

# Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 1

Fall 2020, 5 credits, 100% online

CZE 1130 (Sec. 092E, 5-digit course no. 12590)

Mon.-Thu. Period 4 (10:40-11:30 AM) + 1 hour TBA

Instructor: Holly Raynard, hraynard@ufl.edu

Tentative office hours: Tues. 5-6:00 PM, Wed. 2-4:00 PM, Thu. 12-1:00 PM & by appointment

Zoom links for my office hours (you'll initially be directed to a Waiting Room):

- Tues 5-6 PM: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96428498407?pwd=d2MrQUVRcE83K1ZiMXIzOTcxZFhUUT09>
- Wed. 2-4 PM: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97175214352?pwd=NEpKYUxzejkyOGg1cW92R0hGYjIGdz09>
- Thu. 12-1 PM: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93874642100?pwd=eEJ2ZmxBNzU4bFISd0lpUkZqMVgzZz09>

Class website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu> (Log in to Canvas using your Gatorlink ID & password.)

Classroom: We'll meet on Zoom (enter thru "Zoom Conferences" on Canvas. See pic on p. 2)



**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 communicate on an elementary level about yourself; your family; college life; daily activities; and your interests, plans, and preferences. You will also be able handle some basic social transactions related to food, shopping and travel.

**Beyond CZE 1130:** UF offers **study abroad** opportunities in Prague so you can continue your language and 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 allow you to combine your interest in Czech with a number of disciplines. 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 living stipend. See [www.ces.ufl.edu/](http://www.ces.ufl.edu/) for more information. (Deadlines are usually in January or February; I'll keep you posted.)

**Prerequisites: None.** This course assumes no background knowledge of the language. If you have learned some Czech formally or informally, please contact me to determine placement.

## Required Materials:

We will use materials from the *Reality Czech* textbook, which will be made available over the Canvas course website and <https://realityczech.org>. It's open-source so there's nothing to buy! ☺

Since this is an online course, you will also need reliable internet, a web camera, microphone. Earbuds or headphones are highly recommended when listening to audio (you'll hear much better!)

## Course requirements (explained below)

Class Participation – 10%, Homework – 15%, Hour 5 Modules – 10%,  
Quizzes and Tests – 55%, Final Exam – 10%\*

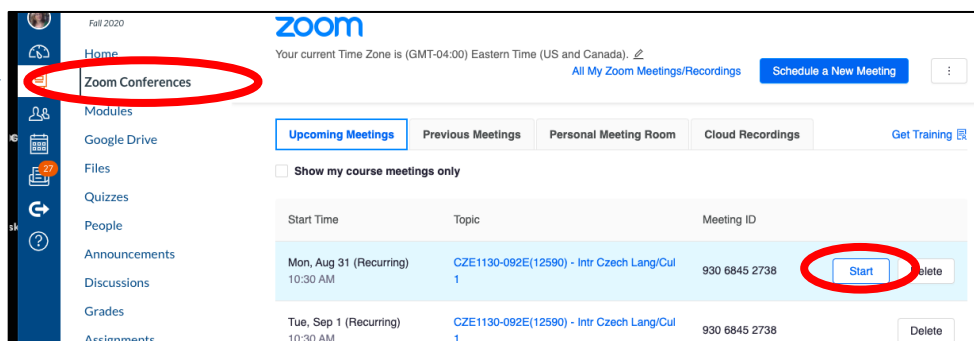
## Active Class Participation (Aktivní účast na hodině) – 10%



### What do team sports, music ensembles and speaking a language all have in common?

They require your brain, your body and other people! And the more you practice, the better you perform. While you can practice some elements at home alone, to “play” well, you also need to practice together. (And cramming 10 sessions at the last minute won’t help!) Accordingly, daily participation in this class is vital and required!

**How to meet daily & participate on Zoom?** Log in to Canvas and navigate to *Zoom Conferences* in the left frame. You should then see “*Upcoming Meetings*” in a new window, where you can find that day’s class and click either “*Start*” (if you’re the first one there) or “*Join*.”



