Course Description and Objectives. This course is designed to develop communicative skills in Czech: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. The course emphasizes the skills of asking/answering questions and understanding/communicating basic information on selected topics (simple description and narration). It is thematically organized; the themes we will be working on include: leisure activities, expressing likes/dislikes, expressing quantity, months and seasons, time and dates, education, holidays and gift-giving, daily schedule, clothes, health, and weather. Structural topics supporting these themes include: the past and future tenses of verbs, verbal aspect (imperfective/perfective verbs), modal verbs (can, must, should, etc.), verbs of motion (to go in Czech), the instrumental case, the genitive case, the dative case, relative clauses, reflexive verbs, and some verbal prefixes. These themes and structural topics are presented in Čeština hrou (Units 4-8); students in 352 will also make use of Heim's Contemporary Czech and will complete a film project (see below).

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Hold conversations in Czech which reflect comfort with the communicative themes that we have treated.
2. Understand texts on these themes by applying what they have learned (vocabulary and grammatical structures) to the reading and also by bringing to bear their own world knowledge to make educated guesses about words and structures with which they are not yet familiar.
3. Write short compositions on the topics they will have studied.
4. Exhibit familiarity with aspects of Czech culture relating to the themes of the semester.

These objectives are geared not merely to ‘covering’ grammar and vocabulary, but to their functional assimilation in skill development. In this course, knowledge of grammatical structure and vocabulary items, while essential, will be subsumed under the broader goal of being able to use them for communicative purposes. In other words, memorization of words and grammatical 'rules' is the starting point, not the end point.

The instructor will facilitate the achievement of the course objectives by providing you with a framework in which to learn, but he cannot achieve the objectives or learn for you. Only independent, consistent (daily) work and active assimilation of the course content on your part will result in the successful attainment of all the course goals and your own personal ones. Progress in this respect will be measured by quizzes, tests, a midterm exam, and a final exam as well as by homework and class participation. In general, if you follow the syllabus assiduously and come to class prepared to practice new topics (vocabulary and grammar), you will be able to meet the objectives more than adequately.

Materials. Our main text is Čeština hrou (S. Kresin et al). To supplement the textbook, other materials will be distributed in the form of handouts: to cover the costs of copying, each student should give $15 to the instructor (cash or in the form of a check payable to UW-Madison). Students in 352 will make use of additional materials (Heim's book and the film Tmavomodrý svět).

Requirements. The following are required for successful completion of the course; I have also indicated how each requirement will figure in the final grade.

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Homework and preparation 15%
- Vocab quizzes (by unit) 15%
- Tests 20% [2: written only]
No assignment for any unit will be accepted after the quiz on the unit has been given. Because we are concentrating a lot of material into one semester, students will be expected to work intensively (and conscientiously) outside of class.

Students will investigate some aspect of Czech culture and present the results of the investigation to their classmates in order to complete their cultural project for the semester (or the film, see below). Project themes must be approved by the instructor by mid April, and presentations will take place over the last class of the semester. In lieu of a cultural project, students in 352 will complete work on the film (see below) throughout the semester.

Because comfort with vocabulary is crucial to learning any language, students are required to produce, with each unit, a set of flashcards containing new words and definitions, grammatical notes, and (ultimately) a sentence illustrating contextual usage.

Film Project: Optional for 116 and Obligatory for 352. Students who would like to meet an extra hour per week (time and place to be determined by consensus) may choose to participate in an extra project devoted to systematic viewing and work on the recent Czech film Tmavomodrý svět [Dark-blue World]. Students in this extra session will need to purchase a DVD of the film (through Amazon.com or another source) and complete the necessary extra work which includes: preparing to view each scene by reading through the script and glosses to it which will be provided; viewing the scenes and filling in the blanks in the script; completing the exercises which are keyed to each chunk of the film. The work on the film is divided into 11 sections, and we would meet 11 extra times over the course of the semester. See below for the probable scheduling of the meetings. Students in 116 who participate actively in this project do not have to complete a final cultural project will receive 5 points extra credit toward their final grade for the course.

Absence Policy. All unexcused absences will affect the attendance and participation part of the student’s final grade. More than four unexcused absences (ie, four classes) will result in a loss of 10% of the final grade (that is, the student will lose a whole letter grade). This is a strict policy since even a small number of missed classes will significantly undermine the integrity of the course. Please try to notify the instructor BEFORE you miss a class (if possible).

Grading. Grades will be earned according to the following scale:

- 92+ A
- 89-91 AB
- 82-88 B
- 79-81 BC
- 70-78 C
- 60-69 D

Jarní semestr 2008

1. týden
[Leden]
Út 22 5. lekce: Co rád(a) děláte? Které sporty děláte? Co budete dělat zítra?
Stř 23 Studenti 352: Heim 6 a 7; Salivarová 1.-3. části
Čt 24
2. týden
Po 28
Út 29
Stř 30
Čt 31

3. týden
[Únor]
Po 4
Út 5
Stř 6
Čt 7

Film Tmavomodrý svět (TMS): 1. lekce [Extra project]

4. týden
Po 11
Út 12
Stř 13
Čt 14

Písemka z 5. lekce
6. lekce: Co studujete? Kolik je hodin?.
Studenti 352: Heim 8 a 9; Salivarová 4.-7. části

5. týden
Po 18
Út 19
Stř 20
Čt 21

TMS: 2. lekce
Nemáme formální hodinu, ale studenti mají úkol!

6. týden
Po 25
Út 26
Stř 27
Čt 28

TMS: 3. lekce

7. týden
[Březen]
Po 3
Út 4
Stř 5
Čt 6

TMS: 4. lekce

8. týden
Po 10
Út 11
Stř 12
Čt 13

Zkouška [Midterm exam] z 5. a 6. lekcí! Ústní a písemná části.
Lekce 7: Kdy máte narozeniny?
Studenti 352: Heim 10 a 11; Salivarová 8.-9. části
Začínají nám prázdniny: hodinu nemáme!

9. týden
Jarní prázdniny!

10. týden
TMS: 6. lekce
Po 24
Út 25
Stř 26
Čt 27

11. týden
TMS: 7. lekce
12. týden  
*TMS: 8. lekce*

Po 7  
Út 8  
Stř 9  
Čt 10

13. týden  
*TMS: 9. lekce*

Po 14  
Út 15  
Stř 16  
Čt 17

Písemka z 7. lekce

14. týden  
*TMS: 10. lekce*

Po 21  
Út 22  
Stř 23  
Čt 24

8. lekce: Co děláte každý den?  
Students 352: Heim 12-14

15. týden  
*TMS: 11. (poslední!) lekce*

Po 28  
Út 29  
Stř 30  
Květen

Čt 1

16. týden  

Po 5  
Út 6  
Stř 7  
Čt 8

Poslední hodina semestru. Prezentace vašich projektů.

Stř 14  
Zkouška ve 12:25!