



University of
New Haven

Introduction to Czech Language and Culture

SECTION I: Course Overview

Course Code: CZE100PRG

Subject Area(s): Czech Language & Culture

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: Czech

Total Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students who wish to achieve a basic understanding of the Czech language. The primary aim of the course is to develop the four basic language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) through communicative, collaborative, and cultural activities.

The course combines several integrated approaches aimed at developing basic Czech language skills. Classroom time is devoted mainly to speaking and practicing Czech through a combination of group-based and individual activities. These activities focus on grammatical structures, language functions and vocabulary. Students will also get to immerse themselves in Czech culture through field studies that give students a unique chance to implement their linguistic development and newly acquired intercultural competence.

By the end of this course, students should be able to use the Czech language to speak about themselves, their family, introduce people, interact with the host community, and follow short and simple conversations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Acquire elementary Czech vocabulary essential to everyday life
- Develop basic communication and listening skills to engage in elementary conversations in Czech
- Use basic structures to produce short texts about a simple subject
- Describe essential aspects of Czech culture and society

SECTION II: Instructor & Course Details

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

Name: TBA
Contact Information: TBA
Term: SEMESTER

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This class will meet once per week for 150 minutes each session. All students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for the day's class session.

CEA enforces a mandatory attendance policy. You are therefore expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, including any field trips, site visits, guest lectures, etc. that are assigned by the instructor. The table below shows the number of class sessions you may miss before receiving a grade penalty.

ALLOWED ABSENCES – SEMESTER		
Courses Meeting X day(s) Per Week	Allowed Absence(s)	Automatic Failing Grade at 4 th absence
Courses meeting 1 day(s) per week	1 Absence	4 th Absence

For every additional absence beyond the allowed number, your final course grade will drop down to the subsequent letter grade (ex: A+ to A). As a student, you should understand that the grade penalties will apply if you are marked absent due to tardiness or leaving class early. In the table below, you will find the grade penalty associated with each excessive absence up to and including automatic course failure.

ATTENDANCE DOCKING PENALTIES				
Absence	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Penalty	No Penalty	0.5 Grade Docked	1 Grade Docked	Automatic Failure
HIGHEST POSSIBLE GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE PENALTIES				
Grade	A+	A	A-	F

CEA does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, no documentation is required for missing class. Similarly, excessive absences, and the grade penalty associated with each, will not be excused even if you are able to provide documentation that shows the absence was beyond your control. You should therefore only miss class when truly needed as illness or other unavoidable factors may force you to miss a class session later on in the term.

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes (2)	20%
Midterm Exam	25%

The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modifications to this syllabus as needed

Oral Presentation	20%
Final Exam	25%

The instructor will calculate your course grades using the CEA Grading Scale shown below. As a CEA student, you should understand that credit transfer decisions—including earned grades for courses taken abroad—are ultimately made by your home institution.

CEA GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70 – 10.0	97.0 – 100%	4.00
A	9.40 – 9.69	94.0 – 96.9%	4.00
A-	9.00 – 9.39	90.0 – 93.9%	3.70
B+	8.70 – 8.99	87.0 – 89.9%	3.30
B	8.40 – 8.69	84.0 – 86.9%	3.00
B-	8.00 – 8.39	80.0 – 83.9%	2.70
C+	7.70 – 7.99	77.0 – 79.9%	2.30
C	7.40 – 7.69	74.0 – 76.9%	2.00
C-	7.00 – 7.39	70.0 – 73.9%	1.70
D	6.00 – 6.99	60.0 – 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00 – 5.99	0.00 – 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal	N/A	0.00
INC	Incomplete	N/A	0.00

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time.

Class Participation (10%): Student participation is mandatory for all courses taken at a CEA Study Center. The instructor will use the rubric below when determining your participation grade. All students should understand that attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively toward the participation grade.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADING RUBRIC	
Student Participation Level	Grade
You make major & original contributions that spark discussion, offering critical comments clearly based on readings, research, & theoretical course topics.	A+ (10.0 – 9.70)
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings & independent research.	A/A- (9.69 – 9.00)
You participate voluntarily and make useful contributions that are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B+/B (8.99 – 8.40)

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You make voluntary but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	B-/C+ (8.39 – 7.70)
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	C/C- (7.69 – 7.00)
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject. You are not prepared for class and/or discussion of course readings.	D (6.99 – 6.00)
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion. You are consistently unprepared for class and/or discussion of the course readings.	F (5.99 – 0.00)

Oral presentation (20%): You will choose a topic relevant to Czech culture that you will investigate over the course of the semester. The topic can explore in greater detail (an aspect of) a cultural theme introduced in class or you can choose another topic with your instructor’s approval. Throughout the semester, you will embark upon a cultural experience to explore your selected topic through field studies, interviews, research. You will summarize your findings in an oral presentation which is to be delivered in class. A summary report and a visual presentation are to be submitted electronically the day of the presentation.

Quizzes (20%): There will be two short quizzes in the course of the semester, which will test your knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and language structures covered to date. The quizzes will also include questions related to the cultural content of reading material provided and discussed in class.

Midterm & Final Exams (25% respectively): The midterm and final exams are designed to establish and communicate to you the progress you are making towards meeting the course learning objectives listed above. They are comprised of questions and exercises that test your abilities in three important areas of competency: the amount of information you master; the accuracy of the information you present; and the significance you ascribe to the facts and ideas you have integrated across your study in this course.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES (AICAP)

CEA courses are designed to include a variety of experiential learning activities that will take you out of the classroom and allow you to explore your local, host city. These activities may include field studies, guest lectures and/or activities offered through our Academically Integrated Cultural Activities Program (AICAP). The following experiential learning activities are included in this course:

- Field Studies: Pekárna, Kotva/Havelské Tržiště, Kavárna/Restaurace, Old Town Astronomical Clock, A. Dvořák Museum, Vítkov National Memorial

REQUIRED READINGS

Reading assignments for this course will come from the required text(s) and/or the selected reading(s) listed below. All required readings—whether assigned from the text or assigned as a selected reading—must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor.

