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: Fall 2022

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 entitiled 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**

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor’s note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

*N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.*

**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 Transport

Car - the greatest killer?

Class: 2.2 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
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