Elementary Czech I
C101

Instructor: Craig Cravens
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Meeting Time: MTWTh 1:25–2:15
Meeting Place: BH 106
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to develop communicative skills in Czech: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. It emphasizes the skills of asking/answering questions and understanding/communicating information on selected topics. It is thematically organized; the themes we will be working on include: the Czech alphabet and sound system, greetings/introductions, classroom Czech (objects and expressions), nationalities, languages, food, family terms, days of the week, places in cities and directions (location), and the numbers 0-49. Structural topics supporting these themes include: the vocative case ('Hey, Craig!'), the nominative sg/pl of adjs and nouns ('This is our professor'), the accusative sg/pl of adjs and nouns ('We know the Czech president'), the locative sg/pl of adjs and nouns ('We study at this university'), personal/possessive/demonstrative pronouns, possessive adjectives, time expressions, and the present and past tenses of verbs.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:
1) Hold conversations in Czech which reflect comfort with the communicative themes we have treated.
2) Understand texts on these themes by applying what they have learned (vocabulary and grammatical structures) to the reading and also by bringing to bear their own world knowledge to make educated guesses about words and structures with which they are not yet familiar.
3) Write short compositions on the topics they will have studied.
4) Exhibit familiarity with aspects of Czech culture relating to these themes.

These objectives are geared not merely to ‘covering’ grammar and vocabulary, but to their functional assimilation in skill development. Knowledge of grammatical structure and vocabulary items, while essential, will be subsumed under the broader goal of being able to use them for communicative purposes. In other words, memorization of words and grammatical rules is the starting point of learning, not the end point.

As instructor, I will facilitate the achievement of the course objectives by providing you with a framework in which to learn, but I cannot achieve the objectives or learn for you. Only independent, consistent (daily) work and active assimilation of the course content on your part will result in the successful attainment of all the course goals and your own personal ones. Progress in this respect will be measured by homework and class participation as well as quizzes, tests and exams. In general, if you follow the syllabus
assiduously and come to class prepared to practice new topics (know your vocabulary and grammar!), you will be able to meet the objectives more than adequately.

Materials
To supplement the materials listed below (the textbook is available in the IMU bookstore), I will be providing students with a number of handouts throughout the semester. Please acquire (buy, borrow, or steal) a 3-ring binder.

Colloquial Czech by James Naughton

**Absence policy** -- If you must miss class due to an excused absence (family emergency, illness, religious holiday or participation in an approved academic or athletic event), please let me know (in advance whenever possible) and be prepared to provide follow-up documentation. Note that it is always your responsibility to find out what you missed while absent and make up any missed work. Repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in course grade as below:

1-5 absences – proportionate % subtracted from Attendance Grade
6-14 absences – ½ letter subtracted from overall course grade (i.e., A- > B+)
15 absences – failing grade in course overall
Arriving 15 min. late 4 times = 1 absence.

Quizzes & Exams
There will be several scheduled quizzes and unit exams during the semester. If you know you will be late or absent on the day of a scheduled test or quiz, you must tell me in advance or you will not be allowed to make it up. In the event of documented illness, students may either take a make-up quiz or choose to have the missing grade omitted from final grade tally.) I will drop your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

Final Exam
The final exam in this course is cumulative, incorporating thematic topics and grammar points from the entire semester.

Not required, but highly recommended
Please don’t forget to take advantage of office hours. It’s an excellent way to sharpen your conversational skills, and I always enjoy hearing more about why you’re studying Czech. If there’s a Czech topic that interests you, let me know, and I’ll try to work it into class.

Requirements. The following are required for successful completion of the course; I have also indicated how each requirement will figure in the final grade.

- Attendance and participation 5%
- Homework 10%
- Vocab quizzes 10%
- 3 Exams 20% each
Final 15% (FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2:45 – 4:45)

No assignment for any unit will be accepted after the quiz on the unit has been given. Because we are concentrating a lot of material into one semester, students will be expected to work intensively (and conscientiously) outside of class. Because comfort with vocabulary is crucial to learning any language (especially Czech!), students will be required to produce, with each unit, a set of flashcards containing new words and definitions, grammatical notes, and (ultimately) a sentence illustrating contextual usage. Vocabulary quizzes will be given in the first half of each unit. Students are encouraged to keep a journal of case usage and verbal conjugation patterns. Tables summarizing this grammatical information are available in the textbook appendix.

