

Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 1
CZE 1130 / 092E
Fall 2016, 5 credits
MWF 3 (9:35-10:25) in Rogers 106, TR 3 in Dauer 342

Instructor: Holly Raynard, hraynard@ufl.edu
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Office hours: TBA by end of this week.
Course web site: elearning.ufl.edu/
(Then log in 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 be able to converse with Czechs about your daily life, opinions, and interests. You will also gain the skills and strategies to begin studying sources related to your academic or professional interests.

Beyond CZE 1130: Since UF offers study abroad opportunities in the Czech Republic, you can continue your language and/or cultural studies overseas. UF's minor and certificate programs in East Central European Studies and European Union Studies and new major in International Studies will also allow you to combine your interest in Czech with a number of disciplines. For students continuing Czech language next year or this summer, you may be eligible to win a federal Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) scholarship which covers tuition and provides a substantial stipend (\$5-15K, depending on status). Visit www.ces.ufl.edu/ for more information.

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 packet; **new edition is red**; old edition is black.)

A note about CDs: Because the CD tracks are divided only by chapter, with no further subdivisions (dialogue 1, 2, 3, etc.), you may want to jot down the time codes of each segment you play so that you can find the next one more easily.

- 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 handouts you print from the website or receive in class.
- 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%

Learning a language is much like learning to play a sport or musical instrument: the more you practice, the better you'll perform. (And cramming eventually won't help.)

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

- Preparation for class as demonstrated by readiness for class activities;
- Attentiveness during class and overall engagement in course materials;
- Being an attentive and responsive partner during pair/group work;
- Consistent effort to speak Czech in class.

I deduct participation points for:

- Being unprepared for class activities; being an unresponsive partner in pair/group work;
- Persistent use of English in class; refusal to communicate in Czech;
- Texting, using Facebook, doing work for other courses (etc.) during our class;
- Being disruptive (late & loud entrances, etc.).

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 **unexcused** absences will be reflected in course grade as below:

<p>1-5 absences – proportionate % subtracted from <i>Class Participation grade</i></p> <p>6+ absences – ½ letter subtracted from overall course <i>grade</i> (i.e., A- > B+)</p> <p>Arriving 10 or more minutes late on 4 occasions = 1 absence.</p>
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Homework – 20%

Homework is the next step to succeeding in this course. It's an excellent opportunity to practice concepts presented in class and receive feedback on your work penalty-free. If you do a little each night--and do it *thoughtfully*, studying for exams shouldn't be a chore.

You will receive a handout every 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 recordkeeping!)

Homework will be marked and scored according to the following criteria:

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| <p>+ Shows great skill and/or creativity. 1.25 points.</p> <p>✓ Average to good; satisfies requirement in full. Most work will receive this grade. 1 point.</p> <p>L 3 or more days after due date: .5 points. After respective unit exam: 0 points.</p> <p>– Redo indicated section resubmit with <i>entire day's work</i> for credit. See teacher for help. 0 points.</p> <p>I Incomplete. Complete missing portion & resubmit with <i>entire day's work</i> for credit. 0 points.</p> |
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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 15D: Thu. Dec. 15, 3:00-5:00 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>

The deadline to change grading to an **S/U** basis (vs. a letter grade) is **Friday, Sept. 9.**

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.

Czech-Slovak club: There has traditionally been a student-run *Czech-Slovak Student Association* 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. I am also teaching a Czech cinema course this semester, and you are welcome to attend all film screenings (currently scheduled for Thursdays at 7:20 PM in Matherly Hall 113).

Holidays & other important 2016 dates (no school)

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day
Friday, October 14 – Homecoming
Friday, November 11 – Veterans Day
Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25 – Thanksgiving
Thursday-Friday, December 8-9 – Reading days

Can't wait to get started? Check out the following sites (some we'll use 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
- zoopraha.cz/ – meet the animals in the Prague zoo – or even adopt one
- <http://cinestar.cz/praha-andel/> - pick a movie to go 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
- lidovky.cz/ – a popular daily newspaper
- 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

Academic Honesty: All students will be held to the UF Honesty Code. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty and unethical conduct at UF, please consult the catalog: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

ADA Statement / Accommodations: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) by providing appropriate documentation. The DRC will then email faculty a letter outlining requested accommodations. Students with disabilities should thus follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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. Summary results of these assessments are available at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>. I thank you in advance for your input and any comments; they are extremely important in helping me improve my teaching!

Tentative Weekly Course Schedule

The following schedule will give you an idea of which specific 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 online every Monday (see “Homework” above). 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 long, 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
Week 3 /	(More) basic classroom & school
Week 4 Chapter 2	Nationalities
Week 5	Languages
Week 6 /	More nationalities & languages, some professions
Week 7 / Chapter 3	Marketplace & shopping
Week 8	Eating & nutrition
Week 9	Family & schedules
Week 10	Daily routines, “cultural life”
Week 11 / Chapter 4	Locations: where live, study, work, have fun, etc.
Week 12	Czech cities Prague quarters, cultural attractions
Week 13	Holidays & pastimes, Charles IV
Week 14	Biographies, famous people
Week 15 RECAP	Interviewing & reporting
Week 16 (short week)	REVIEW

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 often 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!