

Syllabus of Record

Program: All CET-FAMU programs

Course Code / Title: (PR/LANG 101) Beginning Czech Language

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 focuses on the basics of Czech grammar system and vocabulary used in everyday conversational topics. Through exposure to the language, students also learn about Czech holidays, traditions, and habits, and since this course is taught exclusively to FAMU students, students are introduced to well-known Czech filmmakers and their achievements, with special attention is paid to terminology and situations related to film making, photography, and A/V media.

This course is taught intensively 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 and other classes begin. Throughout the semester, class schedules may be adjusted according to student production schedules.

Objectives

Through their participation in this course, students:

- Learn the general structure and patterns of Czech, such as gender, the case system, verb conjugation, and aspect.
- Acquire specific knowledge of basic Czech grammar patterns, including present, past, and future verb tenses, nominative, accusative, locative, and vocative cases, and possessive pronouns and adjectives.
- Learn to communicate about day-to-day topics, such as introducing oneself, asking directions, going shopping, ordering at a restaurant, talking about the weather, and describing basic likes and dislikes.
- Learn specific terminology and phrases related to film, photography, and media.
- Gain exposure to Czech culture and learn to recognize cultural differences, interpretations, and misinterpretations.
- Discover how the Czech language functions as a system, as well as what are some of the most important rules according to which statements are created and formulated.
- Attain Level A1 of the Common European Framework for languages.

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 and actively participate in each class session. 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.

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- 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) and being prepared to report on experiences in class.

Graded assignments include:

- Homework: multiple homework assignments are collected for a grade throughout the semester, primarily towards the beginning of the course.
- Vocabulary and grammar quizzes: Throughout the semester there are several short quizzes.
- Written tests: Midterm and Final. The midterm test is taken at the end of the intensive week during orientation; the final test is at the end of instruction for the course.
- Oral exam: The oral exam consists of creating and acting in a small scene with fellow students, which is recorded on video. Working in groups, students write Czech dialogue for the scene, act out the scene, and create Czech and English subtitles for the video.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Class participation 20%
- Homework 20%
- Quizzes 15%
- Oral exam exercise 15%
- Midterm test 15%
- Final test 15%

Textbook

Starý Kořánová, Ilona. *Film Czech*. Praha: NAMU 2019.

Outline of Course Content

Intensive week

- Basic questions. Pronunciation. Greetings. Personal Pronouns. The verb "to be". Numbers (1-10)
- Verbs: to do/make, to be. Grammatical gender. Liking. Feminine Accusative. Verbs of the 1st conjugation.
- Verbs of the 1st and 2nd conjugation. Numbers (11-49)
- Restaurant: phrases, paying. Numbers 50 – 199.
- Review

Main Course (starting the first week of regular instruction)

- Topic 1 - 2nd conjugation verbs. Numbers 100 – 1000
- Topic 2 - Particles SE/SI and word order in Czech. Adjectives: Introduction
- Topic 3 - Qualities: Adjectives, Gender Agreement
- Topic 4 - Possessive pronouns, Gender Agreement. The nominal unit in Czech.

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- Topic 5 - Names of places. Position and location
- Topic 6 - Parts of the day. Time
- Topic 7 - 3rd conjugation verbs
- Topic 8 - Likes and dislikes. 4th conjugation verbs

- Topic 9 - Modal verbs
- Topic 10 - Days of the week
- Topic 11 - Adverbs of position and motion, Imperatives