

CZE1130: Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 1

Fall 2021, 5 credits

Section 092E, Course number 12407

Monday-Thursday Period 4 (10:40-11:30 AM) + 1 hour TBA

Face-to-face in Ustler 104

Instructor: Holly Raynard, hraynard@ufl.edu

Office: 3326A Turlington Hall, (352) 294-7150

Office hours: Wed. 12-1 PM (F2F or Zoom), Thu. 12-2 PM (Zoom) & by appointment (F2F or Zoom).

- **Wed:** Please use Calendly (<https://calendly.com/hraynard/15min>) to claim an appointment time. For students unable to wear a mask, I can meet outdoors or on Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92075674678>
- **Thu:** No sign-up is required; students will be directed to a waiting room, seen in order of arrival, and limited to an initial 15 minutes if others are waiting (but you are welcome to wait & return): <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98609040459>

Course website: elearning.ufl.edu/ (then use Gatorlink ID & password to log in to Canvas)



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 culture. 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 basic social transactions related to food, shopping, health, school, travel & more.

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 texts & materials: We will use the *Reality Czech* textbook which will be made available over the Canvas course website. It's open-source so there is no book to buy! ☺ That said, this course does have a \$5 materials fee to pay for the many handouts you will receive in class. I will also ask you to buy/borrow a **binder** to organize these papers.



Course requirements¹ (explained below)

- Class Participation – 10%
- Homework – 20%
- Hour 5 Modules – 10%
- Quizzes and Tests – 55%
- Final Exam – 5%*

¹ **This syllabus is tentative.** While I don't anticipate major changes, I reserve the right to make adjustments as needed to ensure quality of instruction or to comply with (evolving) UF policies. Any changes—whether due to extreme weather, COVID or other reasons--will be announced in class and on Canvas.

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



Děkuji, ale
objednal jsem
si guláš.

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. Accordingly, daily participation in this class is vital and required!



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 much 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.
- **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 <i>Class Participation grade</i>
5+ absences – 2% subtracted per absence from <i>overall course grade</i>
Arriving 10 minutes late on 4 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 (Domácí úkoly) –20%

All homework assignments can be found in our **Canvas Modules** (organized by unit & day). Homework is divided there into two types, pre- and post-class:

Pre-class (před hodinou):

- This work should be done **before class** to prepare you for in-class activities. Pre-class work is worth 8% of the course grade (since it is usually a shorter than post-class work).
- If you average at least 88% on pre-class HW at the semester's end, I will convert your score to 100%.
- Since you won't be a good language partner if you don't do this work on time, I will downgrade all late pre-class homework (not completed by the start of class) by 50%.

- Although it is called “pre-class,” you don’t have to do it *right before* class. I recommend doing it the night before class (when completing the post-class work from the previous day).

Post-class (po hodině):

- This is work to be done **after class** to reinforce and expand upon concepts we practiced in class.
- Post class HW is worth 12% of the course grade (since it is usually longer).
- I urge you to do HW when it’s assigned (since it’s most effective that way), but post-class work will be marked „late“ (and downgraded by half) only **after 2 days**.
- I tend to grade this work with a + ✓ - mindset: If work is good (not perfect), you will earn 100% or close to it. If it’s exceptional, I’ll give you 110%. I generally downgrade for rushed or sloppy work (excessive or repeated errors, not using vocab or structures that are called for, missing work, etc.).
- If work is missing one or more sections, you will earn an „I“ (0%) until the work is complete.

Completing & submitting homework: Pre-class HW will be submitted on Canvas. You can submit post-class work on Canvas, but if you prefer to print & write out post-class work, that’s fine, too! Overall, nightly homework (post & pre combined) should take **about 1-1.5 hours a night**. If it takes you more or less time, please let me know! If you do your homework every day--and do it *thoughtfully*, studying for exams shouldn’t hard—since exams draw from our HW and or in-class activities.

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

Since our 5-credit course only meets 4 hours per week, you will find “Friday modules” among the Canvas *Modules*. Some modules may invite you to engage Czech culture virtually; others may focus on skills (listening & reading, writing) that students do best on their own timeline. Although they’re called “Friday” modules, you will usually have until **Sunday evening (by 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, get directions, gather information to reach 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!**

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 complete *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: 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.

Final exam (Závěrečná zkouška) – 5%*. Dec. 17, 7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M. (gulp!)

***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 60% 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: Letter grades are based on the percentages shown in the table below:

97-100%	A (No A+s at UF)	87-89.99%	B+	77-79.99%	C+
93-96.66%	A	83-86.99%	B	73-76.99%	C
90-92.99%	A-	80-82.99%	B-	etc.	C-

Last Day to change grade to S/U basis: **Friday, Sept. 10.** 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 topics we will cover during the semester. We will cover units 1-5 in *Reality Czech*, spending 12-16 instructional days on each unit, with a test at the end of each unit. Exam days are marked with an asterisk below as dates are tentative; we may deviate +/- 1 day as needed. All nightly HW assignments can be found on Canvas.

