CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Intensive Beginning Czech Language
Course code: CZEC 1101 PRFS
Programs offering course: Film Studies
Language of instruction: Czech
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

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 facilitate 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.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Acquire the following knowledge and language 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.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students who have little or no previous knowledge of Czech.

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 interesting places in Prague.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. 2 Quizzes 20%
2. Final Exam 30%
3. Immersion 10%
4. Video Project 20%
5. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

2 Quizzes
Final Exam
Students will have regular **graded quizzes** according to the schedule. Students will take a final written test and an oral exam.

**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.

**Video Project**

Students create short video containing a dialog with basic Czech phrases. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

**Class Participation**

To obtain the highest possible participation grade, students need to come to the class on time and 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.

**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:
**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 ... Basic social phrases, greetings

**Class: 1.2** Introduction, Czech alphabet, spelling

- Personal info: Kdo jsi?, Odkud jsi?
- Pronunciation 1, numerals 0-10

#### Week 2
Week 3
Class: 3.1 Orientation I, survival social phrases, pronunciation,
Class: 3.2 numerals 1-100, phone numbers ...

Week 4
Class: 4.1 At the Store / Market pronunciation, numerals 1 –
Class: 4.2 1 000, basic phrases, vocabulary

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Restaurant How to order in Czech way I,
Quiz 1
Class: 5.2 pronunciation, basic phrases, vocabulary, menu

Week 6
Class: 6.1 Orientation II,
Class: 6.2 Survival Czech – where is, straight; right, left

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Daily Routine, Verbs –AT, -ET/- IT
Class: 7.2 conjugation pattern, pronunciation

Lunch and Leaving school for exploration of local communities with your Czech teacher

Week 8
Class: 8.1 Daily Routine,
Verbs –OVAT, irregular conjugation pattern, pronunciation
Class: 8.2 Review, adjectives, social phrases

Week 9
Class: 9.1 My week
Quiz 2
Class: 9.2 Verbs - consolidation, pronunciation

Week 10
Class: 10.1 At the Hospital / At the Police station,
Class: 10.2 pronunciation, basic phrases

Week 11
Class: 11.1 Presentations
Class: 11.2 Revision
Week 12
Class: Final Test

Week 13
Class: Final Oral Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Required texts:
- Handouts
- Czech-English, English- Czech Dictionary