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:**
3.00

**Contact hours:**
45.00

**Term:**
Fall 2020

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**Course Description**

This course is designed to develop students' practical knowledge of the Czech language, allowing them to function in everyday situations (i.e., restaurants, grocery stores, asking for directions, ticket inspections, housing, etc.) and facilitating a degree of integration into Czech culture and society. The course focuses on correct pronunciation and acquisition of pertinent vocabulary and phraseology. Grammatical topics are introduced and employed as tools allowing for the use of Czech in simple conversational situations. The course also includes topics related to the Czech culture as a basic introduction to the Czech society and customs. Compared to the standard Beginning Czech Language I, the Fast Track course introduces more extensive vocabulary and more structured coverage of essential grammatical topics.

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**Learning Objectives**

By completing this 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.

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**Course Prerequisites**

There are no language prerequisites, however, this course is recommended to students who would like to learn the basics of the Czech language more extensively and to speakers of other Slavic languages.

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**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.

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**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Final Exam 20%
3. Video Project 10%
4. Presentation - Immersion 10%
5. Homework 10%
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.

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.

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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five 90-min. classes</td>
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<td>Two 180-min classes</td>
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<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...
       Verb TO BE

Class: 1.2 Hello - I'm...
       Verbs -OVAT conjugation pattern
       Days of the week

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 1

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Food
       I like...

Class: 2.2 Food
       Verbs -AT, conjugation pattern
       Adjectives

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 2

Week 3
Class: 3.1 My Week
       Verbs -ET/-IT conjugation pattern

Class: 3.2 My Week
       Verbs - TO GO, TO READ, TO PLAY, TO DRINK, TO WRITE

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 3

Week 4
Class: 4.1 My Hobbies
I like doing,

Class: 4.2 My Hobbies

I can (I know how to)
I know

**Reading:**
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 4

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1 Family

Family members

Class: 5.2 Family

Possessive pronouns

**Reading:**
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 5

**Week 6**

Class: 6.1 Appointment, At the Doctor's

Would you like to go
I can't, I must
Prepositions DO, NA, K

Class: 6.2 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: 7.1 MIDTERM WEEK

**Midterm Test / Midterm Oral Exam**

Class: 7.2 MIDTERM WEEK

**Midterm Test / Midterm Oral Exam**

**Week 8**

Class: 8.1 My Semester in Prague

Past tense - he / she / it / they
Week 9
Class: 9.1 Weather
The weather was nice.

Class: 9.2 Weather
It's a nice day.
It is supposed to be nice tomorrow.

Week 10
Class: 10.1 Plans, Europe
Future tense

Class: 10.2 Plans, Europe
Travelling
European countries

Week 11
Class: 11.1 Holidays
Months

Class: 11.2 Holidays
Czech holidays and traditions

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 10

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
Review

Reading:
Czech Fast Track course
Lesson 11

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

Recommended:

Supplementary:
- Handouts