

The University of Toronto

BEGINNING YIDDISH

GERMAN 260Y / Fall-Winter 2017-18

Instructor:	ALEXANDRA HOFFMAN	Dept:	German
Office:	Odette Hall 326	Email:	sasha.hoffman@utoronto.ca
Hours:	W 1-2, F 12-1, 2-3 (& by app.)	Tel.:	647-609-7215

Class meets in **Odette Hall 323** on **Wednesdays 10-12 and Fridays 1-2**

DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

Welcome to Beginning Yiddish!

This course offers you the opportunity to learn the basics of Yiddish grammar, to acquire basic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. You will learn to talk and write about yourself and your interests, surroundings, friends & family. You will also learn about the history, sociology and culture of Yiddish and how Jewish life of the past centuries is reflected in the language. We will read simple Yiddish texts from various times and places – a poem from a Yiddish children’s textbook published in New York in the 1930s, Yiddish folksongs that have been sung in Eastern Europe for many-many years, stories from a school book used in our days in some *haredi* [sometimes called “ultra-orthodox”] schools in Israel, and more. We may correspond with another Yiddish class in a different city. Games and audio-visual materials will enhance the learning process.



As you can see from the grading system, active classroom participation is very important, as are daily homework assignments - always due on the next class. I am always happy to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the class, or to give you additional help that you might need.

You will be asked to present the results of a small creative project during the last class. You have a wide variety of options for project topics and formats. It can be a research or a translation project, or you may want to write and/or perform a story, poem or skit in Yiddish. You may want to work on your project individually or in a group.

Please don’t hesitate to email or call me with any questions, concerns, comments, etc.

Required Books

(See also beginning books doc)

Uriel Weinreich, *College Yiddish*

A subscription to verterbukh.org

Coursepacks (available from the instructor and online)



REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Participation and prep (regular homework, presentations, attendance): 30%

Compositions and rewrites: 20% (5% each, with the lowest grade dropped)

Quizzes: 20% (2.5% each, with the lowest grade dropped)

Term tests - 20% (5% each)

Final Project - 10%

ACCESSIBILITY

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make the class accessible.

The University's Accessibility Services Office is located at 455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400; Phone: **416-978-8060**; Email: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca.

MENTAL HEALTH

My door is always open.

The University's Health & Wellness Centre is located at 214 College Street, 2nd Floor, Koffler Student Services Centre (use the St. George Street entrance). Phone: 416-978-8030. They are not open in the evenings or weekends. This link has a list of places that have better hours:

<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc/emergencies#node-1084>

CALENDAR

I will be giving you detailed schedules with assignments every month.

Fall Semester (First class, Sept. 8):

- Week 1 Introductions
- Week 2 Alef-beyz and reading practice; greetings; East European Yiddishland
- Week 3 Articles; cognates; CY 1; Roshashone
- Week 4 CY 2; present tense and infinitives
- Week 5 Plural; irregular present tense conjugation; Sukes
- Week 6 Cases; numerals; continued present tense
- Week 7 Possessive pronouns; adjectives; word order
- Week 8 Negation; CY 4-5
- Week 9 CY 6; time and age
- Week 10 Accusative and dative pronouns; imperative; modal verbs; family
- Week 11 Housing; future tense; prepositions and dative
- Week 12 Weather and animals (last class Dec. 6)

Winter Semester:

- Week 1 Review (first class Jan. 5)
- Week 2 The story of hanukka and the past.
- Week 3 Short stories; body parts
- Week 4 Dative of reference; “vey ton”
- Week 5 Past-present-future; prepositions+dative
- Week 6 Numbers, arithmetic, time expressions
- Week 7 Konverbn; Hershele Ostropolyer
- Week 8 Legends; habitual past.
- Week 9 Comparative and superlative
- Week 10 Periphrastic verbs
- Week 11 The verb “zoln” and the reflexive
- Week 12 Review and final projects (last class Apr. 4)