You should mute your microphone while entering Zoom, but you should then unmute yourself when you comment orally during whole-group conversations and when working in pairs or threes. You may also be asked to reply in the chat box for specific activities. **Oral comments on camera and written comments in the chat box are considered participation activities.** If you have technical issues, please consult UF IT Help immediately (352-392-HELP / 352-392-4357) to resolve them and contact your instructor. Daily Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the instructor and may not be recorded by students. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### 👍 To encourage daily practice & good habits, I will **award** participation points for:

- Attentiveness during class and overall engagement in course materials;
- Being a responsive partner during pair/group work;
- Preparation for class as demonstrated by readiness for class activities (Did you read about and practice new concepts in HW prior to class? Can you produce topical vocab without delay?)
- **Consistent use of Czech in class.**

### 👎 I **deduct** participation points for the opposite behaviors:

- Inattentiveness, lack of engagement: texting, Facebooking, 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 assigned pair/group task.
- Being unprepared for class activities: unfamiliar with points from HW, slow to recall expressions.
- **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\*\*** --If you don't attend, you can't participate so I expect you to arrive prepared and 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.

**Unexcused** absences will be reflected in course grade as explained below:

**1-4 absences** – proportionate % subtracted from *Class Participation grade*  
**5+ absences** – 2% subtracted from overall course grade  
**Arriving 10 minutes late on 3 occasions = 1 absence.**

(I don't subtract points for excused absences, but they will still affect your performance so please contact me if you are gravely ill or expect to miss multiple classes so that I can try to help you catch up!)

### *Homework (Domáci úkoly) – 15%*

**Why do homework?** It's an excellent way to practice class concepts and receive feedback penalty-free. It's good preparation for exams and even real-life encounters. If you do your homework every day-- and do it *thoughtfully*, studying for exams should be a breeze! HW should take **about 1-1.5 hours a night**; if it takes you more or less time, let me know! I can give you tips ☺

**How to find and submit nightly homework?** Homework assignments can be found in the *Modules* on Canvas. You will find a module for every day of our course which includes homework. Daily homework assignments are divided into two types: those to be done **before class** (to prepare you for what we will do that day) and to be done **after class** (to reinforce what we have done). 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.

### *“Friday Modules” (Páteční moduly); see Modules on Canvas— 10%*

Since our 5-credit course only meets 4 hours per week, you will find additional “Friday modules” among the Canvas *Modules*. These modules may invite you to engage Czech culture “virtually”; others may focus on skills (interpretive listening, reading, writing) that students do best on their own timeline. Although they're called “Friday” modules, you will usually have until Sunday evening (5:00 PM) to complete them. Ideally, they are to be completed on a day when we don't have class (Fri., Sat., or Sun.). Half credit will be given for modules submitted 2 days late; no credit granted for work submitted after 2 days.

### *Quizzes & tests (Kvízy a testy) – 55%*

There will be several scheduled quizzes, five 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.

**Content:** You will be tested on the material covered in class and homework and on your ability to perform in the target language! Quizzes tend to focus on discrete items; exams may include some discrete items but focus on more integrated skills. I grade these two types of assessments differently.

- **Discrete assessments** focus on specific objectives like grammar points or vocabulary items. These are graded discretely, based on the number of correct vs. incorrect items. Grammar and vocabulary mistakes count as 1 point each; spelling mistakes count as ½ point each.

- **Performance-based tasks**, in contrast, will require you to integrate many skills in order to handle a social transaction (i.e., to persuade, find your way, gather information to make a decision, etc.). These sections are graded more holistically--based on how successfully you execute a given task. (You can see some example assessment rubrics on Canvas.) Exams will often include an oral/aural component, whereby you do a role-play or solve a problem with another student. Since you will be required to perform (to speak and comprehend, not just memorize information), **the best practice is regular class participation and nightly homework!**

**Remote testing method:** Most exams will be administered on Canvas and/or Zoom. While you may initially be asked to type short amounts, you will have an opportunity to write longer texts by hand. I don't anticipate using Honorlock initially (particularly before you feel comfortable typing and get used to my exam formats), but I will reserve the right to use it, if need be.

**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 typically 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 exams 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, open-book exams, and oral assessments cannot be self-corrected for additional points.

**Final exam (Závěrečná zkouška) – 10%\*. Dec. 18, 7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.**

\*The final exam is **optional**: you may take it if you want or need to boost your grade. If you choose **not** to take the final exam, your exam/quiz grade will be worth 65% of your course grade rather than 55%.

The final exam is cumulative, incorporating thematic topics and grammar points from the entire semester. The final will assess reading, writing, listening and speaking skills; more details to be given toward the end of the semester. If you choose to take the final exam, you must **notify me at least 48 hours before our exam time!**

**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 Scale:** Grades are based on the point system below:

No A+ 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.	

Last Day to change grade to S/U basis: **Friday, Sept. 18.** More UF grade info can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>:

**\*Tentative\* Weekly Course Schedule:** The following schedule outlines the main thematic & grammatical topics we will cover during the semester. We will cover units 1-5 in *Reality Czech* this semester (spending 12-14 instructional days on each unit), with a test at the end of each unit. You can find detailed unit goals overviews [here](#). Nightly homework assignments can be found on Canvas.

