

Elementary Czech Language

Lecturers:

- Silvie Převrátilová, Ph.D.: silvie.prevratilova@cerge-ei.cz
- Zuzana Švíbačková, Bc.: zuzana.svibkova@cerge-ei.cz
- Barbora Těhničková: 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.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	93-100	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.

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:

Week 1

Orientation Week

- Introduction, pronunciation
- Food and drinks
- Restaurant, supermarket, numbers

Week 2

Supermarket cont.

- **Quiz 1**

Week 3

Directions

Week 4

Directions cont.

Week 5

Time

- **Quiz 2**

Week 6

My Things

Week 7

Review

- **MIDTERM TEST**

Week 8

I Need Help

Week 9

My Week

Week 10

My Semester in Prague

Week 11

What did you do?

Week 12

Review

- **FINAL TEST**

Week 13

Project Presentations

The exact dates of quizzes, midterm test and final test will be announced in the first week of class.