

CZE1131: Introduction to Czech Language & Culture II Spring 2024, Course # 26944

F2F: Monday - Thursday at 10:40-11:30 AM, Room still TBA
+ 1 hour online (= "Friday Modules" on Canvas)

(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: Still TBA, to be confirmed during the first week of classes

- 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: *Vítám vás (zpátky) 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: 1130 or instructor's permission. If you have learned some Czech elsewhere--formally or informally, please contact the instructor 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%

Friday 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 :-)
2-7 absences – proportionate % subtracted from <i>Class Participation grade</i>
8+ absences - 20% subtracted from overall course grade
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 (very short) 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 87% on pre-class HW at the semester's end, I will convert this score to 93%.
- 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 that you'll 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 typically have until **Sunday evening (by 5:00 PM)** to complete them. They should ideally be done 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, January 26**. 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 & Unit	Topic
Week 1 / Unit 6	Leisure time activities and chores; introduction to verbal aspect
Week 2 / Unit 6	Making your "to do" list: nuances of verbal aspect, modal verbs
Week 3 / Unit 6	Intro to future tense, new year's resolutions
Week 4 / Unit 6-7	Unit 6 exam planned for Tues. Jan. 30 School subjects, accusative review, intro to genitive case
Week 5 / Unit 7	Discussing academics from application to admission & more
Week 6 / Unit 7	Student & university profiles; review of locative case Unit 7 exam planned for Mon. Feb. 19
Week 7 / Unit 8	Where & when: intro to "going," talking about time in Czech
Week 8 / Unit 8	Daily routines (personal hygiene verbs, reflexive verbs)
Week 9 / Unit 8	Recap: times of day, days of week, every month... Unit 8 exam planned for Thu. March 7 + Fri. March 8 (online section)

<i>March 9-17: Spring break - No classes this week ☺</i>	
Week 10 / Unit 9	Holidays: dates, gift giving, indirect objects & dative case
Week 11 / Unit 9	Going to someone's house (more dative case), cultural etiquette & generalizations: passive voice with "se," discussion of selected holidays
Week 12 / Unit 9-10	Unit 9 Exam planned for Wed. April 3. Travel destinations & activities, verbs of motion (going by ground transport)
Week 13 / Unit 10	Travel by flight & itineraries, travel supplies
Week 14 / Unit 10	Czech & Florida travel sites, transit timetables
Week 15 / Unit 10	Review. Unit 10 exam planned for Wed. April. 24

Holidays & other important dates

- Monday, January 15: no class / Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Spring break: No classes March 10-17
- Thursday & Friday, April 25-26: no classes at UF / reading days

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 (or 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



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/>
- The UF International Center (**UFIC**) offers **study abroad** opportunities in Prague so you can continue your language and cultural studies overseas. There will be a study broad fair on the Reitz Union North Lawn on **Wednesday, January 24**. See more here: <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/study-abroad> .
- Foreign Language and Area Studies **grants**. Apply to CES by **Friday, February 2, 2024**. FLAS grants provide tuition and a stipend to help you continue Czech at UF during the 2021-22 academic year or to study intensively overseas this summer (int'l flight, room & board also covered). <https://ces.ufl.edu/funding/student-funding/foreign-language-area-studies-fellowships-flas/>

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 (unless you are directed to use them) constitutes "unauthorized aid."

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.aa.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.

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. If my office hours don't fit your schedule, please email me! We can schedule a meeting (F2F or Zoom) at another time!