

CZE 1131 (Sec. 4244)
Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 2
Spring 2017, 5 credits
M-F 3 (9:35-10:25 A.M.) in FLG 275

Instructor: Holly Raynard, hraynard@ufl.edu
Office: 3326A Turlington Hall, (352) 294-7150
Office hours: Still TBA; to be determined by end of first week (per students' schedule)
Website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu> (Log in to Canvas using your 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). **See the last page below for links & program deadlines!**

Prerequisites: CZE1130 or permission from instructor.

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.)
- 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 (http://www.visual-ed.com/products/?s_category=Blank_cards) or make your own.

UF's Language Studio provides various resources—including booths where you can listen to CDs or record your voice. It is located in 1317 Turlington Hall (entrance near the vending machines or "Potato" statue). You can call 392-2112 or visit <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/lc/> for hours & other info.

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. It's better to do a little each day.

To encourage daily practice & good habits, I will award participation 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:

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.

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:

- + Shows much skill and/or creativity. 1.25 points.**
- ✓ Average to good; satisfies requirement in full. Most work will receive this grade. 1 point.**
- L Submitted 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, about seven unit tests, 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, and all together your quizzes will 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 24A: Monday, April 24 from 7:30 to 9:30 A.M.)

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 in Czech – up to 1%

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 on Canvas. 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 Scale. Grades are based on the following point system:

No A+ grades available at UF	87-89.99%	B+	77-79.99%	C+
93-100% 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 **January 20, 2017**.

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!

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***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. (Should you ever **not** see a new weekly sheet posted, please see the main course home page for short-term instructions for that evening.) We will cover textbook chapters 5, 6, 7 and about half of 8, and you will have an exam almost every other week—or about seven all together .

Week 1	Chapter 5	Future tense / New year's resolutions / predictions
Week 2	Chapter 5	Verbal aspect / Free time activities & chores
Week 3	Chapter 5	Modal verbs, instrumental case / Likes & dislikes, making plans
Week 4	Chapter 5	Review: verbal aspect vis-a-vis past, present, future
Week 5	Chapter 6	Education / review of accusative case
Week 6	Chapter 6	Czech university / genitive case
Week 7	Chapter 6	Plans after college, travel / time expressions, intro to motion verbs
Week 8	Chapter 6-7	Pros/Cons of UF & Gainesville (vs. ČR) / quantifiers, more genitive case
Week 9	Chapter 7	Holidays / Dates, months, years
Week 10	Chapter 7	Gifts / Dative case
Week 11	Chapter 7	Holidays, communication / more dative case
Week 12	Chapter 8	Daily routines / time expressions, review of cases
Week 13	Chapter 8	Clothing & weather / impersonal expressions & case review
Week 14	Chapter 8	Rules, traditions, etiquette / passive voice
Week 15		Catch up & Review

Holidays & other important dates (no school)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, **January 16**

Spring break: week of **March 4-11**

Last day of classes: Wednesday **April 19**.

Real-world Czech--the reason you're learning the language!

seznam.cz/ - Czech search engine with a **good online dictionary (slovník)** at the top of the page!

radio.cz/ - for print and audio versions of Czech news in Czech and five other languages

czech-tv.cz/vysilani/ – for Czech TV broadcasts

lidovky.cz/ – a popular daily newspaper

praguepost.com/ - Prague's English language 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

recepty.cz/ - cook a Czech dish

zoopraha.cz/ – meet or even adopt animals in the Prague zoo

villagecinemas.cz/program-andel.html/ - pick a movie to go see

expats.cz/ - a great resource for those living in the Czech Republic (or just considering it)

idos.cz/ - find domestic & int'l transit info (trains, buses, etc.)

dpp.cz/ - Prague transit (bus, tram, metro)

jobs.cz/ - find a job in the Czech Republic

<http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/10177109865-dejiny-udatneho-ceskeho-naroda/dily> - cartoons (in Czech language with Czech closed captioning available) about Czech history & culture.

Academic Honor Code & Academic Honesty: All students are bound by the UF Honor Code.

Violations of the code and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (including acts like cheating, plagiarizing, multiple submissions, etc.). Before submitting any work for this class, please read the policies about academic honesty linked below and if something is unclear:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

ADA Statement: UF provides services to students with disabilities, and you are encouraged to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should 1) Register with and provide documentation to Disability Resources in Reid Hall (352-392-8565 or see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>), and 2) Deliver a letter (or email) from the Disability Resources

indicating which academic accommodations are needed. Please do this as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of class.

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!

What's next? Can I study overseas? Can I major/minor in Czech?

UF now offers...

- UF in Prague **overseas** summer program. Apply to UFIC by **March 15, 2017**.
https://www.abroad.ufic.ufl.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10020
- **Scholarships** to study abroad (through UFIC). Apply to UFIC by **Feb. 10, 2017**.
<http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/sas/ScholarshipApplication.html>
- Foreign Language and Area Studies **grants**. Apply to CES by **Feb. 1, 2017**.
FLAS grants provide tuition and a stipend to help you continue Czech at UF during the 2017-2018 academic year or to study intensively overseas this summer (int'l flight, room & board also covered).
<http://ces.ufl.edu/fellowships-2/student-fellowships/flas/>
- Want a **B.A. degree** in International Studies? Czech language and area studies course can fulfill tracking requirements for the European focus. **Minor and Certificate** programs in Central European Studies will also allow you to combine your interest in Czech with a number of disciplines.
- Visit <http://ces.ufl.edu/academics/undergraduate-academics/> for info about academic programs sponsored by or housed in the Center for European Studies.



Questions or concerns? Please contact me!

I am on campus 5 days/week and am happy to answer short questions whenever I'm around—before or after class, by email, phone call, or an 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 then, we can set up an appointment at another time!