



ELEMENTARY SLOVAK / Slovenský jazyk pre začiatočníkov
SYLLABUS AND STUDENT INFORMATION / Sylabus a informácie pre študentov
Fall Term 2019 / Jesenný semester 2019

The following course overview is both a contract between the student and the instructor teaching this course and a "road map" for the 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.

RATIONALE

Foreign language courses develop students' skills in communication across ethnic, cultural, ideological, and national boundaries, and help students develop an understanding of other cultures and patterns of thought.

COURSE GOALS

During this course you will learn and demonstrate basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in a language other than your native language - skills necessary for communication in Slovak. All students who will have completed this course successfully will gain 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 simple practical communication purposes.

During the process you will develop your general ability to use effective strategies for language learning and communication. You will also learn about the Slovak culture, describe discovered cultural differences, and demonstrate an appreciation of these differences.

In addition to becoming a proficient speaker of Slovak, we hope that you will become a skilled language learner and develop a curiosity about and love for other Slavic cultures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

To learn a language well, daily study and practice are needed. Language learning is a combination of both *intellectual* and *skill (habit)* learning. Just as a basketball team, a violin student, or a serious runner must practice daily in order to excel, so must you in learning a language.

This class is a *communicative* language class. In the classroom, you are required to use Slovak ONLY. (This does not mean, of course, that we will not occasionally switch to English to clarify a difficult concept you are having difficulty with.) Nobody will expect

perfect, native-like Slovak from you. Remember that we all learn by making mistakes – that’s how we make progress!!! If you say it in Slovak, it is always at least partially right. When you’ve managed to get your point across and you’ve been understood by your peers, your main goal has been accomplished! Just remember to be patient and do not hesitate to ask questions!

How much time outside class should you spend studying the language? It varies from person to person. But here's a thought: Your instructor will spend 2 to 4 hours per day outside of class correcting your papers, planning the next day's lesson, and making up tests. You should be willing to put as much effort into learning Slovak as your teacher does in teaching it to you. One hour per day - every day - outside class will, if done faithfully, virtually guarantee your success in Slovak.

We want your experience with our department to be a good one. This information sheet has been prepared to outline what you can expect and what we will expect of you during the semester. First of all, here is some specific information you need to know:

CLASS NUMBER:	10471
CLASSES MEETING ON:	Mondays and Wednesdays 8/26/19 – 12/11/19 (no class on 9/2/19, 11/25/19, and 11/27/19)
TIME:	6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
CLASSROOM:	312 Cathedral of Learning
INSTRUCTOR:	Marcela Micháľková, M. Phil., Ph.D
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	mam595@pitt.edu
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesday 11:00 – 1:00 pm

BOOKS

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

- “Krížom krážom. Slovenčina A1” (textbook) by Renáta Kamenárová et al. (Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského/ Studia Academica Slovaca. 2018, ISBN 9788022345521)
- “Krížom krážom. Slovenčina A1+A2. Cvičebnica” (workbook) by Renáta Kamenárová et al. (Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského/ Studia Academica Slovaca. 2015. ISBN 9788022338264)
- “Krížom krážom. A1 Audio Program”:
<https://fphil.uniba.sk/katedry-a-odborne-pracoviska/sas/krizom-krazom/krizom-krazom-a1-audio-program/>

Chapters 1 - 6 will be covered during the Fall Term. Chapters 1, 2, and 3 will be followed by a Midterm Test. Chapters 4, 5 and 6 will be followed by a Final Exam.

The instructor reserves the right to make such calendar changes and changes in number of chapters covered as she deems necessary, based on the students’ needs and progress.

ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION, AND PARTICIPATION

Successful language learning requires frequent interaction, diligent preparation, and active participation. For this reason, it is imperative that you attend class faithfully. Each day that you are absent will not only seriously affect your participation grade, but will also affect your performance on tests, quizzes, and homework.

By missing class or coming to class late or coming to class unprepared, you are less likely to learn the material, will be unable to achieve your own language learning goals, and will deprive your classmates of opportunities to learn as well. Consequently, students who miss more than two days of classes will seriously jeopardize their right to remain in the course. Thus, you are expected to contact your classmates or your instructor right after (!) or even before your absence, find out what you have missed, and catch up. With each absence your participation grade will be seriously affected.

In class, students are required to participate in pair or small group activities, debates, role-playing, interviews, round table discussions and vocabulary development activities, and to give oral presentations and respond to other students' oral reports. Active 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.

