

Elementary Czech Language

Lecturers:

- Silvie Převrátilová, Ph.D.: silvie.prevratilova@cerge-ei.cz
- Zuzana Švábková, Bc.: zuzana.svabkova@cerge-ei.cz
- Barbora Těhníková, Mgr: barbora.tehnikova@cerge-ei.cz

Course Description:

This course is designed for you to learn the basics to get by when you stay in the Czech Republic. You may have heard that Czech is a hard language. It is true but you are not expected to become fluent in three months. The syllabus covers the essential areas for you to survive in everyday communication: the topics range from food and drink, grocery shopping, restaurant language, through directions and time to simple description of daily routine and your life in Prague. To get by, you need to learn the pronunciation rules as well as some key grammatical rules to be able to express yourself. At the end of the course, the students get halfway through the A1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Teaching Methods:

The class is taught in the communicative method, with emphasis on real life tasks. The class activities vary to make sure all students with different learning preferences get opportunity to practice in a variety of ways. What we do in class always has a link to something outside the class. There are several field trips: to the restaurant, to the supermarket, to the streets in the center, where you can try out what you learned.

Homework assignments aim at individual practice of what is taught in class. Students are often given autonomous task to make the classroom content personally relevant, such as writing their own shopping lists, describing how they get to places they go to most frequently, or making a video about their own experience in Prague.

Throughout the term, you will be asked to hand in assignments. Students will also share a short presentation on a topic of their choice in the second half of the term and there is a final project (a short video) to be presented in the exam week at the end.

Optional Extracurricular Activity: The Language Tandem

The “language tandem” is an activity where a Czech university student and a foreign student meet regularly to help each other with the target language and get to know the target culture. This is an autonomous learning experience, since the students decide themselves what they want to work on, where and when. It should be mutually beneficial for both students working together. It is a unique chance to meet and share language and culture. Unlike in the buddy program, there is more commitment and more language work to be done and presented to the teacher at the end of the term. Extra credit in the Czech class is given to the UPCES student.

Grading Policy:

Small quizzes are given every three weeks. This will prevent you from being overwhelmed by the midterm and final tests. There are three small quizzes (**pass/fail, each worth 5%**) and **the midterm (20%)** and **final test (30%)**. Homework should be handed in time and well-presented and if you want a good grade, you also need to be active in class. **Your coursework is worth 35%** of the final grade and includes mandatory attendance, active participation, homework and the final project (video).

Students are expected to withdraw from using any electronic devices during the class.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	97-100	Excellent Work
A	93-97	Outstanding Work
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good work
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

UPCES Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not tolerated. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the development of knowledge and learning is encouraged at many stages of the learning process. While we value technology for educational purposes, we also value originality and the retainment of knowledge, and thus using AI for assignments and examinations, even if rephrased, is strictly prohibited and considered an academic integrity violation, unless the instructor explicitly allows for it in the context of evaluated work

UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

UPCES Diversity Policy

UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

Weekly Schedule (Spring semesters):

Orientation Feb 12 – 15	Introduction, pronunciation Food and drinks Restaurant, supermarket, numbers
Wk 2: Feb 19	Quiz 1 Supermarket cont.
Wk 3 Feb 26	Directions
Wk 4 Oct 9	Directions cont.
Wk 5 Oct 16	Time Quiz 2
Wk 6 Oct 23	My things
Wk 7 Oct 30	Review MIDTERM TEST
SPRING BREAK	
Wk 8 Nov 6	My body
Wk 9 Nov 13	My week
Wk 10 Nov 20	My semester in Prague Quiz 3
Wk 11 Nov 27	What happened?
Wk 12 Dec 4	Review
Wk 13 Dec 11	FINAL TEST
The exact dates of quizzes, midterm test and final test will be announced in the first week of class.	