

INTRODUCTION TO CZECH LANGUAGE

IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague

Suggested US semester credit hours: 4 credits

Contact Hours: 60

Course Level: 100

IFSA-Butler course code: FL180-01

Course length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to face

Language of Instruction: English and Czech

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at students who wish to develop a level of competence in contemporary Czech language sufficient for basic communication and comprehension. The fundamental skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in Czech are covered. The basic structure of Czech, including vocabulary and grammatical structures, is also addressed. Essential communication skills are the immediate focus of the course, and students will work toward reading, understanding and discussing simple Czech texts as the semester progresses. This course also includes examination of Czech culture as a valuable and undeniable component of language learning. Previous study of Czech is not required for enrollment in this course.

COURSE DELIVERY

Introduction to Czech language requires active student engagement in each class session. Students will take part in individualized learning and collaborative learning experiences that aim to develop their basic communication skills and comprehension. In addition to lectures, reading, writing, speaking and listening exercises form the basis for this course. Students will also be exposed to language learning opportunities through media, including selected videos, online resources and Czech language applications.

Informal group excursions into the city of Prague are important course components. During these city excursions, students will gain practical experience with their developing communication skills in Czech, while reading Czech signs, listening to Czech speakers and engaging all of their senses in a linguistic "laboratory" experience.

Reading work focuses on vocabulary and comprehension. Written work focuses on vocabulary, writing conventions, spelling and accuracy. Oral work focuses on speaking, pronunciation, vocabulary, expression, accuracy and basic conversational skills. Aural work focuses on comprehension, vocabulary and awareness.

COURSE SYLLABUS

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Demonstrate comprehension of basic Czech writing.
- Demonstrate basic written communication skills in Czech
- Demonstrate basic oral communication skills in Czech
- Demonstrate basic aural comprehension skills in Czech
- Acquire facility with a basic set of vocabulary in Czech
- Understand the intrinsic connection between language and culture
- Become aware of aspects of Czech culture
- Become aware of geographical areas where Czech is spoken
- Appreciate the value of language acquisition in study abroad programs where the student is not proficient in the dominant language
- Strengthen collaborative learning skills
- Become familiar with resources available for further study of Czech language
- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA-Butler Reimagining Europe Semester Program in Prague

COURSE OUTLINE

Following are the topics of focus for each week of the semester. Timing for assignments and informal group excursions into the city of Prague are indicated. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are strengthened on a weekly basis through each of the topics listed.

Week 1 - Introductions, alphabet and pronunciation

Week 2 - Counting, Czech names, basic classroom vocabulary

Week 3 – Family and daily routines

Week 4 – City Excursion TBD, Review and Quiz #1

Week 5 – Food and shopping

Week 6 – Holidays, calendar and Prague tourist attractions

Week 7 – City Excursion TBD, Review and Quiz #2

Week 8 – Final Paper Topic Proposals and Mid-Term Exam

Week 9 – Locations for work, study and leisure

Week 10 - Nationalities and languages

Week 11 – City Excursion TBD, Review and Quiz #3

Week 12 – Famous Czechs

Week 13 – “Student as Teacher Week”: Bring your topics of interest and lead discussions

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Week 14 – Review, Quiz #4 and Final Paper Preparation Workshop

Week 15 – Final Papers and Conversations

TEXTS

In addition to selected readings, videos, and designated online resources, the following texts are used in this course:

Holá, L. (2012). *New Czech Step By Step: A Basic Course in the Czech Language for English-Speaking Foreigners*. Prague: Akropolis.

Noughton, J. (2005). *Czech: An Essential Grammar (Routledge Essential Grammars)*. New York: Routledge.

EVALUATION METHODS

The course instructor will provide specific requirements and grading rubrics for individual assignments for the course as appropriate. Your final grade in the course will be comprised of the following course requirements:

Participation – 20%

(includes attendance, preparation, engagement in discussion, civility, and respect)

Quizzes (on various topics, including specific communication skills or vocabulary) – 20%

Mid-term Exam (combination of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills) – 20%

Final Paper and Conversation (on a topic of personal interest) – 40%
(3 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font)

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources

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according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.