

Elementary Yiddish GER 260Y

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Office hours: Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm
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Syllabus for Fall 2015

This course is an introduction to the Yiddish language and culture of Ashkenazic Jews. It will begin to prepare you to be able to express yourself in Yiddish, acquire strategies to learn Yiddish independently by developing your ability to understand the structure of the language and to cue in on the features of spoken and written Yiddish.

Textbooks: Uriel Weinreich, *College Yiddish*; handouts (distributed during the term). Some classes are accompanied by power-point presentations or online resources. You can access those through the course website.

Marking scheme:

Attendance and class participation 20 %

Home assignments 25 %

Mid-term test 25%

Final test (in-class) 30%

Workload: assignments, testing and course policies:

1. Attendance and participation

Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. Each absence will count as 5% against attendance mark (unless there is a doctor's note). Adequate preparation for class includes completing all homework assignments, participating in discussion, and paying attention in class.

2. Home assignments:

After each class, you will get a home assignment. You must complete it by the next class, unless it is requested otherwise. If you submit your work on time, you can expect it returned in a timely manner, usually within two weeks of submission. **The homework assignments cannot be submitted later, unless there is a doctor's note.** Please note that the assignments are the most important part of your coursework. The practice shows that students, who do not complete all assignments, do not do well in both mid-term and final tests.

3. Mid-term test

The test will consist of written-in-class assignments, which will assess your reading comprehension and proficiency in grammar and vocabulary. This is a preparation for your final exam.

4. Final examination

This test will check your reading comprehension, proficiency in grammar and vocabulary.

On a final note:

Please do not hesitate to talk to me if you have any problems. You can e-mail me, drop in during office hours or schedule an appointment. Let me know if you have special interests in the field of Yiddish studies, and I will try to incorporate them into our program. See you in class!

Tentative schedule:

Week 1/2: Introduction to Yiddish and the Yiddish Alphabet

Week 3: Gender of nouns

Week 4: Word order and Questions

Week 5: Adjectives; The Accusative Case

Week 6: Plural of Nouns; The Dative Case

Week 7: Mid-term test; The use of “מען”

Week 8: Pronouns; Introduction to the present tense

Week 9: The Imperative; Present tense of Irregular verbs

Week 10: Present tense of Irregular verbs; The Infinitive

Week 11: The Dative Case without Prepositions; Review

Week 12: Review; Final Test