

CZE1130: Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 1
Course # 12398, Section 092E
Fall 2018, 5 credits
M-R 4 (10:40-11:30) in Ustler 101

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Tentative office hours: Tues. 5-6 PM, Wed 3-5 PM, Thu. 2-3 PM & by appointment

Course web site: elearning.ufl.edu/ (Then log in to Canvas using Gatorlink ID & password)



Course description: Welcome to Czech class! *Vítám vás na kurzu češtiny!* Whether your interest in Czech is social, academic or professional, knowledge of the Czech language will enrich your interaction with Czechs and Czech culture. This course aims to develop your communicative abilities in Czech—reading, writing, listening and speaking—while acquainting you with various aspects of Czech life. After the first-year sequence, you'll be able to converse with Czechs about the past, present & future regarding your daily life, plans and interests.

Beyond CZE 1130: UF offers **study abroad** opportunities in Prague, so you can continue your language and/or cultural studies overseas. **Minor** and **certificate** programs in East-Central European Studies and European Union Studies as well as a **major** in International Studies will also allow you to combine your interest in Czech with a number of disciplines. Pending renewal of the CES FLAS grant, you may be eligible to earn a federal Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant to continue your study of Czech next year or this summer. The **scholarship** covers tuition, airfare if applicable, and a substantial living stipend. Visit www.ces.ufl.edu/ for more information.

Prerequisites: None. This course assumes no background knowledge of the language. If you have a formal or informal background in Czech, please contact me to take a placement exam.

Required materials: Available in UF bookstore or *amazon.com*, etc.

- Susan Kresin et al., *Čeština hrou (Czech for Fun)*. Textbook and CDs. New York: McGraw-Hill Primis Custom Publishing, 2000. 2nd edition. (ISBN 007 2442980 for the book alone and ISBN 9780072455472 for the book + CD together; **new edition is red**; old edition is black.)
- Susan Kresin et al., *Čeština hrou (Czech for Fun)*. Workbook. New York: McGraw-Hill Primis Custom Publishing, 1997. (ISBN: 007 0350132)
- A three-ring binder to hold the many handouts you receive in class or print from Canvas.
- Flashcards: You can buy blank flashcards (like those by Visual Education) or make your own (more details to be provided in class).

Your course grade will consist of the following components:

Class Participation – 15% (each week = 1%)

Homework – 20%

Quizzes and Exams – 50%

Final Exam – 15%

Class Participation – 15%

Speaking a living language is much like playing a sport or musical instrument: the more you practice, the better you'll perform. While cramming can initially work in 1130, it's a recipe for disaster in 1131! To ensure your *brain and body* respond when cued, it's best to **practice a little each day!**

To encourage daily practice & good habits, I award participation points for the following:

- Attentiveness during class and overall engagement in course materials;
- Being an attentive and responsive partner during pair or group work;
- Preparation for class as demonstrated by readiness for class activities (Did you read about new concepts in HW prior to their introduction in class? Can you produce topical vocab without long delays?)
- Consistent use of Czech in class.

I deduct participation points for the opposite behaviors:

- Inattentiveness, lack of engagement: texting, FBing, doing work for other classes, etc.
- Being disruptive: late & loud entrances, loud wrappers, cell phones not on silent, etc.
- Being an unresponsive partner in pair/group work, failure to engage in pair/group tasks.
- Being unprepared for class activities: unfamiliar with points from HW.
- Defaulting to English; unwillingness or inability to communicate in Czech.

Don't be afraid of making mistakes! They are a natural part of the learning process.

****Absence policy**** -- I expect you to arrive on time every day. If you *must* miss class due to an excused absence (family emergency, illness, religious holiday or participation in an approved academic / athletic event), please let me know (in advance when possible) and be prepared to provide follow-up documentation. Note that it is *your* responsibility to find out what you missed while absent and to make up any missed work. Repeated absences will adversely affect your performance, and **unexcused absences** will be reflected in course grade as below.

1-5 absences – proportionate % subtracted from *Class Participation grade*

6+ absences – ½ letter subtracted from overall course *grade* (i.e., A- > B+)

Arriving 10 or more minutes late on 4 occasions = 1 absence.

Hour 5 Activity: Since this course carries 5 credits but meets only 4 days/week, each week you will do an "Hour 5 Activity" outside of class. Assignments may vary week to week, but all aim to prepare you for a face-to-face activity, let you apply your skills to a venue or situation outside of class, or practice certain skills on your own timeline. You can find "**Hour 5 Activities**" in the *Modules* area of Canvas. A missed Hour 5 Activity will count as a course absence.

