

CZE1131: Introduction to Czech Language & Culture 2 Spring 2026

Course no. 25647, 5 credits,
Hybrid format (3 days F2F + 2 days online)
F2F meetings in MWF4 in Ustler Hall 105

Instructor: Holly Raynard, hlaynard@ufl.edu, (352) 294-7150

Tentative office hours from Jan. 12-April 22 (to be confirmed by Jan. 17): Mon. 12:00-1:00 pm, Tues. 5:15-6:15 pm, Fri. 3:00-4:00 pm & by appointment.

- I limit all students to an initial 15 minutes if other students are waiting (but you're welcome to return).
- Feel free to stop by even if you don't have questions; we can go over homework or chit-chat in Czech!

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



Course description: *Vítám vás (zpátky) na kurzu češtiny!* Welcome (back) to Czech class! 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. This is the second course in a two-semester sequence. After this 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 to handle basic social transactions related to leisure time and chores, academics, schedules and daily routines, travel & more.

Prerequisites: **CZE1130 or equivalent** (to be determined by instructor). This class is intended for beginners. If you've had previous exposure to the language (e.g. formal study or significant time abroad, interaction with Czech-speaking family, etc.) please contact the instructor ASAP for placement.

Required texts & materials: You will need a reliable computer & internet connection, a microphone, headphones or earbuds, and a computer camera. Since our textbook, *Reality Czech*, is a web-based, open educational resource, there are no books to buy! ☺ Check the Unit Overview pages on Canvas if you'd like to print out a hard copy of any grammar explanations or vocabulary lists.

Course fee: N/A

Course requirements¹ (explained in detail further below)

Class Participation – 12%
Homework – 24%
Quizzes and Tests – 60%
Oral Final – 4%

¹ **This syllabus is tentative.** While I don't anticipate any 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, or other reasons--will be announced on Canvas and (emergency permitting) in class.

Active Class Participation (Aktivní účast na hodině) – 12%



To vypadá
moc hezky, ale
neobjednal
jsem si salát.

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!

Student participation will be evaluated weekly on scale of **5-0** (5 is highest) based on the criteria below:

Criteria	Meets expectations (+)	Does not meet expectations (-)
Preparation for class:	You're familiar with assigned topics, can produce & understand language without excessive delay.	You are unfamiliar with assigned concepts, struggle to produce or comprehend expressions, stall or delay due lack of preparation.
Attentiveness / Engagement	You are engaged in course materials, complete classwork readily, comments are on-topic.	You don't focus on class work, don't listen, comments are off-topic, you text/use social media.
Responsiveness; contributions during pair/group work	You offer opinions readily, ask relevant questions, follow up on ideas, sustain discussion.	You are quiet or offer minimal output, don't sustain discussion with relevant comments/questions.
Collegiality	You arrive on time. You are respectful and patient; your behavior supports the lesson.	You are rude or impatient; you disrupt or disturb class operations.
Use of target language	You consistently speak Czech.	You resort to English. :-)

Initial scores will be posted to Canvas by the 4 or 5th week so there is ample time to improve performance, if need be.

*Don't be afraid of making mistakes!
The goal is to exchange ideas. Perfection is not required!*

Course Policy on Absences & Make-up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with UF policies. See: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

****Absence policy**:** If you don't attend, you can't participate so I expect you to arrive prepared and on time to each class. Unexcused absences will be reflected in your course grade as follows:

1 absence: no penalty. Everyone gets one “freebie”
2-4 absences: proportionate % subtracted from *Class Participation* grade
5+ absences: ½ grade drop per absence in overall course grade (ex. from A- to B+)
 Being 10+ minutes late to class on 4 occasions will earn you 1 absence. If you *must* be late, please enter class quietly & limit disruptions.

Moreover:

- If you must miss class, please let me know (in advance when possible) and be prepared to provide follow-up documentation.

- It is your responsibility to find out what you missed when absent. (Note that exams could echo class content or activities.)
- Even when excused, absences can affect your performance, so please contact me if you expect to miss multiple classes so I can help you catch up!
- There is no obligation to make up an excused absence, but you are welcome to visit office hours or schedule a meeting with me to learn what you missed or for more practice.

Quizzes/Exams or Homework Delays

- You may make up a missed quiz or exam due to an excused absence.
- You will be given enough time to make up accruing homework and exams. Missed work should ideally be made up within two weeks of your return; all missed work should be completed before the last week of instruction.

