20%</td>
<td>Four 90-min. classes</td>
<td>Written notification* to the student, followed by a warning letter to the student and home school; 3% reduction in the final grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five 90-min. classes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two 180-min. classes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Six 90-min. classes; or Three 180-min. classes</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion with notification to the home school</td>
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</table>

* The notification letters are intended to ensure that you are well advised in advance of any potential for failure or dismissal, so that you can take steps to avoid this.

As the table shows, missing more than 20% of any class (e.g., due to undocumented illness, travel delays, flight cancellations, over-sleeping, etc.) results in automatic failure of the course.

If you miss an assessment in class due to an absence, you will be able to make it up in the following instances:

- You provide a relevant doctor's note from a local medical professional to your Program Coordinator within 24 hours of your absence (a scan or photograph sent via e-mail are acceptable)
- A CIEE staff member verifies that you were too ill to attend class.
- You provide evidence of a family emergency to your Program Coordinator.
- You have an approved absence related to the observance of a religious holiday from the Academic Director based on a request submitted before you arrived onsite.

**Please note:** Absences incurred due to documented illness, documented family emergency or the observance of a religious holiday approved before arrival onsite do not count towards the total of absences. Students may self-certify one absence due to illness without providing a doctor’s note as long as they notify the Program Coordinator within 24 hours of their absence by e-mail or a text message.

**Other attendance-related policies**

If you transfer from one CIEE class to another during the Add/Drop period, you will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of the new class provided you were marked present for the first session(s) of the original class.

If you are over 15 minutes late for a class, the instructor is required to mark you absent.

In case of class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips and make-up classes), always contact the Academic Department to decide the appropriate course of action.

Please remember to track your attendance on the Canvas Course Sites and report any errors in the record to the Academic Department within one week of the discrepancy date, as later claims may not be considered.

These attendance rules also apply to any required co-curricular excursion, activity, or event, and to for-credit internships.

CIEE staff does not manage absences at partner institutions providing direct enrollment classes (FAMU, ECES and FSV), but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.
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: 1.1 Hello - I'm...

  Introduction

Class: 1.2 Hello - I'm...

  Consolidation - basic terminology
  Gender, pronouns, form

  **Reading:**
  handout

**Week 2**

Class: 2.2 Transport

  Car - the greatest killer?

Class: 2.3 Transport

  Consolidation

  **Reading:**
  Čeština pro život
  Lesson 5

**Week 3**

Class: 3.1 Vacation

  Environment

Class: 3.2 Vacation

  Eco-tourism; passive houses; recycling

  **Reading:**
  Čeština pro život
  Lesson 6

**Week 4**

Class: 4.1 Traveling

  Modern technology; alternative transport

Class: 4.2 Traveling

  **Reading:**
  Čeština pro život
  Lesson 6

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1 From Spring to Winter
Weather and Seasons

Class: 5.2 From Spring to Winter

Expressions related to time

Conditional

**Reading:**

Čeština pro život

Lesson 7

**Week 6**

Class: 6.1 .

Presentations

Class: 6.2 .

Revision

**Friday: Visit to a Czech School**

**Week 7**

Class: 7.1 Midterm Week

**Midterm Test / Midterm Oral Exam**

Class: 7.2 Midterm Week

**Midterm Test / Midterm Oral Exam**

**Week 8**

Class: 8.1 Free Time, Social Life

Small talk

Class: 8.2 Free Time, Social Life

Invitations

**Reading:**

Čeština pro život

Lesson 9

**Week 9**

Class: 9.1 Celebration

Birthday, Nameday, Czech Traditions

Class: 9.2 Celebration

Public Holidays and Important days

Famous Czechs

**Reading:**

Čeština pro život

Lesson 10
Week 10
Class: 10.1 Housing

Living in the city x village

Class: 10.2 Housing

Readings:

Čeština pro život
Lesson 12

Week 11
Class: 11.1 Czech Republic - history and present

UNESCO monuments in the CR

Class: 11.2 Czech Republic - history and present

Reading:

Čeština pro život
Lesson 15

Week 12
Class: 12.1 Life in the CR x Life in the USA

Presentations

Class: 12.2 Life in the CR x Life in the USA

Reading:

handout

Week 13
Class: 13.1 Final Week

Final Test / Final Oral Exam

Class: 13.2 Final Week

Final Test / Final Oral Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Required:

- Czech-English, English-Czech Dictionary

Recommended:


Supplementary:
- Handouts
- Authentic texts and audio/video recordings