

Teaching English as a Foreign Language: Elementary School Practicum

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Course Description:

This independent study course offers students an opportunity to engage in immersive teaching practice at an elementary or high school level in Prague. The teaching practice course adheres to the standardized procedures mandated for pre-service teacher education within the Czech Republic's educational framework, as stipulated by governmental guidelines for Czech universities.

The pre-service teacher in training (=the student) works with a supervising teacher at the school. The practice consists of initial lesson observations and a total of minimum 20 contact hours in class, followed by regular joint reflections between the student and teacher after each teaching session. Throughout the practice, the supervising teacher will complete an observation protocol for each class session taught by the student. At the conclusion of the practice, the teacher will provide an overall assessment of the student's teaching performance.

The student will maintain a 'Teaching Practice Journal' documenting the hours spent in teaching and reflections on each session. This journal will serve as a basis for discussions with the practice supervisor (Dr. Převrátlová)

The course requires reading of selected chapters relating to language teaching/learning and intercultural communication.

Course Prerequisites:

This course is aimed at students with a major/minor in education or languages. Students with other majors/minors will be considered on one-to-one bases.

***Note: Due to the limited number of seats and the independent nature of the course, please contact AEP via email for more information.**

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

This independent study provides a hands-on teaching experience, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, refine teaching skills, and engage in reflective practice under the guidance of experienced educators.

Course Requirements:

- **Lesson Observations:** The student will observe a minimum of three lessons taught by the supervising teacher and reflect on them.
- **Teaching Sessions:** The student is required to take an active part a minimum of two 45-minute teaching sessions per week at the designated school, the expected total is twenty (plus lesson preparation time and lesson reflections).
- **Reflection Sessions with the Supervising Teacher:** Following each teaching session, a reflection session with the supervising teacher is mandatory. These sessions aim to discuss the taught material, pedagogical approaches, challenges faced, and strategies for improvement.
- **Practice Journal:** The student will record details of each teaching session and subsequent reflections in the Practice Journal to facilitate discussions with the practice supervisor.
- **Reflection Sessions with the AEP supervisor:** These sessions aim at discussing and reflecting the process of teaching practice throughout the semester.
- **Selected Reading Reflections**

Grading Policy:

The student must complete all the course requirements satisfactorily. This includes conducting the required number of lesson observations, teaching sessions, and reflection sessions; maintaining a thorough and reflective practice journal; receiving satisfactory evaluations from the supervising teacher and practice supervisor; and reflecting on selected reading. The student must also demonstrate growth in teaching practice and the ability to reflect critically on their experiences.

The student will receive a failing grade if any of the course requirements are not met. This includes failure to complete the required number of teaching sessions, inadequate participation in reflection sessions, poorly maintained practice journal, or receiving unsatisfactory evaluations from the supervising teacher or practice supervisor.

| Letter Grade | Percentage | Description |
|--------------|------------|--|
| A+ | 97-100 | Excellent Work |
| A | 93-97 | Outstanding Work |
| A- | 90-92 | |
| B+ | 87-89 | Good work |
| B | 83-86 | |
| B- | 80-82 | |
| C+ | 77-79 | Acceptable Work |
| C | 73-76 | |
| C- | 70-72 | |
| D+ | 67-69 | Work that is significantly below average |
| D | 63-66 | |
| D- | 60-62 | |
| F | 0-59 | Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course |

AEP Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not tolerated. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the development of knowledge and learning is encouraged at many stages of the learning process. While we value technology for educational purposes, we also value originality and the retainment of knowledge, and thus using AI for assignments and examinations, even if rephrased, is strictly prohibited and considered an academic integrity violation, unless the instructor explicitly allows for it in the context of evaluated work

AEP Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The AEP program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristics, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

AEP Diversity Policy

AEP is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community that values diversity in all its forms. We believe that one of the most meaningful lessons of studying abroad is learning to navigate and appreciate differences with curiosity and an open mind. While engaging across differences can sometimes be challenging or uncomfortable, these moments are essential for growth and learning. We recognize that every member of our community, even with the best intentions, may occasionally make missteps. Our commitment is to provide a supportive environment where respectful and honest dialogue helps us learn from these experiences, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and broaden their perspective.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

CEE Introductory Lecture Series

AEP Introductory Lecture Series

Weekly schedule will be determined individually. Weekly workload is expected as follows:

- Contact hours at elementary school – 3 hours
- Home preparation, including journal reflections – 3 hours

Reflection Sessions with the AEP supervisor will be scheduled during midterms (week 6 or 7) and finals period (week 13).

Readings:

Ellis, R. (2008). *The study of second language acquisition* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Gass, S. M., & Selinker, L. (2008). *Second language acquisition: An introductory course*. Routledge.

Lightbown, P. M., & Spada, N. (2013). *How languages are learned* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Odlin, T. (1989). *Language transfer: Cross-linguistic influence in language learning*. Cambridge University Press.

Piller, I. (2017). *Intercultural communication: A critical introduction*. Edinburgh University Press.

Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., & McDaniel, E. R. (2012). *Communication between cultures*. Cengage Learning.

Scrivener, J. (2011). *Learning teaching: The essential guide to English language teaching*. Macmillan Education.

Spencer-Oatey, H., & Franklin, P. (2009). *Intercultural interaction: A multidisciplinary approach to intercultural communication*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Swan, M., & Smith, B. (2001). *Learner English: A teacher's guide to interference and other problems*. Cambridge University Press.

Ur, P. (2012). *A course in English language teaching*. Cambridge University Press.