

New writing course offered to Czech soldiers

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The presentation aims to introduce newly established course that focuses on non-academic writing. It is a writing course to enhance writing skill for students who need to reach SLP3 level in writing. The course is run online by Training Command – Military Academy, Vyškov.

In the first part of the presentation, a brief introduction of the Czech system of language teaching and testing is given and Military Academy Vyškov is introduced as a base for a language teaching department offering language courses, but also a wide variety of other courses needed to fulfil other military requirements.

Due to the Covid situation, we were forced to learn to teach online, therefore we consulted some works on time-management and motivation when being an online student. We share our experience and some tips as well as our doubts.

The course takes two days per week for 8 weeks. The students are soldiers who may have wide range of vocabulary and may be fluent in speaking, however their writing skill does not reach level 3. To teach effectively, we share some strategies useful for online learning with our students, set regular study period and study environment, prioritize, and take short breaks. There also are some procedures for the teachers to follow when planning a lesson: set the goal precisely, adjust the priorities, keep the content condense, and address errors.

Even though, the workload for the students is increased, they appreciate the opportunity to focus on one skill, writing in our case, worthwhile.