

Elementary Yiddish GER 260Y
Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Fall 2018
W 2:00-4:00 Jackman Humanities Building 235
F 2:00-3:00 Jackman Humanities Building 100B

Instructor: Miriam Borden
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Office hours: By appointment
Office location: JHB 100B

Description and Course Goals

Welcome to Elementary Yiddish! This course will be an introduction to the Yiddish language and culture of Ashkenazic Jews. Students will begin to develop basic skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking Yiddish. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand and participate in a conversation on a variety of everyday topics, read simple texts, be prepared to tackle more complex texts with the aid of a dictionary, and write short compositions on a variety of everyday topics. History, literature, folklore, film, and archival records will also be considered.

Active classroom participation is very important, as are daily homework assignments - always due for the next class. I am always happy to meet with students to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the class, or to offer assistance.

Materials

College Yiddish, Uriel Weinreich

Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature, and Culture, Sheva Zucker

handouts to be distributed by the instructor

English-Yiddish/Yiddish-English dictionary (verterbukh.org is a recommended online option)

Some classes will be accompanied by PowerPoint presentations or digital resources. All of these will be made available on the course website.

Grading/Evaluation

Attendance and class participation 20%

Homework assignments 30%

Midterm test 25%

Final test (in-class) 25%

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 5% against attendance (unless a doctor's note is submitted). Preparation for class includes completing all homework assignments, participating in discussion, and paying attention in class.
2. **Homework assignments.** Homework will be assigned at the end of each class. Students are required to complete all homework by the next class, unless (only in the case of extenuating circumstances)

other arrangements are made in advance. Work submitted on time will be returned in a timely manner, usually within two weeks of submission. Late homework assignments will not be accepted, unless accompanied by a doctor's note; otherwise, each late homework will be count 5% against your final grade. *Please note that these assignments are the most important part of your coursework.* Not only are they a great indicator of your progress in the course; it has been proven that students who do not complete all assignments do not do well on either the mid-term or the final test.

3. **Midterm test.** This in-class test will consist of written-in-class assignments that will assess your reading comprehension and proficiency in grammar and vocabulary. This will serve as preparation for your final exam.
4. **Final test.** This in-class test will check your reading comprehension, proficiency in grammar, and vocabulary.

Please do not hesitate to speak with me if you have any difficulties, concerns, or questions. You may 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!

Inappropriate Use of Mobile Devices/Computers

Laptops, phones or similar mobile devices must be off during class time! Mobile phones and laptops can be used during class only with the explicit permission of the instructor. No texting is allowed. In case of repeated texting despite warnings from the instructor, the student's participation grade will be lowered automatically by 10%.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, using online translators, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. Please visit <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> for additional information on the code of behaviour on academic matters.

Disability Access

The department encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by university policy or by provincial or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, the classrooms as well as course materials, please contact Accessibility Services and visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> or disability.services@utoronto.ca as soon as possible.