

Please note some of the dates may be off by a day. All the dates below are for Tu/Th sections however I attended some on Monday and Wednesday

03/07/2019

Today I had a very hard time focusing on the work following the quiz. This could have been because my roommates, for the third consecutive week, woke me up in the middle of the night. It is also very challenging to focus in a classroom where half of the students are still drunk and smell of alcohol from the evening before. One thing that I was happy that [teacher] did was distribute the quizzes in the beginning of class, as I have had professors in the past who give out exams at the end and that is all I can think about throughout the lesson. I also think that it would be helpful to give more formal homework that guides practicing and flashcards throughout the course, so I do not feel like I have to do it during the class.

03/12/2019

Today we had the opportunity to visit a gymnasium, which is what they call middle school here. I enjoyed this a lot more than the classroom sessions, especially because we did everything in English. The first thing that surprised me the most about the session was the lack of technology in the school. My middle and elementary school had smartboards in each classroom along with laptop, and later iPad, carts that were available for the students to use. It could have been because this was a language class, but I was very surprised to see that none of the students were using these, as the school was preparing them for a world that has already passed. I was also surprised how respectful the students were towards us, as I know we would not have been at that age.

03/14/2019

I am beginning to really get used to class and learning to cope with my strong animosity towards learning new languages. During class I have been setting goal of figuring out 5/6 words per session and it is becoming more manageable. I am however, very concerned about the midterm. As you know by now from reading this, I am not good at learning language, especially through memorization and struggled with the quizzes to this point. While the more recent stuff I am ok with because I have studied it recently, the material that we learned during the beginning of the course, and during the intensive Czech sessions are going to be challenging to revisit.

03/19/2019

Today's class was very good as the activities that we did helped me practice the verbs, which is where I keep getting stuck. I find the Tuesday class to generally be more engaging because by Thursday I am zoned out for the weekend, given that we do not have classes on Friday. While the basics are really sinking in, I am struggling with the new material.

03/21/2019

Today's class was unexciting, and I particularly do not like how we are focusing on conjugations of verbs when I have very little vocabulary. This, however, is not a fault of the curriculum specific to this class but language education in general as high school Spanish they did the same thing. I liked the Khoot at the end. I hate studying language because it is just memorization, and compared to my major of economics and business I have zero interest in learning Czech. I really think that the class should be optional, considering that everyone in Prague one, where all the UPCES students live, speak English fluently. The reason that I expressing these frustrations now is because I am currently wasting time studying for the midterm.

03/25/2019

Today we had review for the upcoming midterm exam. I found the review to be helpful and the study guide helped relive stress as it puts the content of the course into prospective. One way that I think the course could be improved given that it is forced upon students to enroll, is to make the test take home or pass/fail. I also attended Monday's class today and found it to be slightly less engaging because of the size.

03/27/2019

Today we took the midterm so not much to report on. Overall, I found the test to be very fair, especially given the study guide. One thing that surprised me about the test was how grammar intensive the test was.

04/02/2019

Forgot to journal

04/04/2019

I found this class to be somewhat slow. We were learning some new terms as well as practicing time. I was also incredibly tired due to being kept up by loud noises outside so had a hard time focusing. I did like the interactive activity using the lego's. I am finding the class to be getting easier as I am getting more used to hearing the language in every day interactions.

04/09/2019

Not much to report, very regular class. I find the work to be getting very tedious as the semester comes to a close.

04/11/2019

I am noticing the activities getting easier as I can use parts of the sentences to figure out what other words mean, however, still do not like the conjugation and grammar part of the course. [Teacher] makes the class engaging however as her positive attitude helps myself along with other students stay motivated this early in the morning. I cannot, however, emphasize enough how much more enjoyable the class would be at 3PM instead of 8 AM.

04/16/2019

Missed Class

04/18/2019

Today's class we had a quiz which I found to be easy. My initial frustration with the class is that I did not feel a need to take the class and I am continuing to find that as everyone here speaks English. Additionally, I would recommend going forward to give the quizzes at the end of the class because after the quiz is over, I zone out for the remainder of class. An activity that I really enjoyed today was the group activity where we competed using drawings on the whiteboard.

04/29/2019

Today I attended the class on Monday as I cannot make it tomorrow. I have gotten to the point in all of my classes here I am dreadfully bored and find them to be not intellectually stimulating, but Czech is the exception. I also would prefer that some of the classes used other forms of assessments like more quizzes rather than just a midterm and final. In Czech I like that we are not learning much new content as I we are leaving for home soon. I also found that I lost some of my momentum learning the language after leaving the country for the week for spring break.

May 1

Class not taught by [teacher] – No Entry

May 6

Today was the last formal class, where we did review by participating in partner speaking activities. Ultimately, I think that this course tied together really well and the sequence that it was taught was good and logical. I also really appreciate the transparency of [teacher]. I always knew what was expected of me and was very rarely surprised on the quizzes and midterms. Transparency is something that is very in the United States, so this was refreshing to have it in this class, as my others here do not. I also appreciated the amount of time that we spent on discussing holidays and cultural activities as it was not gone over in my other courses. One suggestion that I have to make the class better going forward was to start slower, as in the beginning I was overwhelmed with the amount of information and vocabulary, but It became manageable as time went on.

May 7 – Czech school visit

Today we got to visit the school and speak in both English and Czech with middle school students. I was surprised how much the Czech students were able to comprehend and with their English skills. It was a great cultural experience to be able to see what school is like for students living in a different country and it was also good practice before the final exam. I think that incorporating more cultural activities into the curriculum would continue to make the class more interesting.

May 13 – Final Exam

Ultimately, I think that [teacher] did a great job. Part of my issue with the class that I had in the beginning was that I came into the class with a poor mindset. This was because of my prior experience's with taking language and cultural shock in the beginning of the course. I also really did not like how I was told that I had to enroll in the class as that is something that is not

common in the American University system. I was amazed at [teacher's] teaching abilities and how she was able to get me to like the class. I thought the exam was fair. I really appreciate not being surprised by the exam as we were provided with a thorough study guide. I do not think that a final exam is necessary in this course as it seemed pointless to study for Czech as I was getting ready to go home. Overall, I thought that [teacher] was an incredible teacher. She engaged well with the content, came to class prepared and with a great attitude. The teaching here was generally really bad, and this was the exception as [teacher] was great and on par with American professors.