

Intermediate Yiddish 360F

Tuesdays 1 -2 pm, Thursdays, 12-12pm
Jackman Humanities Hall, 170 St. George Street, room 235
Instructor: Anna Shternshis
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Syllabus 2014-15

This course will help you write, speak, and understand Yiddish better. We will use *College Yiddish* as a primary textbook. We will also read original Yiddish poetry, prose, and press, study Yiddish songs, jokes and folklore. In addition, there will be a guest lecture presented (by native Yiddish speakers of Toronto community).

Textbooks: Uriel Weinreich, *College Yiddish*, Uriel Weinreich, *The Modern English-Yiddish and Yiddish-English Dictionary* (available on Blackboard)

Marking scheme:

attendance and class participation - 15%
home assignments 20 %
1 mid-term test- 25%
1 oral presentation - 15%
1 final in-class test - 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 day of class without penalty in terms of the mark for attendance and participation. Subsequent absences will count as 4% against this mark. Adequate preparation to class includes being prepared for class, completing all homework assignments before class and paying attention in class. Less than 2 missed classes can be substituted with an additional written composition. (See instructor for details).

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. This is a preparation for your final exam. 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 into the curriculum. 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!