

Elementary Czech and Culture

Course code: CZE 100/2

Term and year: Fall 2026

Day and time: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 – 10:45

Instructor: Mgr Ivana Štěpánková

Instructor contact: ivana.stepankova@aauni.edu

Consultation hours: Wednesday 10:45 – 11:15

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Bachelor
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	
Contact hours	42 hours	Grading	Letter grade

1. Course Description

This course aims at stimulating students to interact in a new language with Czech cultural environment and develop their own path through the Czech linguistic landscape. The course introduces relevant topics of Czech Studies and explores Czech culture, arts and linguistic legacy in relevant cultural, historical, and theoretical contexts. The course is a journey into the Czech cultural universe shaped by history, mind concepts and traditions. It includes a field trip.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate some basic communicative strategies of Czech speakers
- Implement the studied vocab and grammar into basic conversations (i.e. ask questions, seek information, or describe the surroundings)
- Master the sounds of Czech language and their patterns
- Demonstrate presentation skills to explain the studied topic to peers as well as analytical and research skills
- Identify the characteristics of the Czech and English cultural universe

3. Reading Material

Required Materials

• Textbook: **Čeština Expres A1/1**, by Lída Holá and Pavla Bořilová
(It can be bought at Neoluxor, Academia or Dobrovský bookstores)

*Note: To reach A1 level within the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages you should study two complete volumes of this textbook, i. e. **A1/1 and A1/2***
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf

- Articles (downloadable from the course website):
Ivan Klíma: *The Spirit of Prague*
T. G. Ash: *Inside the Magic Lantern*

- Online: materials available on the course website

Recommended Materials

AAU library:

- A brief history of the Czech lands to 2004. Cornej. 2000. ISBN 807252027(24608)
- Great stories in Czech history. Cornej. 2005. ISBN 9788072521111 (24612)

4. Teaching methodology

The course is built around lively teacher student interaction. It combines theoretical explanations of grammar structures and lexical concepts with opportunities to practice newly mastered phrases in a friendly classroom environment and offers engaging opportunities to listen, read and speak.

The course also illustrates Czech cultural concepts through stories and conversations and draws on textual and visual materials, printed and online.

It requires active participation, disciplined home preparation through reading assigned materials and doing online exercises.

Each student will research on a particular language/social/cultural topic, the results of which will be presented to the class (in English).

5. Course Schedule

	Grammar	Communication + Culture	Assg. Due
Week 1 31 st Aug 2 nd Sept	Intro Czech sounds and alphabet Formal & informal Czech	<u>Functional structures</u> : Jak se jmenujete? Odkud jste? Mluvíte anglicky? <u>Communication skills</u> : Basic dialogues <u>Reading</u> : FAQs about Czech	
Week 2 Sept 7 th , 9 th	Verb "to be" + verbs I (a-type) Personal pronouns	<u>Functional structures</u> : Co je to? Kdo je to? <u>Vocabulary</u> : Numerals – part I	
Week 3 Sept 14 th , 16 th	Verb "to have"	<u>Communication skills</u> : Phone dialogues <u>Vocabulary</u> : Occupation and people	Pres.
Week 4 Sept 21 st , 23 rd	Adverbs of location	City map <u>Functional structures</u> : Kde je? <u>Reading</u> : St. Wenceslas	Pres.
Week 5 Sept 28th (NO CLASS – national holiday) Sept 30 th	Adverbs of direction	Travelling in a city <u>Communication skills</u> : Asking directions <u>Vocabulary</u> : Numerals – part II	Pres.
Week 6 Oct 5 th , 7 th	Verbs II (i-type)	<u>Communication skills</u> : In the street <u>Reading</u> : The Spirit of Prague	Pres.

Week 7 Oct 12th, 14th	Gender: adjectives + nouns	<u>Functional structures:</u> Jaký? Jaká? Jaké? <u>Vocabulary:</u> Food and drinks	Pres.
Week 8 Oct 19th, 21st	Grammar/vocab consolidation Practice test	Mid-term test	
October 26th – Oct 30th		Mid-term break	
Week 9 Nov 2nd, 4th	Direct object in Czech Verbs (irregular)	<u>Functional structures:</u> Máš rád/a ...? <u>Vocabulary:</u> Restaurant phrases Numbers – part III	Pres
Week 10 Nov 9th, 11th	Verbs requiring direct object	<u>Communication skills:</u> Waiter–customer dialogues Reading: Václav Havel and November 1989	Pres.
Week 11 Nov 16 th , 18th	Possessive pronouns	<u>Functional structures:</u> Kolik ti je? <u>Vocabulary:</u> Family	Pres.
Week 12 Nov 23rd, 25th	Verbs III (-ovat type)	<u>Communication skills:</u> Talking about family or friends <u>Vocabulary:</u> “International” verbs	Pres.
Week 13 30 th NOV 2 nd DEC	Direct object (part II -masculine animate)	<u>Communication skills:</u> Favourite places <u>Vocabulary:</u> Time expressions	Pres.
Week 14 Dec 7th, 9th	Grammar and vocab review Sample test	<u>Vocabulary:</u> Czech Calendar	Prague Journal DUE
Week 15 DEC 14th	FINAL TEST		

