

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: All CET programs in Prague

Course Title: Beginning Czech Language

Course Code: PR/LANG 100

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline: Czech Language

Language of Instruction: Czech/English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Required for students with no Czech language background



Description

This course is designed for students with no background in Czech or any other Slavic language. The course introduces the Czech grammatical system—most tenses and cases are presented. While the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are covered, communicative competence, particularly as it pertains to reading and speaking, is emphasized.

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 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. Students in FAMU programs may have an irregular schedule for this course due to productions schedules.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Learn the general structure and patterns of Czech, such as gender, the case system, verb conjugation and aspect, etc.
- Acquire specific knowledge of basic Czech grammar patterns, including present, past and future verb tenses; nominative case; accusative case; locative 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, talking about the weather, 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
- Inquiring about film screenings at a local theater
- Interviewing locals about their likes and dislikes
- Finding out about sales at a local market, etc.

Course Requirements

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

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
- Completing assignments outside of the classroom (such as conducting interviews with native speakers, going shopping, gathering certain information, etc.) and being prepared to report on experiences in class.

Students take three tests over the course of the term, and a comprehensive final examination.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation and Class Performance	15%
Homework	15%
Attendance	10%
Tests	20%
Final examination	40%

Primary Texts

Lida Hola, *New Czech Step by Step*, 4th edition, Akropolis, 2009. (1st edition, 2004)

Supplementary Texts

NA

Pace and Textbook Lessons Covered

Chapters 1 to 11, 18 and 19 of the textbook are covered.

Intensive week

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Day 1 - Pronunciation. Greetings, basic phrases. The verb "to be" (present tense). Introducing oneself. Where are you from? Mini-dialogues.

Chapter 1: Greetings, Daily Routine, Nouns

Day 2 - Numerals. How much is...? Food. Who is that? Classification of nouns. Gender transformation.

Chapters 1 and 2: Gender, Nouns, Food and Restaurant vocabulary

Day 3 - Possessive pronouns. Demonstrative pronouns and numeral "one". Adjectives. Talking about your family and people around you.

Chapters 1 and 2: Nominative case, Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives

Day 4 - Telling time. When...? Present tense of verbs.

Chapter 3: Verbs and tenses

Day 5 - I like to do... Modal verbs. Songs. Field trip.

Chapter 3 and part of Chapter 5: Modal verbs, accusative singular

Regular course (starting in the second week of the term)

Topic 1 - Adverbs of place and direction. Where is...? I am happy that...

Chapters 4 and 5: locative singular case

Topic 2 - Accusative sg. I like, I want, I have...

Chapter 5: Accusative singular case, verbs

Topic 3 – Mini-dialogues – shopping. At the restaurant - ordering, tipping.

Chapters 5 and 18: Food, shopping and restaurant vocabulary, accusative singular review

Topic 4 - Accusative – exercises. Which famous Czech author (athlete, politician etc.) do you know?

Chapter 6: review of past lessons

Topic 5 - Past tense.

Chapter 6: Simple past, perfective and imperfective

Topic 6 - Past tense – irregular forms. Where were you? What did you do yesterday?

Chapters 6 and 7: Irregular past, perfective and imperfective

Topic 7 - Description of a trip. Who was...? Field trip.

Chapter 8: Sports and Hobbies vocabulary

Topic 8 - How to say Czech in Czech. Nationalities.

Chapter 9: Accusative and nominative plural.

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Topic 9 - Verbs *vědět, znát, umět*. Indefinite and negative pronouns.

Various chapters: verb review, pronouns

Topic 10 - Future tense. The verbs of motion.

Chapter 10: Verbs of motion and prefixes

Topic 11 - Prepositions. Revision.

Chapters 11 and 19: locative, genitive, instrumental case

Topic 12 – Review