

Czech Class Journal

Week 3

Monday: Today we presented our homework assignment, which was to get on a form of transportation and stay on it until we reached a terminal. I went on tram 22 and ended up at the end of the terminal in Prague 6. This was definitely something that I enjoyed because without this assignment it would be unlikely for me to exit out of Prague 1 or 2. We also reviewed for our quiz that we will have on Wednesday. I feel like our professor has really prepared us for what is going to be on it, therefore I am not too worried about it. I am becoming more confident in learning the language and really enjoy coming to class and interacting with my classmates. This class by far is my favorite class that I am taking here and I hope that it continues to be this challenging and fun.

Wednesday: Today we took our second quiz. It was not too bad, however the conjugation of the verbs was very difficult for me. After the quiz we continued to study vocab and locations that relate to the new vocab. I enjoy learning new vocab because it not only helps me within the classroom but also helps me when I am out on the streets of Prague. It allows me to be able to interact with Czech people and even helps me read basic things in the grocery store. As I am becoming more and more comfortable with speaking in Czech I enjoy trying to listen to what people are saying and reading different street signs when I am out. At the start of the semester I did not know that this class would be so helpful in my day to day life while I was living in Prague.

Week 4

Monday: Today we continued to learn about different food and drink. However, we expanded on each of the things that we already knew. For example, we learned how to conjugate different endings of foods. This makes things a little more challenging because there seems like there are a lot of different rules that you have to follow in order to be speaking correctly. It is very interesting how this works, but I do think that it is going to be challenging to understand all of the rules.

Wednesday: Today we took a field trip to a local Czech school. Maddie and I spoke with two girls, Arianna and Sarah age 13 and 14. Both of them told us about their backgrounds and different things within Czech culture. This field trip was a good learning opportunity for our class because it allows us to observe the difference of Czech education and American Education but also the differences in culture in general. I really enjoyed this trip because it gives you a different view on the country we are living in and gives you a better appreciation for this opportunity.

Week 5

Monday: Today in class we continued to learn new vocabulary in preparation for our midterm that is next week. The vocab was focused on family and talking about people. I found that it was very interesting that we only learned immediate family members, such as mother and father and brother and sister. We did not learn about aunt and uncles and cousins. I asked my professor if immediate family is more focused on here than in the United States and she said yes which I found interesting.

Wednesday: Today we got our study guides for our Czech midterm. I am getting very nervous because I feel like there is a lot of information to know for the exam. However, I also feel like I am going to be able to do well because our professor has prepared us very well for the exam.

Week 6

Monday: Today we reviewed for everything that would be on the exam. We practiced our conversations and speaking, which I was originally, most scared for but now I am most confident for this part of the exam. I feel like if I study everything that is on the study guide I will be able to do well on the exam and I am confident that the exam will be fair.

Wednesday: Today was the midterm and I felt VERY confident that I did well. I know that I got a 100 on the speaking section and this makes me feel good and confident that I am learning a lot from this class. After the midterm I am even more excited to learn more in Czech and interested to see what new things we will be doing for the rest of the semester.

Week 7

Monday: Today we got our midterms back and I got a 92%, which I am very thrilled about. This makes me feel more confident about the class but also makes me want to speak more of the language outside of the classroom. We also learned different days of the week and times of the day. I think that these words and type of conversations are going to be very helpful in day-to-day life in Prague. These words and phrases will allow me to ask people more questions and have more interactions outside of the classroom.

Wednesday: Today we continued to learn about days of the week and times during the day. We discussed activities that we partake in during the week and were assigned a presentation that tells the class in Czech what we do here abroad. I think that this is a very cool assignment that I am excited for because it allows us to learn how to tell people what we do and what we like to do during our free time.

Week 8

Monday: Today we started learning different verbs that would allow us to describe what we do on a daily basis. This expanded the things that we can talk about within

and outside of the classroom. In addition, we learned the different days of the week and parts of the day. I feel like this is very beneficial for our class because it allows us to be able to plan things in Czech and describe to people what we do. It also allows us the ability to be able to ask people to do things with us in Czech which I find very interesting and cool.

Wednesday: Today was a continuation of what we did in class on Monday. We expanded on the verbs that we learned and the days of the week and times of the day. Again, I felt that this lesson was very beneficial.

Week 9

Monday: Today we started to talk about the past tense. This is one of my least favorite things in basically any language is the conjugations of verbs or any words. I find it extremely challenging to have to conjugate in the past tense because there are some words that you change for feminine and some masculine. Some verbs are irregular while others are not. I feel like within the Czech language conjugations and when to conjugate a word is my biggest struggle because there is so much to remember with different rules, whereas vocab is just words that can be memorized and regurgitated.

Wednesday: Today we had a quiz on the days of the week, times of day, and verbs. I feel confident that I did well and I am feeling really good about the material that we have been learning. We continued with the past tense and I feel like I am getting a better understanding of how to conjugate. I think that with more practice within and outside of the classroom I will be able to successfully conjugate in the past tense for the final exam.

Week 10

Monday: Today we visited the Czech middle school. I always enjoy these experiences because it allows us to see a different side of Czech culture and education. Not only does visiting the school expose us to a different element of the culture but also interacting with the kids teaches us a lot about the way of life and how society within Prague functions. However, when we do visit these schools I do feel as if I do not know as much Czech as I thought I did. Since the kids that we visit can speak both English and Czech very well, I feel bad that my Czech is so poor. I almost feel as if they are benefiting me and I am unable to contribute anything back to them.

Wednesday: Today we started to discuss about travel that we did during our semester abroad. We learned the names of different countries and how to talk about different things that we did while we were traveling. This lesson will benefit us for our final Czech video and our speaking section of our final. However, this lesson was bitter sweet because it allowed us to reminisce on the different things that we did

during the semester and talk about our travel experience but it also was a reminder that our time here is over and we will be heading home very soon.

Week 11

Monday: Today we started reviewing for our final exam. I cannot believe that the semester is already over. It feels like it was just yesterday we were learning the basic Czech words and now we are able to have conversations about our experiences. Time here went by way too fast. However, as we are reviewing I am able to look back at all the things that we did learn over the course of the semester and I am surprised how much material that we did get done and how much I actually do still remember. The style of teaching used has made this experience so much fun while also enabling us to learn so much. Czech ended up being my favorite class and I am sad to say that is coming to an end.

Wednesday: Today was our final day of class. We did not learn anything new but instead just reviewed and practiced for the exam. At the end of the class we talked about and reflected on the semester. This reflection along with this journal that I kept over the course of the semester shows me how much I have learned from taking Czech and how much I grew to appreciate the language. Before coming into the class I will not lie, I was not thrilled about the fact that I had to take this as one of my classes. However, it ended up being my favorite class and I would recommend anyone to take it. I think that my professor and the teaching style is what made the class very enjoyable. I loved the interactive work that we did and it really allowed me to learn Czech to the best of my ability. This class is definitely a huge part of the experience I have had during my time abroad and it is a class that I will remember forever.