Week & Chapter	Topic
Week 1 / Lesson 1	Czech alphabet & pronunciation; basic intros; formal & informal greetings.
Week 2 / Lesson 1	Describing people & objects, exchanging info, 'to be', nominative, gender
Week 3 / Lesson 1	More descriptions & asking questions: What is it? Who is it? What kind?
Week 4 / Lesson 1-2	Lesson 1 exam planned for Wed.* 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 2-3	Lesson 2 exam planned or Wed.* Food: tastes, preferences (accusative case)
Week 8 / Lesson 3	Food: Eating habits & nutrition
Week 9 / Lessons 3	Food: shopping, cooking, dining // Begin weather
Week 10 / Lesson 3-4	Lesson 3 exam planned for Thu.* Weather, months, seasons and seasonal activities (locative review)
Week 11 / Lesson 4	Weather & clothing, shopping
Week 12 / Lesson 4	Etiquette (dative case pronouns)
Week 13 / Lesson 4-5	Lesson 4 exam planned for Tues.* Describing physical attributes in present and past (past tense)
Week 14 / Lesson 5	Feeling sick, going to the doctor
Week 15 / Lesson 5	Emotions, living healthy without stress' mood/characteristics/traits.
Week 16 / review	Lesson 5 exam planned for Mon.* Catch up, review

Fall 2021 Holidays & Other Important Dates

Labor Day: **Monday, Sept. 6**

Deadline to change grade to S/U basis (vs. a letter grade): **Friday, Sept. 10.**

Homecoming: **Friday, Oct. 8**

Veteran's Day: **Thursday, Nov. 11**

Thanksgiving holiday: **Wed. Nov. 24-Friday Nov. 26.**

Reading days: **Dec. 9-10** (last day of class = Dec. 8)



Opportunities

- **Minor and Certificate** programs in **East Central European Studies** will also allow you to combine your interest in Czech with a number of disciplines. Visit the CES website to learn more: <https://ces.ufl.edu/academics/undergraduate-degreesprograms/>
- Want a **B.A. degree (or double major /dual degree)** in **International Studies**? Czech language and area studies course can fulfill tracking requirements for the European focus: <http://intstudies.program.ufl.edu/academic-program/major-requirements/>
- **Study in Prague** in summer 2021. The UF International Center (UFIC) will be a study abroad fair at the Reitz Union North lawn on Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 10 am to 3 pm. Program information can be found soon at <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/>. Also check there for info about UF and private **scholarships** to study abroad (the deadline for summer is usually in January or early February). If you are Pell grant-eligible, ask a UFIC advisor about Gillman scholarships!
- **Scholarships to study Czech: Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** grants provide tuition and a stipend to support your study of Czech at UF in 2022-23 academic year or to study intensively overseas this summer (int'l flight, room & board also covered). I will let you know the dates of upcoming info sessions & the application deadline once I hear.

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
- 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/ - find local & int'l transit info (planes, trains, buses, trams & metro)
- 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 link
- expats.cz/ - a good resource for those living in the Czech Republic (or just considering it)
- praguepost.com/ - Prague's English-language newspaper

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Academic Honesty & UF Honor Code

All students are bound by the Honor Pledge: "*[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.*" Violations of the code (including acts like cheating, plagiarizing, multiple submissions, etc.) will not be tolerated. Before submitting any work for this class, please familiarize yourself with the Honor Code (especially pp. 11-13) and consequences for violating it: <https://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/UF-Regulation-4.040.pdf>

Please note that using Google Translate (or similar tools) to write your assignments constitutes "unauthorized aid" (and usually yields glaring errors!).

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, 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. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://gatorevals.a.ufl.edu/students/>. Evaluations are typically open for you to complete during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester. Students will be notified when the evaluation periods opens, and they can complete evaluations through the email they receive on GatorEvals or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC)

The CWC teaches students skills to cope with anxiety and to support mental health and personal wellness. CWC services include traditional, group, and couples' therapy as well as consultation, crisis services, workshops, biofeedback, and more. Contact the CWC at: (352) 392-1575, 3190 Radio Road or counseling.ufl.edu/. Call the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

In-class recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, **the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled**. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited.

To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured

by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct.

UF COVID Policy

- 1. If you are sick, please stay home and self-quarantine!** Please visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) about next steps, retake the screening questionnaire (located on [ONE.UF](#)) and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect (a.k.a. not "cleared" on ONE.UF) , you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- 2. You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated.** Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- 3. If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated.** Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- 4. Continue to regularly visit [UFHealth.org](#) and [coronavirus.ufl.edu](#) for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.**
- 5. This course will not be offered in HyFlex format.** If I know that you must miss class *due to documented illness or exposure*, I will try my best to either simulcast or record as much of class as I can, but I am not permitted to record students--who will produce the bulk of class communication as they interact with classmates. The goal of any simulcast/recorded material is to convey what you missed; you will not be able to participate as if in class. Class simulcasts and recordings are subject to UF recording policy and will not be shared with students who attended class or did not have an *excused* absence.
- 6. If *I* (Holly) fall sick or am withheld from campus, I am told that I may teach remotely (on Zoom), if I'm physically able, for a period up to 14 days.** Should that occur, Zoom sessions will not be recorded as students will be expected to participate with cameras and mics on--since language entails both aural and non-verbal communication.

Questions or concerns? Please contact me: hraynard@ufl.edu

I am on campus 5 days/week and am happy to answer short questions whenever I'm around—before or after class, in a quick email message, phone call, etc. Longer questions or complicated concerns are better discussed in office hours or a separate meeting. Appointments are required for Wednesday office hours only; no appointment is needed for Thursday Zoom sessions. I can also meet at other times. If you'd like to schedule a meeting, please let me know!