Grading Scale

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<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>93-96</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
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<td>0-64</td>
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Disability Statement

Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability must register with Disability Services for Students first. According to DSS guidelines, only students who have registered their disabilities with DSS are officially eligible for accommodations. When the disability has been registered, the student will receive a letter describing any accommodations necessary, which must be presented to the instructor in the first week of classes. Please contact Disability Services for Students at 812-855-7578 in Franklin Hall 096 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. More information is available on the DSS web site (http://dsa.indiana.edu/dss.html).

Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus, including course requirements and daily lesson plans, is subject to change and should not be considered a substitute for attending class or for any information that is provided to you by your instructor.
SCHEDULE

**Week 1, 26 – 29 Aug**
M, 26 Introduction to the course (Jak se jmenujete? Těší mě!)
T, 27 Pronunciation, česká abeceda
W, 28 Unit 1: Vítám vás v Praze!, this, that, it, the verb ‘to have’
Th, 29 Kdo, kdy, Gender

**Week 2, 2 – 5 Sep**
**Units 1 & 2, Vítáme vás v Praze!**
M, 2 Labor Day
T, 3 Vocative case
W, 4 Unit 2, verbs, číst a psát
Th, 5 Possessive pronouns

**Week 3, 9 – 12 Sep**
**Unit 2, Co děláte?**
M, 9 Numbers
T, 10 Numbers
W, 11 Languages, necessity & obligation
Th, 12 Countries and nationality

**Week 4, 16 – 19 Sep**
**Unit 3, Rodina a práce**
M, 16 Exam over units 1 & 2
T, 17 The family,
W, 18 Accusative case
Th, 19 Accusative case

**Week 5, 23 – 26 Sep**
**Unit 3**
M, 23 Prepositions
T, 24 Adjectives in the accusative
W, 25 Who & which
Th, 26 Who & which

**Week 6, 30 Sep – 3 Oct**
**Unit 4, Město a sídliště**
M, 30 Cases in more detail
T, 1 Talking about places
W, 2 –ovat verbs
Th, 3 –ovat verbs

**Week 7, 7 –10 Oct**
**Unit 4**
M, 7 To go
T, 8 Summary of present tense
W, 9 Genitive case
Th, 10 x-times
Week 8, 14–17 Oct  Unit 5, Hudba, jídlo, byt
M, 14 Exam over units 3 & 4
T, 15 ‘Want’ and ‘can’
W, 16 Food
Th, 17 Rooms & furniture

Week 9, 21–24 Oct  Unit 5
M, 21 Dative case
T, 22 Going ‘to’, doing ‘for’
W, 23 Locative case, ‘in’ and ‘on’
Th, 24 ‘Into,’ ‘onto’

Week 10, 28–31 Oct  Unit 6, Doprava, cestování, počasí
M, 28 Transport & travel
T, 29 Pleasing & liking, instrumental hard endings
W, 30 Behind/in front, above/below, between
Th, 31 Seasons

Week 11, 4–7 Nov  Unit 6
M, 4 Nouns in -iště
T, 5 Word order, monosyllabic verbs
W, 6 Weather
Th, 7 Idioms for ‘feeling’

Week 12, 11–14 Nov  Unit 7, Jídlo, šaty, tělo
M, 11 Exam over units 5 & 6
T, 12 Meals, eating & drinking
W, 13 Beer, soft-type nouns
Th, 14 Clothing and the body

Week 13, 18–21 Nov  Unit 7
M, 18 Washing & dressing
T, 19 Adverbs of place and motion
W, 20 To take and to carry verbs
Th, 21 Soft nouns and verbal nouns

Thanksgiving Break

Week 14, 2–5 Dec  Unit 8, Telefon, den, týden
M, 2 The telephone, verb pairs
T, 3 Present & future tenses
W, 4 Would and would like
Th, 5 Days of the week
Week 15, 9–12 Dec  Unit 8
M, 9 Taking verbs
T, 10 Going verbs
W, 11 To say & to tell
Th, 12 Review

FINAL EXAM  FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
2:45 – 4:45