Homework – 20%

Homework is the next step to succeeding in this course. Nightly homework is essential to strong performance in (and outside of) class, and it's an excellent opportunity to practice concepts presented in class and receive feedback penalty-free. If you do a little each night--and do it *thoughtfully*, studying for exams shouldn't be a chore. HW should take **about an hour a night**; if you finish earlier, review vocab!

You will receive a handout each Monday with the tentative homework schedule for that week. Homework is most effective if done when it is assigned, so all work received more than **2 days**

after it is due will be downgraded by half, and **no** late work will be accepted after the respective unit exam. **Please write the page number(s) and exercise number(s) on each assignment you turn in along with the original due date.** (Thank you! This helps with my recordkeeping!) Homework will be marked and scored according to the following criteria:

- + Shows great skill and/or creativity. **1.25 points.**
- ✓ Average to good; satisfies requirement in full. Most work will receive this grade. **1 point.**
- L 3 or more days after due date: **.5 points.** After respective unit exam: **0 points.**
- Redo indicated section resubmit with *entire day's work* for credit. See teacher for help. **0 points.**
- I Incomplete. Complete missing portion & resubmit with *entire day's work* for credit. **0 points.**

Quizzes & tests – 50%

There will be several scheduled quizzes and unit tests during the semester—and possibly some pop-quizzes, if needed, to keep you on your toes. I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. (Your quizzes will together have roughly the same point value as one unit test.)

Content: You will be tested on the material reviewed in homework and in class. Most unit exams contain both written and oral components: grammar and vocabulary sections are graded discretely--based on the number of errors; oral skills and writing are graded more holistically--based on how successfully you execute a given task. In discrete sections, spelling errors count as a 1/2 point, and grammar and vocabulary mistakes count as 1 point. Grading criteria for oral and writing sections will be provided prior to the first exam. There is no midterm exam.

Make-ups: If you miss a test or quiz for an *excused* reason (see "Absences"), you should contact me to schedule a make-up. Advance notice is required for make-up privileges in the case of a non-medical, non-emergency or non-university-approved event.

***Good student bonus**:** Students who have completed **all** unit homework and have **no** unit absences can self-correct their unit exam and then submit their corrections for extra credit. In this way students can regain up to 50% of the points they originally missed. (For ex: a 70% will be raised to a max of 85%, provided all corrections are accurate.) Quizzes and take-home or open-book exams cannot be self-corrected for additional points.

Final exam – 15% (Exam Code 11C: Tues. Dec. 11, 2018, 12:30-2:30 PM)

The final exam in this course is cumulative, incorporating thematic topics and grammar points from the entire semester. The final will contain both written and oral sections. For the oral component students often work in pairs (or threes), executing a task or performing a scenario.

****Excellent student bonus**:** If you receive an "A" (93 or higher) on every unit exam (self-corrections don't count), you do **not** have to take the final exam. Congrats! :-). If you choose *not* to take it, your semester-long exam average will contribute an extra 20% toward the final grade.

Need a grade boost? Optional extra credit presentation – up to 1%

Your oral presentation (*referát*) should relate to a topic we study in class. You may choose from a list of Czech cultural topics/figures, or you may choose a topic of your own subject to my approval. Further details will be provided later in class. An "A" *referát* grade will raise your final class grade by 1%; a "B" by .50% (with +/- figuring in between); no extra credit for lower grades.

Grading. Grades are based on the following point system:

100%	A+	87-89.99%	B+	77-79.99%	C+
93-99%	A	83-86.99%	B	73-76.99%	C
90-92.99%	A-	80-82.99%	B-	etc.	

Find more UF grade info here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

S/U grading (vs. letter grading): Students who earn a "C" (73%) will earn an "S" in the course. The deadline to change grading to an **S/U** basis is **Friday, Sept 7**.

Office hours: Even if you don't have questions or concerns about the course, feel free to stop by to read a dialog aloud or chat in Czech. It's an excellent way to sharpen your conversational skills, and I always enjoy hearing more about why you're studying Czech. If there's a Czech topic that interests you, let me know, and I'll try to fit it into our curriculum.

