

## HBR 4930 / JST4936 : Yiddish Language and Culture

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Dror Abend-David
<i>Meetings</i>	T 04 LIT 201
<i>Room</i>	R 04-05 FAC 127
<i>Office</i>	Pugh 337
<i>Office Hours</i>	M 5, W 4-5, by Appointment
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### Course Description:

Over the past two decades, Yiddish, the language of European Jews, has regained popularity and interest in institutions such as Columbia, Harvard, Penn State, and Ohio State, and overseas at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, Oxford, Trier, Düsseldorf, and Bar Ilan University in Israel. Among other venues, Yiddish has been introduced as a vital means for studying and reevaluating the life of European Jews in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust, and a vital – sometime radical – means for studying Jewish secular culture, literature, music, theater, drama and even a vibrant Jewish film industry in the beginning of the twentieth-century.

In addition, for American Jewry, Yiddish is very often the language of parents and grandparents who immigrated from Europe before and after the Second World War, and serves as an important means for studying and reevaluating Jewish immigration and history in the United States.

The course is intended for beginners and beginning intermediate students of Yiddish, and will include both a linguistic component and an introduction to Yiddish life, history and culture. Students are encouraged to engage with the language personally and creatively through writing assignments, group work and a personal project.

### Required Materials:

Sheva Zucker, *Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature and Culture: A Textbook for Beginners* [Paperback]. New York: Ktav. 1995.

### Requirements:

Attendance. **REGULAR ATTENDANCE IN CLASS IS REQUIRED.** If you have no absences, your final grade will increase by a half a point. 5-8 absences will result in lowering your grade half a point. 9 – 12 absences will result in lowering your with one point. 13 absences will result in failing the class. Since class meetings are short and typically involve active student's participations, tardiness is especially disturbing. Being tardy three times is equivalent to one absence.

For an excused absence: **Please do not contact the instructor.** Contact the office of the Dean of Students at [umattter@ufl.edu](mailto:umattter@ufl.edu). The office of the Dean of Students will alert your instructor (and your other instructors for the relevant dates).

Participation. **YOUR HOMEWORK AND PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER WILL COUNT FOR 5% OF YOUR FINAL GRADE.** Full participation means that students come to class fully prepared and ready to work. You must prepare all written and oral homework and be ready to

engage with the material covered in class in an alert and enthusiastic manner. Students who do not prepare oral homework (by learning vocabulary and reviewing structures covered in class), students who do not participate fully in group activities or speak English in class will receive a greatly reduced participation grade.

**N.B.** Active participation in class is essential. Factors considered in this portion of your grade include: a) attendance b) punctuality c) preparation d) initiative e) volunteering in class f) use of spoken Italian g) positive attitude, and i) in-class assignments. There is no make-up for class participation.

Make-up Policy. If a student cannot take an exam due to a documented emergency, written proof of the circumstances must be presented to the instructor no later than the day after the student returns to class. Medical excuses must be on a physician's letterhead, must include a statement that says that the student "could not attend class", and must state the dates on which the student could not attend. A receipt from a visit to a physician is not acceptable. If documentation is satisfactory, the instructor will arrange a time and date for the make-up.

Final Grade.

- Participation (includes attendance, written and oral homework preparation, pop quizzes) 20%
- Personal Project – 20% (see further details below)
- 4 essays – 20%
- Food Day – 10%
- Group Assignment 30%

Grading Scale.

A -100-93, A- 90-92, B+ - 87-89, B – 83-86, B- -79 -82, C+ - 77-79, C – 73-76, C- -70-70-72 ,  
D+ - 67-69, D - 63-66, D- -60-62  
S-U - 73%

Essays and Group Assignments:

*Essays (20% of your final grade):*

During the course you will be required to submit 4 essays of 50, 100, 150 and 200 words. All essays will be typed. Essays will be graded for content, grammar, and professional presentation. Each essay is worth 5% of the final grade.

*Group Assignments (30% of your final grade):*

The class will be divided into groups of three. Each group will be given a date on which they will perform the following tasks one of the following tasks:

1. A song – You will be assigned a grammatical theme that is appropriate to the class, and choose (I can help you if you are having trouble) a Yiddish song to demonstrate this theme. Two days before your presentation, please send me the following materials:
  - a. The text of the song.
  - b. A vocabulary list explaining new words.
  - c. Either a video or an audio file (or link, usually through YouTube..) containing the song.

Your assignment is to teach the song to the class.

2. A dramatization – You will be assigned a grammatical theme that is appropriate to the class, and prepare a short dramatization to demonstrate this theme. Two days before your presentation, please send me the script for your presentation.

Your assignment is to present your script to the class.

3. A game - You will be assigned a grammatical theme that is appropriate to the class, and prepare a game to demonstrate this theme. Two days before your presentation, please send me the materials that you preparing for the game.

Your assignment is to administer the game to the class.

*Final Project:*

Meet with the instructor during office hours and suggest a final project in line with your interests and relationship with Yiddish studies. Such a project could be an essay, a research paper, a translation, a creative text or even a performance in class. You will form the guidelines and goals of your project in consultation with the instructor.

*Technical Support:* For assignments that might require technical support (such as typing in Yiddish on the computer, downloading or accessing certain materials online), contact the Language Learning Center in TUR 1317, which is open Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

*Academic Honesty.*

Students are expected to follow University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines. These can be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

Students may also wish to consult The University of Florida Student Guide Standard of Ethical Conduct found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/>

Students are also expected to follow the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures Academic Honesty Guidelines:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action.

Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines include but are not limited to:

Cheating. The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes copying graded homework assignments from another student; working with another individual(s) on graded assignments or homework; looking or attempting to look at notes, a text, or another student's paper during an exam.

Plagiarism. The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is oral or written (including electronic), published or unpublished. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on written materials or in oral presentations; submitting work produced by an online translation service or the translation feature of an online dictionary as your own.

Misrepresentation. Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

Bribery, Conspiracy, Fabrication. For details see website below.

The UF Honor Code states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.

For more details go to: <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

#### *Students with Disabilities.*

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

### Spring 2017 Calendar – Yiddish Language and Culture

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk I			01.04	01.05 Introduction	01.06
Wk II	01.09	01.10	01.11	01.12 Alphabet Quiz	01.13
Wk III	01.16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	01.17 Units 1-3	01.18	01.19	01.20
Wk IV	01.23	01.24 Quiz units 1-3	01.25	01.26	01.27
Wk V	01.30	01.31 Units 3-6 Essay 1	02.01	02.02	02.03
Wk VI	02.06	02.07	02.08	02.09	02.10
Wk VII	02.13	02.14	02.15	02.16	02.17
Wk VIII	02.20	02.21 Unit 7 Essay 2	02.22	02.23	02.24
Wk IX	10.17	10.18 Unit 8	10.19	10.20 Group Project - Song	10.21
Wk X	02.27	02.28 Group Project - Dramatization	03.01	03.02 Group Project - Game	03.03
Wk XI	03.06 Spring Break	03.07 Spring Break	03.08 Spring Break	03.09 Spring Break	03.10 Spring Break
Wk XII	03.13	03.14 Unit 9 Essay 3	03.15	03.16	03.17
Wk XIII	03.20	03.21 Unit 10	03.22	03.23 Food Day	03.24
Wk XIV	03.27	03.28 Unit 11 Essay 4	03.29	03.30	03.31
Wk XV	04.03	04.04 Personal Project	04.05	04.06 Personal Project	04.07
Wk XVI	04.10 Passover	04.11 Passover	04.12	04.13 Personal Project	04.14
Wk XVII	04.17	04.18 Review	04.19		