



Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague

Course Code/Title: (PR/LANG 100) Beginning Czech Language 1

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Czech Language

Language of Instruction: Czech/English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

This course is designed for students with no background in Czech or any other Slavic language. The course aims at giving students basic information on the Czech grammatical system (the concept of gender, the most frequent cases, tenses, verb structures and prepositions are introduced). The communicative aspect is emphasized, students are supposed to communicate in various situations (introducing oneself, asking for and giving directions, shopping, ordering in a restaurant, daily routine, likes and dislikes, talking about family and friends, inviting someone to something, talking about your day, weather etc.) using everyday vocabulary. Various linguistic skills should be developed in balance: grammatical knowledge, comprehension, speaking, and writing.

The course takes advantage of the local environment and requires students to use their language skills outside the classroom. Students might be asked to purchase items at a grocery store, decipher signs in their neighborhood, order at a restaurant, or ask directions to a specific location in the city. These outside assignments are combined with structured practice within the classroom, so that students achieve two broad goals in this course: 1) they quickly acquire the language skills to satisfy many of their basic needs while living in Prague, and 2) they build a foundation for continued study of Czech in the future.

This course is taught intensively (4.5 hours/day) during the first week of the fall and spring programs. No other classes are taught during this time. Starting in the second week, Czech language hours are reduced to 3 hours/week and other classes begin. All Czech classes end about two weeks before the end of the regular semester.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Learn the general structure and patterns of Czech, such as gender, the case system, verb conjugation, etc.
- Acquire specific knowledge of basic Czech grammar patterns, including present and past verb tenses; nominative case; accusative case; vocative case; possessive pronouns and adjectives, etc.
- Learn to communicate about day-to-day and basic topics, such as introducing oneself, asking directions, going shopping, ordering at a restaurant, describing basic likes and dislikes, etc.
- Applying what they have learned to read texts for general comprehension and make educated guesses about words and structures with which they are not yet familiar.
- Complete tasks that require them to interact with native speakers. Tasks might include:
 - Navigating the public transportation system

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- Inquiring about options at a restaurant
- Interviewing locals about their likes and dislikes
- Finding out about sales at a local market, etc.
- Achieve mid-A1 level proficiency (CEFR) in Czech

Course Requirements

Participation

Given the nature of language classes, which require students to practice communicating with one another, it is imperative that all students attend class regularly. Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy. Participation is required and constitutes a part of the final grade.

Students are expected to come to class fully prepared. This means:

- Completing all homework assignments, written and spoken, on time
- Reviewing all newly introduced material after each class
- Previewing all new grammar patterns and vocabulary before coming to class
- Writing compositions as assigned
- Memorizing new vocabulary
- Practicing Czech skills as much as possible outside of the classroom

Czech Tables

A **required** part of the participation grade (5%) is fulfilled by each student visiting **2 Czech conversation tables** during the semester. Czech tables meet on a regular basis throughout the semester. These small group sessions are run by native speakers, who practice grammar and vocabulary with students and discuss various topics related to local Prague and Czech culture.

Quizzes: There will be two midterm quizzes, each focusing on the specific material introduced prior to the quiz. The quizzes include written, listening, reading, and speaking components.

Final examination: At the end of the term there is a comprehensive final exam. It includes written, listening, reading, and speaking components.

Homework and cultural activities: There will be regular brief homework assignments throughout the term. Credit is given for the completion of the assignments – they are not graded on content (e.g. right/wrong answers). In addition, there are 3-5 short cultural assignments to be completed outside of class time. These are connected to topics covered in the class or on field-based excursions.

Presentations: Students will do two in-class presentations during the term

- Grammar presentation: a review of all grammar topics - students prepare their own presentation on a chosen topic
- Speaking presentation: a review of all communication topics - students have the option to talk or have dialogue about different topics

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Grading

Participation (in-class performance)	10%
Czech tables	5%
Homework and cultural activities	10%
Presentations (2 x 2.5%)	5%
Quizzes (1x20%, 1x15%)	35%
Final examination	35%

Readings

Holá, Lída, and Pavla Bořilová. *Čeština expres 1 (A1/1)*, 3rd edition. Prague: Akropolis, 2015. (1st edition, 2011)

Outline of Course Content

Intensive week

Day 1: Greetings and basic phrases. Pronunciation. Introducing yourself. Verbs "to be" and "to do" (Á-conjugation). Numbers 0-10. What is your phone number?

Day 2: Places and locations. Where is...? Giving directions. Adverbs expressing location and direction. Transportation. Verbs (Í-conjugation).

Day 3: Food and drinks. How much is...? Gender of nouns, adjectives and pronouns. Nominative sg. Numbers 10-100.

Day 4: Ordering in a restaurant. Accusative sg. Talking about what you like to eat and drink. Numbers 100-1000.

Day 5: Trip to the restaurant.

Main course (starting the first week of regular instruction)

Topic 1 - Reading about family and friends. How old are they? Possessive pronouns.

Topic 2 - Describing people. Adjectives. Verbs (-OVAT conjugation). Accusative masculine animated. Revision of all verbs.

Topic 3 - Cultural and sports events. When is it? Telling the time. Days of the week.

Topic 4 - What's the date? Cultural and sports posters. Shopping.

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Topic 5 - Planning. When will we meet? Inviting someone somewhere. Modal verbs.

Topic 6 - What I want, can and have to do? New verbs. Conjugation of new verbs.

Topic 7 - What do you like to do? Structures to like × to like doing/to do. How often do you...?

Topic 8 - Reading about famous Czechs. Past tense – he/she/it/they forms. Irregular -I forms.

Topic 9 - What did you do yesterday? Past tense – the whole conjugation. The second position in the sentence.

Topic 10 - Practicing the use of the past tense. Czech culture and history.

Topic 11 - Talking about everyday life topics. Writing an email.

Topic 12 - Review of grammar and speaking practice. Student presentations.

The course also includes several field study course components throughout the semester, for example visiting a restaurant, going to Vyšehrad castle, scavenger hunt in the city center, etc.