

Elementary Yiddish 260Y

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Syllabus 2014-2015

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* (available for purchase at UofT Bookstore), handouts (distributed during the term). Each class is accompanied by a special power-point presentation. You can access those through the course website on blackboard.

Marking scheme:

attendance and class participation - 15%
home assignments 25 %
1 mid-term test (December 2)- 25%
1 oral presentation - 10%
1 final test (in-class) - 25%

Workload: assignments, testing and course policies:

1. Attendance and participation

You 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 to 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. Oral presentation

You will have to present one oral presentation in Yiddish on a subject of your choice. The presentation will take place during Winter term. The students will be expected to ask you questions about your presentation (and you will be expected to try to do your best to answer in Yiddish). You are evaluated on the quality of your presentation, e.g. the content, the ability to answer questions from the instructor and other students.

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. This is a preparation for your final exam.

5. Final examination

This test will check your reading comprehension, proficiency in grammar and vocabulary, as well as ability to express yourself in Yiddish.

On a final note:

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. 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!