

Intermediate Yiddish 360F

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Syllabus

This course will help you write, speak, and understand Yiddish better. We will use College Yiddish by Uriel Weinreich as a primary textbook (lessons 18 – 30). We will also read original Yiddish poetry, prose, and press, study Yiddish songs, and jokes. In addition, there will be guest lectures presented by native Yiddish speakers of Toronto community. Additional materials will be distributed through the course website on blackboard.

Marking scheme:

Attendance and class participation - 15%

Home assignments 25 %

1 mid-term test- 20%

1 oral presentation - 15%

1 final examination - 25%

Workload: assignments, testing and course policies:

1. Attendance and participation

You are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. You may miss one class without penalty in terms of the mark for attendance and participation. Subsequent absences will count as 5% against this mark. Adequate preparation to class includes completing all homework assignments before class and active participation in class discussions.

2. Home assignments:

You will complete written assignments from the textbook and written assignments handed to you in class. Sometimes, it will be an oral assignment. You will also have to submit 3 written compositions during the term. The length of each composition will increase from 250 to 400 words during the year.

3. Oral presentation

You will have to present one oral presentation on a subject related to Yiddish culture. It can be a discussion of a Yiddish story, song, a historic episode, or an oral history of a Yiddish speaker. The students will be expected to ask you questions about your presentation and you will be expected to be able to keep up with the discussion in Yiddish.

4. One mid-term test

The test will consist of written-in-class assignments, which will assess your reading comprehension and proficiency in grammar and vocabulary, as well as ability to express yourself in Yiddish. It will take place some time during late October or early November.

5. Final test

This test will check your reading comprehension, proficiency in grammar and vocabulary, as well as ability to express yourself in Yiddish. The test will take place during the last week of the term.

On a final note:

If you would like to incorporate some of your personal interests into the curriculum, please speak to me, and I will do my best to include them. Please do not hesitate to talk to me if you have any problems. You can call or email me, drop in during office hours or schedule an appointment. See you in class!