

The University of Toronto
ADVANCED YIDDISH
GERMAN 460/ Winter 2021

Instructor:	SASHA HOFFMAN	Dept:	Germanic Langs and Lits
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Class meets on zoom **W 1-2 & F 12-2**

DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS

Welcome to advanced Yiddish! This course will build on the knowledge and skills you've acquired in intermediate Yiddish. This course will be conducted entirely in Yiddish. Literary, historical and other texts will be considered, along with film, folklore, and music. This course conducted entirely in Yiddish focuses on advanced reading, writing, vocabulary and conversation. We will workshop reading handwritten documents in Yiddish. We will analyze poetry and short fiction by Yiddish women authors. We will also go through selected advanced grammatical topics. We will, goes without saying, sing songs and play games.



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.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Participation and preparation: 40%
Homework: 30%
Vocab Quizzes: 20%
Final Project: 10%

MATERIALS

Dictionary or two (I recommend verterbukh.org); Texts available from the instructor and online.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ONLINE CONSIDERATIONS

We will need to be patient with each other as technical difficulties and other life circumstances may slow down or interrupt sessions. We will deal with things as they come, but here are a few guidelines: 1. Please feel free to use the chat function, though please know that I will not always notice it in time, so please don't hesitate to speak up with your questions and contributions. 2. Please mute yourself if something loud is happening on your end. 3. To the extent possible and to the extent you feel comfortable, please have the video on.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS, AND ATHLETIC COMMITMENTS

If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester which will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with your fulfilling any course requirement, inform your instructor of the dates of your religious holiday(s) within two weeks of the beginning of the semester or immediately if your holiday is near the beginning of the semester so that we may make appropriate alternative plans. In order for your disabilities and athletic activities to be appropriately accommodated, you must provide documentation during the first two weeks of class (or as soon as possible if a disability, including mental illness, emerges during the semester).

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.

The University's Health & Wellness Centre is located at 214 College Street, 2nd Floor. 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>

GENDER PRONOUN PREFERENCES

Gender plays a large role in Yiddish grammar. Of course, as we are learning the language, everyone is likely be misgendered or to misgender other students occasionally! Accidental misgendering is a grammatical error, in contrast with intentional misgendering, which is a form of harassment. Please let me know if I can help you establish your preferences for this class.