



## Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Prague

**Course Code/Title:** (PR/LANG 100) 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

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### 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 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.

### 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:

## Syllabus of Record

- Navigating the public transportation system
- Inquiring about options at a restaurant
- 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

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

A required part of the participation grade (5%) is fulfilled by each student visiting 3 Czech tables during the semester: 2 Czech language tables and 1 Czech cultural/activity table

### Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation (homework, projects, presentations, class performance, Czech tables)	30%
Quizzes	35%
Final test	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: Pronunciation. What is it? / Who is it? Greetings, basic phrases. Basic dialogues. Where are you from? What is your job. Verbs "to be" and "to do" (Á – conjugation).

Day 2: Professions. Numerals 0-10. What is your phone number? Places and localities. Where is...? Adverbs expressing location.

## Syllabus of Record

Day 3: Orientation. Giving directions. Adverbs expressing direction. Verbs (Í – conjugation). Numerals 10-100. Where do you live? What is your address?

Day 4: Food and drinks. How much is...? Demonstrative pronouns, gender. At the restaurant – ordering, tipping. Accusative sg.

Day 5: Talking about what you like to eat and drink. Irregular verbs conjugation. Numerals 100-1000. Trip to the restaurant.

*Main course (starting the first week of regular instruction)*

Topic 1 - Reading about family and friends. Family vocabulary. How old is he/she? Possessive pronouns.

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

Topic 3 – When is it? Telling time. The days of the week. What’s the date? Planning. When will we meet? Inviting someone somewhere. Modal verbs.

Topic 4 - Practising modal verbs. Prepositions do × na. New verbs. Conjugation of new verbs. What do you like to do? To like doing/to do

Topic 5 - To like × to like doing/to do. How often do you...? Past tense – introduction. Famous Czech people

Topic 6 - Past tense – he/she/it/they forms. Irregular forms, negative. What did you do yesterday? Past tense – the whole conjugation.

Topic 7 - Practising the use of the past tense. The second position in the sentence. How to say “to know” in Czech. Verbs “vědět, znát, umět”.

Topic 8 - Where were you? Prepositions “v, na, u”. Practising the prepositions. Locative sg.

Topic 9 - Countries and cities. Talking about the weather. Trips and vacation.

Topic 10 - Practising the new vocabulary. Writing an email.

Topic 11 - Talking about everyday life topics

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