Homework (Domáci úkoly) –24%

All assignments are contained in lesson modules (*lekce*) which can be accessed under the “Unit” tabs on the Canvas Home page. (See video “How to Navigate this course” in Unit 0 for more assistance.) Each lesson module page is organized around a table, as shown in the example below, an image from *Lekce 3.5*. You will complete all assignments shown, working left to right and top to bottom. Assignments vary in type and value, as described below.

On the days we meet F2F: Homework Steps 1 & 2 (shown below) should be done before class; Step 3 should be done afterward:

3 Přehled lekce 3.5

Chtěla bych čaj s citronem. Moje kamarádka si dá kávu s mlékem. Ordering food & drinks.

In this lesson you will learn to order foods in a restaurant, using phrases like *Dám si ...* 'I'll have ...' and *Chtěla bych ...* 'I would like ...' and the accusative case—which you will have more opportunities to practice. You will also learn the pronunciation of 'with' and recognize the instrumental forms that follow it.

Instructions: How to Proceed?

You should proceed through the table below, working left to right and then top to bottom. Concepts or vocabulary are introduced in the left-hand columns below; they are reinforced with practice activities to their right. After completing the topics in the table, there will be a final assignment that integrates all these components.

This lesson will probably take you about 2 hours to complete.

Concepts or Vocabulary to Learn	Now Practice & Apply
Read: ☺ <i>Coffee with milk, tea with lemon - Instrumental Forms after 'with'</i> ↓	Review food vocabulary with Quizlet flashcards: Practice Instrumental Singular - 'with' . Read these phrases (s + foods) aloud as you study them!
Read: ☺ <i>Ordering food and drinks</i> ↓	Quizlet Flashcards: <i>Dám si ...</i> . Read words aloud as you study them! Cvičení - <i>Dám si and 2nd position</i> Cvičení - <i>Ordering types of drinks</i>
Read: ☺ <i>Chtěla bych ...</i> ↓	Cvičení - <i>Chtěla bych ... I would like ...</i> . Practice conditional form of <i>chtít</i> along with accusative and instrumental forms of food and drink words.
Listening: Reality Czech - <i>Pijete kávu nebo čaj?</i> ☺	Reality Czech - <i>Pijete kávu nebo čaj?</i>
Listening: Reality Czech - <i>Radši pijete ovso nebo víno?</i> ☺	Reality Czech - <i>Radši pijete ovso nebo víno?</i>

Integrated Assignments

These assignments apply multiple components from above:

- [Dialog: V restauraci](#). (You will record yourself in Part 3.)
- [Domáci úkol 3.5](#)

1. Left-hand column: Start here with short readings or videos.

2. Right-hand column: These are the Discrete drill-type exercises. You usually get two attempts. Reread items in Step 1 above if you have many

^ Steps 1 & 2 should be done **before** class. They'll help you prepare for

3. Bottom of the page: Integrated assignments are located here.

1. Readings or Videos: These introduce new or grammar concepts to learn.

- Start with these. They will prepare you for the graded exercises that immediately follow.

2. Discrete Exercises (largely self-graded; to be done before you attend class, 11%)

- These exercises are relatively short and assess how well you understood concepts laid out in the readings and videos. They typically focus on 1-2 variables and allow 2 attempts so you can troubleshoot and try again.
- Most of these exercises are self-graded by Canvas to give you immediate feedback, but I also review these myself. Please feel free to email me if Canvas made a mistake & I haven't fixed it within 1-2 days!
- To mitigate any Canvas grading glitches, **if you average at least 87%** on these assignments at the semester's end, **I will convert your score to 92%** in the Canvas Gradebook. (This should hopefully relieve some anxiety if you don't understand the nature of an error right away.)
- These exercises are worth a bit less overall since the work is less independent.
- FYI: although these exercises use the Canvas "Quizzes" tool, each exercise is considered "Homework" in terms of your course grade, not an actual course quiz.

3. Integrated Assignments (evaluated by instructor, 13%)

- These assignments are located at the very bottom of each Lesson Module page.
- They integrate a variety of components from the current lesson as well as past topics.
- I grade work with a plus-check-minus mindset: If work is very good (but not perfect), you can still earn 100% or close to it. A score of 98-99% is usually to alert you to an error pattern.
- I downgrade for excessive or repeated errors, not using the requested vocab or structures, or incomplete work.
- This assignment category is worth a bit more overall as it involves more independent work.

