



Czech

CZEC 1003 (3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Czech Republic: Arts and Social Change

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This course provides students with fundamental competency in Czech, with the main goals of assisting students to become competent in a number of communicative topics, introducing basic concepts and principles of Czech grammar, and introducing the language as an important mirror of Czech culture and society.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

The topics and issues covered by the course include key aspects of grammar such as number, declension, nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verb conjugation, tense and aspect, and model verbs; as well as communicative topics such as ordering in a restaurant, travel and transportation, likes and dislikes, directions, daily routines, setting meetings, and telephone dialogues.

The course employs a variety of methods to achieve its objectives, including in-classroom sessions focused on conversational competence with relevant grammar-based instruction. Classroom sessions are combined with opportunities to practice language skills both in the language class field sessions on the streets of Prague and homework assignments to build conversational competencies.

| Topic | Grammar |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Basic grammatical terms | Answering the questions "who?" and "what?" |
| Greeting, meetings, and people | The verb <i>být</i> (to be) and <i>dělat</i> (to do/to make.) / -A verbs |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Orientation | Locations. Answering the question where? / í verbs / adverbs expressing direction |
| In the restaurant | The basic case: the nominative sg. (= the dictionary form) |
| | Gender of nouns and adjectives / Ordering food. / Direct object expressed by the accusative / -E irregular verbs. / The verb to like: mít rád |
| Family | Possessive pronouns my, your etc. / -E regular verbs / To like to do—doing vs. like |
| Time | Answering the question when? Parts of day, days, date |
| Planning appointments | Modal verbs |
| Famous people | Past tense and second position of past tense |
| Planning time | Future tense |
| Art | More useful adjectives. And the verb to like: líbit se / How to describe a work of art |

Course Text

Hola, L. & Bořilová, P. (2008). *Czech Express I*. Prague: Akropolis.

The key text is Dr. Lída Hola's and Pavla Bořilová's *Czech Express I*, in a version customized by the author for the SIT program. The six chapters focus on a communicative topic that is paired with key grammatical competencies (for example, *Greetings*, accompanied by the verb *to be*, *from + the genitive singular*; or the topic of *Orientation*, accompanied by the question, *where is it?* and *adverbs expressing location*).

Course Policies

Attendance is required. Tardiness and absences impact the performance aspect of the grade. For more specific policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process, students should refer to the SIT Study Abroad student handbook.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Assessment

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Chapter quizzes: | 60% |
| Written and oral test: | 30% |
| Participation/in-class performance: | 10% |

Grading Scale

Grades are given both fairly and rigorously and in accordance with the system below. They will reflect a combination of absolute quality of performance, progress made, the ability to take into account and assimilate the academic director's and the teachers' advice in assessing the work completed. An "A" letter grade reflects exceptional work, perfect combination of academic competences, and personal research and analysis. It shows great ability to integrate field-based investigation and personal reflection into a structured and well-argued paper. A "B" letter grade reflects serious and methodical work as well as a substantial effort at analyzing and understanding cross-cultural issues. A "C" letter grade shows the work meets the requirements but needs more in-depth reflection and personal involvement. A "D" letter grade is insufficient and clearly reflects lack of work or serious deficiencies.

The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

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|-----------|----|
| 94-100% | A |
| 90-93% | A- |
| 87-89% | B+ |
| 84-86% | B |
| 80-83% | B- |
| 77-79% | C+ |
| 74-76% | C |
| 70-73% | C- |
| 67-69% | D+ |
| 64-66% | D |
| below 64% | F |

Please note: the syllabus, course content, lecturers, and readings may **modified by the academic director in order to better suit the needs of the course and its participants.** Should any change of class topics or lecturers may be necessary, student will be promptly notified.

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the **SIT Study Abroad Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.