You will receive a daily participation grade for each class meeting. The class participation grade reflects attendance, participation, creativity, and respect for others. Class preparation and participation will be assessed every day in the following manner:

Points	Active Participation
0-2	Absent or not prepared for class, does not participate./ Very little preparation; rarely able to answer when called on, rarely volunteers./ Disrespectful attitude.
3-5	Somewhat prepared, but preparation inconsistent; answers when called on; willingly participates in class activities; stays on task during partner/group work./ Demonstrates no creativity./
6-8	Prepared; creative, answers when called on; willingly participates in class activities; stays on task during partner/group work; makes a conscious effort; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone). Shows respect for others.
9-10	High level of preparation; answers when called on; willingly, creatively, and with respect participates in class activities; stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone); shares pertinent information; asks questions or volunteers information that is relevant to the class.

These grades are meant to encourage steady, consistent effort. Class attendance and diligence in completing homework assignments are the most important components in studying Slovak and the final grade reflects this. Experience shows us that by putting in consistent effort, most students end up with daily grades in the 90's, and learn a lot of Slovak in the process. Participation is evaluated based on students' preparation for class, willingness and effort to participate, and ability to participate.

HOMEWORK

Homework (written and/or oral) will be assigned for each class meeting. You should do the work, and then check yourself, using an answer key. You are responsible for your own learning. Do your homework each day and be prepared to turn it in. Make every effort to keep up - it's much easier than trying to catch up! You are expected to turn in your home assignment on a separate sheet of paper the very next day of classes. Write your name and the date submitted in the upper right-hand corner. In case of your absence, turn it right after you

are back to class! Later assignments might be refused without a reasonable explanation. Homework is assessed on a daily basis according to the following scale:

Points	Active Participation
0-2	Did not turn in/ Did not turn in in time
3-5	Carelessly done with many mistakes; no evidence of use of answer key; open-ended activities carelessly prepared
6-8	Some evidence of correction of exercises using answer key; some exercises done carefully, others hastily completed
9-10	Carefully done; used answer key to correct mistakes; open-ended activities show thought and attention

TESTS AND GRADES

There will be two written tests, some written quizzes (both pop quizzes and announced quizzes), and a final oral interview. Class participation, including attendance, and written homework also figure into your grade.

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

2 Tests (Midterm, Final)	(2 x 25%)	50%
1 Final Oral Interview		10%
Written Quizzes (pop quizzes and announced quizzes)		10%
Class Participation		15%
Written Homework		15%

Your written tests are scheduled as follows (subject to change):

Midterm Written Test	October 14, 2019 (Monday)
Final Written Test	December 9, 2019 (Monday)

You will be asked to participate in a final oral proficiency interview during the last week. The oral interview is a reliable and valid tool to assess the functional speaking ability in Slovak and is aimed to demonstrate how students develop and improve oral proficiency during the term. The final oral interview is scheduled for December 11, 2019 (Wednesday).

If these dates need to be changed, changes will be announced in class. There will be no test make-ups (except in the case of death in the family, military orders, or an excuse from your doctor showing that you are physically incapable of taking the exam).

At the end of the term, your final percentage will determine your final grade, as follows:

93-100: 5 (A)	82-80: 4- (B-)	69-67: 2+ (D+)
92-90: 5- (A-)	79-77: 3+ (C+)	66-63: 2 (D)
89-87: 4+ (B+)	76-73: 3 (C)	62-60: 2- (D-)
86-83: 4 (B)	72-70: 3- (C-)	59-0: 1 (F)

CELLULAR PHONE POLICY

All cellular telephones must be switched off before coming to class. The use of all mobile devices during class is prohibited. Absolutely no text-messaging will be allowed. Deductions in the participation grade will be taken for each infraction.

ON PUNCTUALITY

Please be aware that no form of distraction, e.g. coming in to class late, is acceptable. Let the instructor know in advance if tardiness will be caused by some unavoidable extenuating circumstances.

COOPERATION 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 comprised of any of their peers. Disrespectful attitude to others' learning is counterproductive and will not be tolerated.

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/MISCONDUCT (CHEATING)

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.)

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.)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students of Slavic languages at the University of Pittsburgh are encouraged to take advantage of a wealth of extra-curricular activities sponsored by the department and by other units at the University of Pittsburgh, including lectures, informal conversation gatherings and movie nights, parties, talent shows and more.