Homework due dates & Penalties for late work:

- You can see a daily homework schedule under the Unit 6-10 tabs on the Canvas Home page.
- **Hard deadlines:** Complete the MWF pre-class assignments (Steps 1 & 2 shown above) **before** our respective meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday so that you're prepared for class.
- **Softer deadlines:** Work scheduled for Tuesday can be completed any time before our Wednesday meeting; work scheduled for Thursday can be completed any time before our Friday meeting.

Penalties for late work:

- Assignments submitted after the MWF due dates will lose **15% per day**.
- No homework will be accepted (or corrected) after the respective unit exam.

Will I get a notification when each assignment is due?

No, you will not get a Canvas notification for each and every assignment. Each lesson module contains numerous short exercises – which would mean numerous daily notifications. Rather, expect to complete about 1 lesson module per day (M-F).

It's not due yet: why did I get a "zero"? Please don't be alarmed if you earn a zero on an assignment before the due date. Because of how Canvas assigns grades, I give all non-submitted work a "zero" grade the *first* time I pass through—even if it isn't due yet. Please know that you can still submit work on time for full value or late for reduced value. (In the past I did the opposite, and students falsely believed they had earned 100% on HW – and realized their error only when it was too late.)

Quizzes & tests (Kvízy a testy) – 60%

Timeline: There will be a quiz nearly each week (usually Fridays) and five unit tests this semester. (See schedule further below.) I will **drop your two lowest quiz grades** at the end of the term.

Where to find them: Some will be given in class; others may be taken online. Any online quizzes or tests will have their own dedicated lesson module and due date. If you set up **notifications**, you will receive alerts when they are due.

Technology: Any online exams will be proctored by the Honorlock platform. You should familiarize yourself with Honorlock policies and technological requirements (in the "Start here/Welcome" module) before the first exam; you'll also have an opportunity to test out the technology beforehand. Most exams

have a listening or speaking component so you'll need a mic and headphones/earbuds. Honorlock requires your computer camera and microphone to be on and will conduct a "room scan" at the beginning of the exam, whereby you share a video record of your surroundings.

Content: Exams and quizzes will generally cover content introduced in homework and weekly meetings though the contexts or formats may be somewhat different. (For example: homework may ask you to select the best Czech menu item for friends with dietary restrictions whereas a test may ask you to decipher a Czech recipe, etc.) Quizzes tend to focus on discrete items (vocabulary or grammar). While exams may include some discrete items, they 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 participation in weekly meetings and nightly homework!**

Oral components: Most exams will involve speaking and/or listening tasks—whether in class or online.

Review opportunities: Each lesson module before the unit exam is dedicated to unit review.

If you miss a test or quiz due to an [excused absence](#), you should contact me to schedule a make-up. Make-up privileges might be granted in the case of a non-medical, non-emergency or non-university-approved event, but advance notice is typically required for such consideration.

****Good student bonus**:** Students who satisfactorily complete **all** unit homework on time **and** have **no** synch meeting absences in a given unit can self-correct that unit's exam for **extra credit**, allowing students to regain up to 50% of the points they missed. (For ex: 70% will be raised to a max of 85%, provided all corrections are accurate.) Open-book exams or oral assessments cannot be self-corrected.

Oral Final Exam – 4% (TBA - between Mon. April 27 and Wed. April 29)

You will schedule a 30-minute meeting with me (F2F or on Zoom) during finals week (ideally before 5 PM on Wednesday, April 29). The exam will take the form of an informal discussion (est. 25 minutes): you can expect to be interviewed on topics from Units 6-10 and also to pose related questions. (It will echo our in-class activities. You may also be asked to engage in a short role-play. See Canvas for more details.

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 30

S/U grading means that you would earn a "Satisfactory grade" (S) for a "C" grade or higher and an "Unsatisfactory" (U) grade for a "C-" grade or lower; neither would count in your GPA. If you are taking this course to fulfill a college foreign language requirement or as an elective, S/U grading should be fine, but S/U grades are typically not allowed for required coursework in a specific major, minor or certificate. I encourage you to talk to your major or college advisor if you are interested and have questions.)