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Tentative Weekly Course Schedule

The following schedule will give you an idea of which specific thematic & grammatical topics we will cover over the course of the semester. For specific nightly assignments, please refer to our weekly homework sheet which will be posted on Canvas every Monday. We will cover textbook chapters 1-4 in the first semester, and you will have an exam almost every other week—or about seven all together (later chapters are longer, so you will often have separate exams on both halves of a chapter).

Week / Chapter	Topic
Week 1 / Pages 1-8	Basic introductions in Czech, alphabet & pronunciation
Week 2 / Chapter 1	Czech names / Basic classroom & school The verb "to be"; grammatical gender
Week 3	(More) basic classroom & school Nominative case and noun & adjective agreement
Week 4 / Chapter 2	Nationalities & languages Present-tense verb conjugations (3)
Week 5	More nationalities & languages Adjectives vs. adverbs
Week 6	More nationalities & languages, some professions Nominative plural
Week 7 / Chapter 3	Marketplace & shopping Intro to accusative case
Week 8	Eating & nutrition Adverbs of frequency, negation
Week 9	Family & schedules Days of week & times of day
Week 10	Daily routines, "cultural life"
Week 11 / Chapter 4	Locations: where you live, study, work, have fun, etc. Intro to locative case
Week 12	Czech cities, Prague quarters, cultural attractions
Week 13	Holidays & pastimes, Charles IV Past tense
Week 14	Biographies of cultural figures
Week 15 RECAP	Interviewing & reporting
Week 16 (short week)	REVIEW

Holidays & other important 2017 dates (no school)

Monday, September 3 – Labor Day
Friday, November 2 – Homecoming
Monday, November 12 – Veterans Day observed
Wednesday-Friday, November 21-23 – Thanksgiving
Thursday-Friday, December 6-7 – Reading days

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Academic Honesty: All students commit to the Honesty Pledge whereby "[o]n all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." Please familiarize yourself with the Honor Code--and consequences for violating it--here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>. Please note that **using Google Translate (or similar tools) to write your assignments constitutes "unauthorized aid"** (and usually yields glaring errors!).

ADA Accommodations: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodation should 1) register with and provide documentation to UF's Disability Resource Center (DRC) in 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall) and 2) bring or email me an Accommodation Letter from the DRC indicating what type of accommodation you need (ideally early—before quizzes/exams). For further information, contact the DRC at (352) 352-392-8565 or accessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu or visit the DRC web site: <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/students/accommodation-letters/>

Online course evaluations: At the end of the semester, you are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for you to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be notified of the specific times by email. I thank you in advance for your input and any comments; they are extremely important in helping me improve my teaching!

Can't wait to get started?

Check out the following sites (we'll use some in class):

- slovník.seznam.cz/ - my favorite online dictionary
- seznam.cz/ - a Czech search engine (find news blurbs, weather, jokes, horoscope, etc.)
- recepty.cz/ - cook a Czech dish
- zoo Praha.cz/ – meet the animals in the Prague zoo – or even adopt one
- <http://cinestar.cz/praha-andel/> - pick a movie to see
- idos.cz/ - find local & int'l transit info (planes, trains, buses, trams & metro)
- cuni.cz/ - explore Prague's Charles University, the oldest university in Central Europe
- jobs.cz/ - find a job in the Czech Republic
- radio.cz/ - for both print and audio versions of articles in six languages
- czech-tv.cz/vysilani/ – for Czech TV broadcasts
- hrad.cz/ - official site of the Czech government
- europa.eu/ - (then click on "Portál Evropské unie") - official site of the EU with Czech links
- bohemia.com/ - for links on Czech language and culture
- expats.cz/ - a great resource for those living in the Czech Republic (or just considering it)
- praguepost.com/ - Prague's English language newspaper

Czech-Slovak Student Association: There has traditionally been a student-run *Czech-Slovak club* at UF that organizes cultural activities and represents Czech & Slovak at various campus events. If you want to participate, hold a leadership role, or have activity suggestions, just let me know!

Czech films: The UF library has 150+ Czech films in its collection; I also own many that I am happy to loan out; others are available on YouTube. If you are interested and want recommendations, please let me know.



Předtím než zemřu chci _____

Questions or concerns?

Please contact me: hraynard@ufl.edu, 3326A Turlington, 352-294-7150.

I am on campus five days a week and am happy to answer short questions whenever I'm around—before or after class, in a quick email message, phone call, or impromptu office visit. Longer questions or complicated concerns are better discussed in office hours or a separate meeting. No appointments are needed to visit me during office hours; if you can't call or come by during those times, just email me to set up an appointment at another time!