Hola, L. and Borilova, P. *Čeština expres*, A1/1, Prague: Akropolis, 2011, pp. 96

RECOMMENDED FILMS

The following films are recommended for their insights into contemporary Czech culture are available at the Prague Study Center”

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Želary, Obecná Škola (The Elementary School), Hořící Keř (Burning Bush), Kolya

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In order to ensure your success abroad, CEA has provided the academic resources listed below. In addition to these resources, each CEA Study Center provides students with a physical library and study areas for group work. The Academic Affairs Office at each CEA Study Center also compiles a bank of detailed information regarding libraries, documentation centers, research institutes, and archival materials located in the host city.

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA student, you will be given access to the online library of CEA's School of Record, the University of New Haven (UNH). You can use this online library to access databases and additional resources while performing research abroad. You may access the UNH online library [here](#) or through your MyCEA Account. You must comply with UNH Policies regarding library usage.
- **CEAClassroom – Moodle:** CEA instructors use Moodle, an interactive virtual learning environment. This web-based platform provides you with constant and direct access to the course syllabus, daily schedule of class lectures and assignments, non-textbook required readings, and additional resources. Moodle includes the normal array of forums, up-loadable and downloadable databases, wikis, and related academic support designed for helping you achieve the learning objectives listed in this syllabus.

During the first week of class, CEA academic staff and/or faculty will help you navigate through the many functions and resources Moodle provides. While you may print a hard copy version of the syllabus, you should always check Moodle for the most up-to-date information regarding this course. The instructor will use Moodle to make announcements and updates to the course and/or syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to all Moodle materials and that you monitor Moodle on a daily basis in case there are any changes made to course assignments or scheduling.

To access Moodle: Please log-in to your MyCEA account using your normal username and password. Click on the "While You're Abroad Tab" and make sure you are under the "Academics" sub-menu. There you will see a link above your schedule that says "View Online Courses" select this link to be taken to your Moodle environment.

- **Online Reference & Research Tools:** The course instructor has identified the resources below to assist you with understanding course topics. You are encouraged to explore these and other avenues of research including the databases available via the UNH online library.

www.radio.cz/english

COURSE CALENDAR
Introduction to Czech Language & Culture

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITY	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	Course Introduction Review Syllabus & Classroom Policies Introduction to Basic Sounds in Czech Who/What is it?	Course Overview Lecture & Discussion	Review course syllabus Hola, Lesson 1, p. 6 HW: p. 62
2	Greetings and Basic Conversations <i>Formal & informal Czech, greeting, thanking</i>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Field Study: Out & About in Prague (Pekárna)</i>	Hola, Lesson 1, pp. 7 HW: p. 63
3	Personal Introductions <i>Conjugating verbs to be, to do</i>	Lecture & Discussion	Hola, Lesson 1, pp. 8-9 HW: pp. 64-65 Prepare for Quiz I
4	Getting around: Where is..? <i>Conjugating verbs understand, speak, know, see</i>	Lecture & Discussion Quiz I	Hola, Lesson 2, pp. 14-17 HW: pp. 68-69
5	Numbers <i>Using numbers in telephone conversations, shopping, restaurants</i>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Field Study: Kotva/Havelské Tržiště</i>	Hola, p. 10, p. 18, p. 26 HW: pp. 70-71
6	Food & Drink: In a restaurant <i>Conjugating verbs like, read, eat, drink</i>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Field Study: Kavárna/Restaurace</i>	Hola, Lesson 3, pp. 22-25 HW: pp. 74-76
7	My family <i>Describing people, using possessives</i>	Lecture & Discussion Midterm Exam Review	Hola, Lesson 4, pp. 30-32 HW: pp. 77-79 Prepare for Midterm Exam
8	MIDTERM EXAM		

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9	Time & Hobbies <i>Conjugating verbs work, study, like</i>	<i>Lecture & Discussion</i> <i>Field Study: Old Town's</i> <i>Astronomical Clock</i>	Hola, Lesson 4, p. 33-34 and Lesson 5, pp. 38 and 42 HW: pp. 80-82, 84
10	Famous Czechs <i>Professions & Past Simple I</i>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Field Study: A. Dvořák Museum</i>	Hola, Lesson 6, p. 46-47 HW: pp. 86-88 Prepare for Quiz II
11	What did you do yesterday? <i>Past Simple II, Adverbs of Time</i> <i>Conjugating verbs know, can</i>	Lecture & Discussion Quiz II	Hola, Lesson 6, pp. 48-49 HW: pp. 89-91
12	Where...? <i>Private & Public Spaces, Countries & Prepositions</i>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Field Study: Vítkov National Memorial</i>	Hola, Lesson 7, pp. 57-58 HW: pp. 95-96
13	Oral Presentations	Student Oral Presentations Discussion & Feedback	No new reading/homework assigned Begin to review for final exam
14	Course Review	Final Exam Review	Prepare for Final Exam
15	FINAL EXAM		

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SECTION III: CEA Academic Policies

The policies listed in this section outline general expectations for CEA students. You should carefully review these policies to ensure success in your courses and during your time abroad. Furthermore, as a participant in the CEA program, you are expected to review and understand all CEA Student Policies, including the academic policies outlined on our website. CEA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time. For the most up to date policies, please review the policies on our website.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)

General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)