Week / Chapter	Topic
Week 1 / Lesson 1	Czech alphabet & pronunciation Basic introductions, formal & informal
Week 2 / Lesson 1	Describing people & objects, exchanging contact info ("to be," nominative, gender) Czech culture: Names, name days, nicknames, surname map
Week 3 / Lesson 1	Combine: What is it? Who is it? What kind of X is it? Whose is it? More descriptions (with grammatical agreement)
Week 4 / Lesson 2	Family members: frequent activities (verbal conjugations)
Week 5 / Lesson 2	Family: where do they live? what do they do? (locative case of place)
Week 6 / Lesson 2	Speaking languages and knowing skills
Week 7 / Lesson 3	Food: tastes, preferences (accusative case)
Week 8 / Lesson 3	Food: Eating habits & nutrition
Week 9 / Lesson 3-4	Food: shopping, cooking, dining // Begin weather
Week 10 / Lesson 4	Weather, months, seasons and seasonal activities (locative review)
Week 11 / Lesson 4	Weather & clothing, shopping, etiquette (dative case pronouns)
Week 12 / Lesson 5	Describing physical attributes in present and past (past tense)
Week 13 / Lesson 5	Feeling sick, going to the doctor
Week 14 / Lesson 5	Emotions, living healthy without stress, mood/character/traits
Week 15 Review	Catch up, review

**Holidays & other important 2020 dates (no school)**

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day  
 Wednesday, November 11 – Veterans Day observed  
 Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27 – Thanksgiving  
 Thursday-Friday, December 10-11 – Reading days (our last class is Dec. 9)

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting their Get Started page: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

Please share your accommodation letter with me and let me know your access needs as early as possible in the semester. For further information, please call the DRC at (352) 392-8565, email [DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu) or visit the DRC web site: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

**Academic Honesty:** Except for the group presentation, all work in this course should be created expressly for this course and should be completed independently, without the help of other individuals. All students will furthermore be held to the UF Student Honor Code. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism or other violations of academic honesty and ethical conduct at UF, please consult the Undergraduate Catalog at the Registrar's Office:

<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

**Online course evaluations:** At the end of the semester, you are expected to provide anonymous feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students

at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.” 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/](http://slovník.seznam.cz/) - my favorite online dictionary  
[seznam.cz/](http://seznam.cz/) - a Czech search engine (find news blurbs, weather, jokes, horoscope, etc.)  
[recepty.cz/](http://recepty.cz/) - cook a Czech dish  
[zoopraha.cz/](http://zoopraha.cz/) – meet the animals in the Prague zoo – or even adopt one  
<http://cinestar.cz/praha-andel/> - pick a movie to see  
[idos.cz/](http://idos.cz/) - find local & int'l transit info (planes, trains, buses, trams & metro)  
[jobs.cz/](http://jobs.cz/) - find a job in the Czech Republic  
[radio.cz/](http://radio.cz/) - for both print and audio versions of articles in six languages  
[czech-tv.cz/vysilani/](http://czech-tv.cz/vysilani/) – for Czech TV broadcasts  
[hrad.cz/](http://hrad.cz/) - official site of the Czech government  
[europa.eu/](http://europa.eu/) - (then click on “Portál Evropské unie”) - official site of the EU with Czech link  
[expats.cz/](http://expats.cz/) - a good resource for those living in the Czech Republic (or just considering it)  
[praguepost.com/](http://praguepost.com/) - Prague's English language newspaper

**Czech language/culture opportunities outside of class:**

- **Office hours:** Even if you don't have questions or concerns about the course, feel free to come visit me to read a dialog aloud, go over past homework or chat in Czech. It's an excellent way to sharpen your conversational skills. 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:** Past students have run cultural activities and attended campus events. If you want to participate, hold a leadership role, or have suggestions, just let me know!
- **Virtual coffee/lunch hour:** An optional hour for students and local Czechs & Slovaks is in the works, when all can gather & chit chat informally (at any level). I'll email you about meeting times soon.
- **Czech films:** Library West has 150+ Czech films; many others are available on YouTube. If you have specific interests, please ask me!

**Questions or concerns?**

**Please contact me: [hraynard@ufl.edu](mailto:hraynard@ufl.edu)!**

If you have a quick question, feel free to ask me before or after class. Complicated questions or 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 meet during those times, just email me to set up an appointment at another time!