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (hours)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Active in-class participation +home preparation	100		Demonstrate some basic communicative strategies of Czech speakers Implement the studied vocab and grammar into basic conversations (i.e. ask questions, seek information, or describe the surroundings) Master the sounds of a new language and their patterns	1,2,3
Presentation	8	15 %	Demonstrate presentation skills to explain the studied topic to peers as well as analytical and research skills	1,2,3

Mid-term test + Final test	20	40 % (2 x 20)	Implement the studied vocab and grammar	1,2,3
Quizzes	12	30 % (3 x 10)	Implement the studied vocab and grammar	1,2,3
Prague Journal	10	15%	Demonstrate analytical and research skills.	1,3
TOTAL	150	100%		

*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Action

7. Detailed description of the assignments

Midterm and Final tests, quizzes

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Demonstrating knowledge of concepts and essential issues (in writing)	50
Applying acquired language skills	50
	100

Prague Journal

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Collecting photos and other material, comparing two cultures, sharing one's experiences	50
Organizing the text week by week	50
	100

Presentation

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Researching, collecting material	50
Structuring the material, choosing the right methodology.	25
Presenting the topic, mastering the pronunciation	25
	100

Prague/Travel Journal (TJ)

represents an independent semester project in which students elaborate upon their reading of **Czech** literature, history and the arts, record daily observation on their life in the **Czech Republic**, compare their cultural background with the Czech environment, describe **Czech sites** and collect relevant cultural materials.

The journal is written in English.

12 journal entries should be submitted at the end of the semester.

Each entry should consist of **approx. 200 words**.

15 % is given to a Travel Journal that

- (1) takes account of in-class learning and readings, and goes beyond them;
- (2) builds Czech into the entries by **using brackets with Czech words, idioms and especially Czech names of locations;**
- (3) reflects understanding of relevant topics and relates them to the student's life in Prague;
- (4) demonstrates vigorous personal input in recording and collecting relevant language and cultural materials;
- (5) reflects an active mind and creative thinking;
- (6) draws connections among classes and personal experiences.

10 % is given to a journal that

- (1) presents a solid record of assignments;
- (2) is well organized week by week and neat;
- (3) draws on classes, readings, trips and goes beyond them by integrating personal reflections.

5 % is given to a journal that is inconsistent in organization and presents materials carelessly and haphazardly.

Reading

Students are expected to read the assigned materials for the following class. Readings must be downloaded from the course website, but not necessarily printed. The knowledge of selected texts may be tested through quizzes.

Oral presentation

At the beginning of the course students choose a topic to present from the list offered by the instructor. The topics focus on various aspects of Czech culture or contemporary life in the Czech Republic. Students are asked to research the topic, to look up sources, to organize and structure them, and after all, to deliver the presentation in front of the class. Students should prepare approx. 10-minute presentation.

The topic is **presented in English**, selected Czech vocabulary relevant to the topic is, however, delivered as well.

The student shall obtain **15 %** for the presentation if he/she

- (1) reflects understanding of the selected topic,
- (2) demonstrates vigorous personal input in recording and collecting relevant language and cultural materials,
- (3) reflects an active mind and creative thinking,
- (4) provides a well-organized presentation which also involves the students' participation,
- (5) demonstrates correct pronunciation of the Czech vocabulary.

The failure to fulfil any task stated in the above-mentioned points may lower the total percentage by two percent.

Mid-Term/final exams, quizzes will be based on the range of language topics covered in the lectures.

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules in the Academic Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work. Please see the AAU intranet for a [summary of key policies](#) regarding coursework.

Course specific requirements

There are no special requirements or deviations from AAU policies for this course.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95–100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A–	90–94	
B+	87–89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83–86	
B–	80–82	
C+	77–79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73–76	
C–	70–72	
D+	65–69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60–64	
F	0–59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.