

University of Pittsburgh  
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

**SLOVAK 0020: Elementary Slovak 2**  
**Syllabus and student information**  
**Spring 2023**

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00-7:15pm

Classroom: TBD Cathedral of Learning

Instructor: Dr. Renata Kamenarova

E-mail: rek89@pitt.edu

Office: 1227B CL

Personal Meeting Room: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/4134439676>

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30PM and by appointment (email me to set up a time to meet)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The following course overview is both a contract between the student and the instructor teaching this course. Read the syllabus carefully and e-mail the instructor if you have any questions. By accepting the syllabus, you agree to meet its requirements and acknowledge the formal course elements upon which you will be evaluated through your course grade.

This course fulfills Pitt's General Education Requirement – Second Language and has its emphasis on a communicative approach. The instructor will provide students with the most frequent everyday situations and enables them to practise all the basic skills needed for the acquisition of a second language – reading, listening, writing, and speaking assigned for the novice high/intermediate low.

**COURSE MATERIALS, BOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES**

The following required study materials will be soon available at Book Center:

1) (textbook) Renáta Kamenárová et al.: *Krížom krážom. Slovenčina A1*, Bratislava, Univerzita Komenského, 2018, ISBN 978-80-223-4552-1.

2) (workbook) Helena Ivoríková et al.: *Krížom krážom. Slovenčina A1+A2. Cvičebnica*,

Bratislava, Univerzita Komenského, 2015, ISBN 9788022338264.

These resources are available online:

1) Audio Program *Krížom-krážom. Slovenčina A1*

<https://phil.uniba.sk/katedry-a-odborne-pracoviska/sas/krizom-krazom/krizom-krazom-a1-audio-program/>

2) E-learning Program which corresponds with the textbook *Krížom-krážom. Slovenčina A1*

<https://www.e-slovak.sk>

Chapters 6-10 will be covered during the Spring Term 2023.

- Chapter 6-7 will be followed by a Midterm Test.
- Chapters 8-10 will be followed by a Final Exam.

The rest of the material will be supplied via Canvas as PDFs.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

Dr. Renata Kamenarova is the lead-author of the textbook *Krížom-krážom A1* which will be the main resource for your learning. The textbook includes 10 chapters. There are five recorded dialogues covering the most frequent conversation topics, texts to practise listening and reading comprehension, vocabulary is explained in definitions and illustrations, grammar is shown in student-friendly tables, and there are various exercises which can help students build their language competence. For students who like to be challenged and want to be exposed to real life Slovak, the A1 basic vocabulary, which is in the dialogues, thematic illustrations and glossaries, is extended by additional words which are used in follow-up exercises and texts. These exercises and texts support students' comprehension, motivation, and creativity and help students to explore Slovak language more. Students are also encouraged to use their personal dictionaries as additional words are always an added benefit, even if not included in the unit wordlists. Various aspects of the textbook take into consideration different needs of students learning Slovak as a second/foreign language. The grammar in *Krížom-krážom A1* (declension paradigms, the cases of the nominative and accusative in the singular and plural, conjugation verb classes, and modal verbs) is explained in a simple way and has been adjusted to the communication approach of the textbook. The essential parts of the book are its illustrations, tables, and photographs whose purpose is to help students visualize and learn new grammar, vocabulary, and phrases more easily and naturally. All the recordings can be found on the website [uniba.sk/krizom-krazom](http://uniba.sk/krizom-krazom). To provide students with an opportunity to revise grammar and vocabulary and to practise their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills, each unit also contains a revision section with various exercises and tasks. Different brainteasers, didactic games, and additional texts with more exercises have been added to the units to make learning even more stimulating and appealing. And not to forget, at the back of the textbook students can find a key to exercises, a

Slovak-English glossary arranged according to units as well as in alphabetical order, and a grammar reference section.

To learn a language well, daily study and practice are needed. Language learning is a combination of both intellectual and skill learning. **This class is a communicative language class. In the classroom, you are required to use Slovak only.** We will occasionally switch to English to clarify a new concept you are having difficulty with. We will be using exclusively Slovak more and more as the class's proficiency advances. **Just remember to be patient, learn by making mistakes and do not hesitate to ask questions.**

All students who will have completed this course successfully will gain the ability to hold a good conversation in Slovak on everyday topics, to negotiate common social situations, to read texts of lower difficulty, and to write for practical communication purposes. You will also develop a good control of basic idioms. During the process you will continue developing your general ability to use effective strategies for language learning and communication.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Regular attendance**

A student may take up to three unexcused absences in the course of the semester, no questions asked. More than THREE unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered one full grade (e.g., from A to B), and any more than FIVE unexcused absences will result in an automatic F for the course. Students who must miss all or part of a class meeting due to problems with technology or other reasons for which an absence may be excused (e.g., documented illness, religious holiday) should write the course instructor ASAP to make alternate arrangements and should be prepared to provide documentation. Attendance is mandatory.