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 as well as dates for unit exams. We will cover units 6-10 in *Reality Czech* this semester (spending some 10-15 instructional days on each unit), with a test at the end of each unit. For detailed unit goals and individual lesson modules, please see 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 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
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
<i>March 16-20: Spring break - No modules or meetings this week 😊</i>	
Week 10 / Unit 9	Holidays: dates, gift giving, indirect objects & dative case
Week 11 / Unit 9	Going to someone's house, cultural etiquette & generalizations: passive voice with "se," discussion of selected holidays
Week 12 / Unit 9-10	Unit 9 Exam 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 (Wed. April. 22)
Finals Week	Oral Final to be scheduled by 5:00 PM on Wed. April 29.

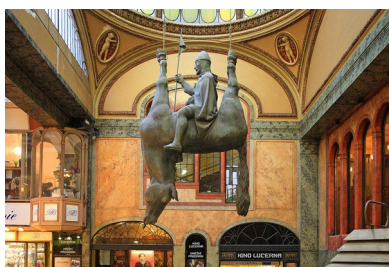
Spring 2026 Holidays & Other Important Dates

Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday: **Monday, January 19.**

Deadline to change grade to S/U basis (vs. a letter grade): **Friday, January 30.**

Spring break: **Monday - Friday, March 16-20.**

Reading days: **Thursday-Friday, April 23-24.**



ADDITIONAL NOTES

This course complies with all **UF policies**. For information on those policies and for a list of **campus resources** (including Disability Resource Center, Health and Wellness, Academic Resources, Writing Studio, Course Evaluations & more), please see this page: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>.

Academic Honesty & UF Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Code which specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Related: Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Translation (MT)

AI and MT tools are like training wheels: they can offer help when we're starting out, but over-relying on them will hinder our ability to ride unassisted. While AI can be a great aid for brainstorming, proofreading, or to prepare for an interactive activity, you should use these tools judiciously.

To ensure tools like ChatGPT and Google Translate (GT) enhance -- rather than undermine -- learning, **you are required to disclose your use of them when submitting work. Please indicate in your homework document the specific tool used and explain how or for what purpose you consulted it.** (E.g., did you ask it for essay ideas, to translate lines, to proofread text, etc.?)

Additional Considerations:

- **Understanding and Accountability:** Make sure you fully understand any language sourced from AI. If you use an expression in homework, be prepared to use it in other contexts (class, an exam, etc.).
- **Communication with Classmates:** Since your classmates won't know all the expressions you've learned via AI or MT, be ready to explain what they mean (in Czech) or use appropriate alternatives.
- **Feedback:** If you complete or correct your homework with AI, I won't know where you need help and can't give you proper feedback. Plus, if I see that your written work is not commensurate with class skills or content, I reserve the right to not correct it. (AI & GT don't need my feedback.)
- **Lower grades:** If you over-rely on AI or GT for homework help, I can virtually guarantee your participation grade and exam scores will suffer.
- **Data Security & Privacy:** Be aware that your interactions with AI tools like ChatGPT are not private. Avoid disclosing personal or sensitive information as it could be inadvertently repeated in future outputs. (UF offers [AI tools for free to students using the UF VPN and claims data won't be retained or used to train LLMs](#)...but it's always good to be cautious.)
- **Assignments Using AI:** You may be asked to use AI on some assignments or assessments. If you object to using these tools (e.g., ethical reasons), please let me know.

This section was authored with the assistance of ChatGPT. :-)



Opportunities

- **Study abroad! UF in Prague deadline: March 2.** If interested, visit the UFIC [website](#) or ask me for more details and plan to attend the study abroad fair on Wed. January 21 where you may learn about other (non-UF) programs. There are many ways to make degree progress while studying in Czech Republic, and I'm happy to talk to you about options, so please reach out!
 - UFIC's main scholarship deadline is **March 1**.
 - Check the Center for European Studies [website](#) for their study abroad travel grant deadline.
- **Add a Czech-related track to your degree!** Interested in a **B.A. degree** in International Studies? Czech language and area studies course can fulfill tracking requirements for the major's European track. **Minor & Certificate** programs in Central European Studies allow you to combine your interest in Czech with a number of disciplines. Visit the CES website for more info (or ask me since I am the advisor for European Studies): <https://ces.ufl.edu/academics/undergraduate-degreepgrams/>

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