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: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 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:

- Acquire the following knowledge and language skills:
  - 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 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.

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 semester.
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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<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></td>
<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...
   Introduction

Class: 1.2 Hello - I'm...
   Consolidation - basic terminology
   Gender, pronouns, form

Reading:
   handout

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Life in the CR and in the US
   The accusative - revision

Class: 2.2 Life in the CR and in the US
   Adjectives, adverbs - comparative, superlative

Reading:
   Communicative Czech - intermediate
   Lesson 1

Week 3
Class: 3.1 Free Time, Social Life
   The conditional

Class: 3.2 Free Time, Social Life
   "Kdyby" conditional clauses

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Food, Healthy Diet, Dinner Invitation
   Traditional party / celebration food

Class: 4.2 Food, Healthy Diet, Dinner Invitation
   Dativ plural - prepositions, verbs

Reading:
   Communicative Czech - intermediate
   Lesson 3

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Traveling
   Best place to visit in the CR

Class: 5.2 Traveling
   The Locative, Relative Clauses ("který")
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
Appearance and Personality Traits
The instrumental

Class: 8.2
Appearance and Personality Traits

Reading:
Communicative Czech - intermediate
Lesson 5

Week 9
Class: 9.1
Prague
Possessive Adjectives

Class: 9.2
Prague
Declension of nouns of foreign origin

Reading:
Communicative Czech - intermediate
Lesson 5

Week 10
Class: 10.1
Life Style
Reflexive Passive

Class: 10.2
Life Style
Time clauses, "aby" clauses

Reading:
Week 11

Class:  11.1 Czech Republic

Compound passive forms

Verbal nouns

Class:  11.2 Czech Republic - history and present

Sentences transformations

Reading:

Communicative Czech - intermediate
Lesson 8

Week 12

Class:  12.1 Life in Europe

Presentations

Class:  12.2 Life in Europe

Review

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