### **2. Classroom participation**

You should arrive in class having completed the reading and writing assignments on Canvas and prepared for the day's activities. Active and engaged participation in class is vital for your success in this course. Students are required to participate in debates, role-playing, and to give oral presentations and respond to other students' oral reports. Participation in all aspects of class is mandatory. This course is designed to develop all language skills and cannot accommodate students who wish to learn only the grammar or only the written language.

### **3. Home assignments**

It is your responsibility to complete every assignment and submit it on time according to the procedures established by your instructor on Canvas. You should expect to do up to 4 hours of homework to prepare for each class; this includes readings, learning new vocabulary, writing assignments and listening to authentic Slovak recordings.

#### 4. Tests and exams

There will be two written tests (mid-term and final) to evaluate the students' grammar knowledge, reading and listening comprehension, and writing skills. Both tests are cumulative and comprehensive and cover all major grammar and topics from the textbook. Test format will be discussed in detail in each of the review sessions. The final examination consists of two parts: oral exam and written test.

The final and mid-term tests and exams are obligatory: if you do not complete it, you will receive a failing grade for the course. Make-up exams are given only in case of documentable emergency. Anyone who cheats on an exam or plagiarizes on a problem set or the paper will be referred for judicial action.

#### 5. Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

15% - Oral Practice and Class Participation	25% - Mid-term Test
15% - Homework	25% - Final Test
10% - Presentations	10% - Final Oral Exam

#### 6. Test grading scale

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 59-0
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

#### 7. Cellular phone policy

All cellular telephones and other distracting devices/notifications should be switched off before coming/logging into your class. The use of all mobile devices during class is prohibited. Absolutely no text-messaging will be allowed.

#### 8. Group work and respect for others

This class relies heavily on all students working together. Some students will quickly grasp a given grammar concept or memorize new vocabulary while others might require more time to process language information. Personality types can also play a role in how people learn languages. Please be patient and respectful to your peers at all times. Remember that you need interaction with your classmates to activate what you have practiced in written work. Students are expected to work on class activities in pairs and groups composed of their peers. Disrespectful attitudes to others' learning are counterproductive and will not be tolerated.

## **ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES**

**Disability Resource Services.** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Academic Integrity Policy.** Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. (For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to [www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html).)

**E-mail Communication Policy.** Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)

**Civility Statement.** All seminar participants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Pitt Promise. The University of Pittsburgh is committed to the advancement of learning and service to society. This is best accomplished in an atmosphere of mutual respect and civility, self-restraint, concern for others, support for a culture of diversity, and academic integrity. All seminar participants are asked to familiarize themselves with the Pitt Promise: <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/dean/pittpromise/>

**Classroom recording policy.** To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor and all participating students. Any such recording, properly approved in advance, may be used solely for the student's own private use.

**Non-discrimination policy.** As an educational institution and as an employer, Pitt values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly,

the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. For more information, visit

<http://cfo.pitt.edu/policies/documents/policy07-01-03web.pdf>.

**Gender-inclusive language guidelines.** Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of any gender (e.g. first-year versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students may share their pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored. These guidelines fulfill the best intentions of the University of Pittsburgh's Non-Discrimination Policy: <https://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html>.

**Sexual misconduct, required reporting, and Title IX.** The University is committed to combating sexual misconduct. As a result, you should know that University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence, to the University's Title IX office so that the victim may be provided appropriate resources and support options. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware. There are two important exceptions to this requirement about which you should be aware: A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: <http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/report/confidentiality>. An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

**If you are the victim of sexual misconduct,** Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources: Title IX Office: 412-648-7860; SHARE (Sexual Harassment & Assault Response); Counseling Center: 412-648-7856.

**If you have a safety concern,** please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police: On- or Off-Campus Emergency: 412-624-2121; Non-Emergency: 412-624-4040.

**Pitt and Community Assistance Resources.** For students confronting financial challenges, hunger, and homelessness, the library has a resource guide to assist students in need: <https://pitt.libguides.com/assistanceresources>. You may also want to participate in Open Door community conversations designed to improve awareness and develop communication skills: <http://opendoor.pitt.edu/>.