

CESTA
Česká CESTA

Czech as a Means of Communication and a Way of Thinking

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Consultations: by appointment

Course description:

Česká cesta is a special language course. It is partly a course of language as such, partly a course about Czech language and partly also a course about our ways of thinking, the world of language per se and reflections on English language. Personal experience with the language and space forms the basis of the syllabus. The course teaches language through comparison, observation and data collection, and requires active involvement from the students. We will compare Czech and English; observe Czech as a system, living organism, means of communication among Czechs and between Czechs and foreigners. We will observe and analyze the language surrounding us (in various messages, street signs, posters, news, etc.).

Please clarify: Last but not least, we will collect data, **and based on them create "memory" of our course and we will trace our language learning and thinking.** The syllabus has double structure – first – language as such, syllabus is organized by social situations and lexical topics (incl. grammar) second – thinking about the language, these topics are always connected to **general linguistic questions.**

Course objectives:

The goal of the course is to provide students with understanding of how Czech works in daily life and an ability to communicate in Czech at a very basic level. We don't aim at comprehending how Czechs talk to each other on tram but at grasping worldviews residing in the language so that students get by in the daily culture and develop empathy for identity of a small nation. Students will collect photographs of various language contexts, posters, fliers, tickets and overheard conversations, and analyze them collectively in class. The classes will be run as classroom sessions to study Czech through contextual situations, phrases, vocabulary and grammatical rudiments, and workshops in and out of the classroom to discuss language related topics, deal with practical questions, work with language bits brought to class, visit real-life places and use the language with Czechs. To be able to communicate on a basic level means to comprehend daily life, survive in it with dignity and joy, react appropriately, ask simple questions and be polite. A goal of the course is also to develop readiness to study additional foreign languages and gain an international perspective.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 Cizinec na CESTĚ

Personal information. Social rituals and habits.

Czech - My God, what is that? Čeština, český, česky, česká, Češka, Čechy, Čech.
/Basic information about Czech grammar./

Week 2 CESTA městem.

Around the town. Information about events and asking for directions.

Notes, signs and posters in town.

Week 3 Na CESTĚ do obchodu.

In a store. Where to get "stuff"._ Are shopping malls universal?

Week 4 CESTA Evropou.

Where have you been? Activities and verbs. Towns and places. Places in Europe./

Week 5 "CESTA" v restauraci

Restaurant: Dining, feasting, drinking and eating

Week 6 Budu CESTOvat.

Activities and verbs. What will you do?

To do or to make? Borrow or lend? Czech verbs

Week 7 Na CESTĚ

Post office, station, transport

May I sit in a tram at all?! Being polite.

Week 8 Review

Week 9 CESTA do ČR

Where are you from?

Am I stranger or foreigner? Misunderstanding caused by translation. False friends

Week 10 Rok na CESTĚ

Calendar

Czech habits and traditions

Week 11 CESTOVAT

Verbal aspect. Verbs.

How come they have only 3 tenses? Are they able to express EVERYTHING?!

Week 12 ČESKÁ CESTA

Typical Czech. Adjectives. Qualities.

"That is typical!" But what does it actually mean?

Week 13 AMERICKÁ CESTA

The same like. – Different from.

The Czech Republic and the U.S.A.

Week 14 Rok na CESTĚ 2.

Calendar.2

Czech habits and traditions. 2

Week 15 Review

Tests / quizzes:

- final orientation test
- midterm test
- final semester test
- occasional quizzes on topics
- vocabulary / phrases / memory quizzes

Grading:

Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than two classes during the semester will be reflected by dropping a final grade progressively.

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| ➤ quizzes | 20% |
| ➤ tests (3) | 30% |
| ➤ active participation | 20% |
| ➤ Diary/ portfolio / interdisciplinary project component | 30% |

Required materials: English–Czech / Czech–English Dictionary

Recommended readings:

Karen von Kunes: 240 Ways of Looking at Czech

Karen von Kunes: Everything You Wanted to Know about Czech and Were Afraid to Ask

Laura Janda and Steven Clancy: The Casebook for Czech

Derek Sayer: The Coasts of Bohemia

Orientace	21. – 24.1.	20. příjezd		cesty / události
w 1	26., 27., 28.1.	Cizinec na CESTĚ. Kdo jsem? Who am I? Personal information. Social phrases and habits.	Čeština, český, česky, česká, Češka, Čechy, Čech. My God, what is that? Basic information about Czech language system.	
w2	31.1. – 5.1.	Kde, kdy, kam? CESTA městem. Through the town. Information about events, asking way.	Notes, signs and posters in town.	
w3	7.2. – 11.2.	V obchodě. In a store.	Where to get “stuff”. Is a shopping center universal?	
w4	14.2. – 18.2.	Kde jste byl/a? Activities, verbs. Where have you been?	Towns and places. Places in Europe.	
w5	21.2. – 25.2.	Restaurace. Restaurant.	Dinning, feasting, drinking, and eating. Metonymical ordering.	
w6	28.2. – 4.3.	Co budete dělat? Activities, verbs. What will you do?	To do or to make? Borrow or lend? Czech verbs.	4. 6. CESTA do German Harzland
w7	7.3. – 11.3.	Pošta, nádraží, transport. Post office, station, transport.	Can I sit on a tram at all?! Politeness, loudness, ...	
w8	14.3. – 18.3.	Konsolidace. Consolidation.		16. – 20. jarní prázdniny
w9	21.3. – 25.3.	Odkud jste? Where are you from?	Am I stranger or foreigner? Misunderstanding caused by translation or different meanings. False friends.	
w10	28.3. – 1.4.	Kalendář. 1 Calendar. 1	Czech habits and traditions. 1	1.– 3.CESTA do Eastern Bohemia
w11	4.4. – 8.4.	Aspekt.	How come they have	

		Aspect. Verbs.	only 3 tenses? Are they able to express EVERYTHING?!	
w12	11.4. – 15.4.	Typický český. Typical Czech. Adjectives. Qualities.	“That is typical!” But what does it actually mean?	15. – 17. CESTA do Polska, Krakova a Osvětmi
w13	18.4. – 22.4.	Stejný /á jako. - Jiný/á než. the same like. – Different from.	Czech Republic and U.S.A.	
w14	25.4. – 29.4.	Kalendář. 2 Calendar. 2	Czech habits and traditions. 2	25. Velikonoce
w15	2.5. – 6.5.	Konsolidace. Consolidation.		5.5. poslední den školy
				6. – 8. Šumava
	9. – 13. 5.	zkoušky		
		14. 5. odjezd		