

CZE1130: Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 1

Fall 2022, 5 credits

Monday-Thursday Period 4 (10:40-11:30 AM) in Ustler 103 + 1 hour TBA
Section 092E, Course number 12234

(FYI: there is a 100% online section of this course if you're interested)

Instructor: Holly Raynard, hraynard@ufl.edu

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

Office hours (Aug. 24-Dec. 7): Wed. 12-1 PM, Wed. 3-5 PM & by appointment (F2F or Zoom).

- I recommend students reserve one or two 15-minute appointment blocks on Calendly (<https://calendly.com/hraynard/>) to avoid waiting, but it's not required. I will help student without an appointment on a first-come, first-served basis, limiting meetings to 15 minutes if others are waiting (but you can wait & come back again).
- To meet outside office hours, please email me to set up a Zoom or F2F appointment.

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 – 60%

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, pandemic, etc. --will be announced in class and on Canvas.

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. 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!
The goal is to exchange ideas. Perfection is not required!*

****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 absence - No penalty. Everyone gets 1 freebie :-)
2-4 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. Since we will have many small assignments each day, **it is not feasible to use Canvas deadlines & notifications.** Rather, you should understand there is work due M-F and can find each day's assignments in the respective daily module.

Pre-class (před hodinou) - 8%:

- These short exercises test reading comprehension and ability to apply concepts and new vocabulary.

- These exercises deliberately limit variables so that you can more easily identify the source of any errors. So if you miss something, please check the preceding explanation to troubleshoot!
- This work is largely self-graded and typically allows 2-3 attempts. You will be able see incorrect answers and, in some cases, hints.
- Since Canvas is not always the best grader (it will mark off for an extra space or extra punctuation), I will review these exercises and override score as needed. If I don't fix a score within 1-2 days, please feel free to let me know. (Please also let me know if you see a glitch.)
- I will also mitigate any glitches (and hopefully grade anxiety) with my grading policy: if you average at least 85% on pre-class HW at the semester's end, I will convert this score to 95%.
- Pre-class work is worth 8% of the course grade (and less than half of the HW grade) because while it may take as long as post-class work, it requires less independent work. (You can find many answers directly in the corresponding reading.)
- This work should be done **before class** to prepare you for in-class activities. **If it is not completed before class, it will be downgraded by 50%.**
- Although it is called "pre-class," **you don't have to do it right before class**. You can always do it the night before class so you have plenty of time.

Post-class (po hodině) - 12%:

- This is work to done **after class** to reinforce and expand upon concepts from class.
- Post class HW is worth 12% of the course grade since it integrates variables and requires more independent work.
- 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 class 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, 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 1.5 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 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 1 day late; no credit granted for work submitted after 2 days.

Quizzes & tests (Kvízy a testy) – 60%

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.

There is no final exam in this course. :-)

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+
93-96.99%	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. 9**. 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 12-15 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 2022 Holidays & Other Important Dates

Labor Day: **Monday, Sept. 5**

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

Homecoming: **Friday, Oct. 7**

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

Thanksgiving holiday: **Wed. Nov. 23-Friday Nov. 25**

Reading days: **Dec. 8-9** (last day of class = Dec. 7)



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 2022. The UF International Center (UFIC) will be a study abroad fair at the Reitz Union North lawn on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 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 2023-24 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.ua.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.bluer.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.

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!