

HBR1130: YIDDISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Instructor	Dr. Dror Abend-David
Meetings	MTW 8, R 6
Office	Pugh 337
Office Hours	TWR 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 means for studying and reevaluating the life of European Jews in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust, and a vital – sometimes radical – means for studying Jewish secular culture, literature, music, theater, drama, and even a vibrant Jewish film industry at the beginning of the 20th century. In addition, for American Jewry, Yiddish is often the language of 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 will include 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*. NY: Ktav, 1995.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PARTICIPATION (15%): Your daily homework and class participation throughout the semester will count for 15% 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 reduced participation grade. 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 Yiddish g) positive attitude, and i) performance of in-class assignments.

QUIZZES (20%): There will be 4 scheduled quizzes over the course of the semester. These will focus on the specific linguistic and cultural content of the individual units of the textbook. Each quiz is worth 5% of the final grade. See course calendar for dates.

ESSAYS (20%): During the course you will be required to submit 4 essays increasing in length of the semester. All essays should be typed and will be graded for content, grammar, and professional presentation. Each of the four essays is worth 5% of the final grade. Details of the specific topic for each essay will be provided in class. See course calendar for dates.

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS (15%)

The class will be divided into 3 groups. Each group will be given a date on which they will perform one of the following tasks:

- **Song:** you will be assigned a relevant grammatical theme and choose (with help from instructor) a Yiddish song to demonstrate this theme. 2 days before your presentation, please send the following materials: 1. text of the song; 2. vocabulary list explaining new words; 3. video or audio file (or link) containing the song. Your assignment is to teach the song to the class.
- **Dramatization:** you will be assigned a relevant grammatical theme and prepare a short dramatization to demonstrate this theme. 2 days before your presentation, please send me the script for your presentation. Your assignment is to present your script to the class.
- **Game:** you will be assigned a relevant grammatical theme and prepare a game to demonstrate this theme. 2 days before your presentation, please send me the materials you are preparing. Your assignment is to administer the game to the class.

See course calendar for dates.

Midterm and Final Exam (15% each). See course calendar for dates.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Attendance & Makeup policy: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Each 3 unexcused absences will count for half a grade off the final grade in the course (e.g. from A to A-, A- to B+ etc.). Nine unexcused absences will result in a failing course grade. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on their return to classes. In the case of excused absences, please contact office of the Dean of Students at umattter@ufl.edu. The office of the Dean of Students will alert your instructor for the relevant dates.

GRADING SCALE (& GPA EQUIVALENT)

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted

for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Accommodations for 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 provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

Counseling & Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Spring 2020 Calendar – HBR1300

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk I	01.06 Introduction	01.07	01.08	01.09	01.10
Wk II	01.13 Quiz – Hebrew Alphabet	01.14 Start Units 1-3	01.15	01.16	01.17
Wk III	01.20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	01.21	01.22	01.23	01.24
Wk IV	01.27 Essay 1	01.28	01.29	01.30	01.31
Wk V	02.03 Quiz Units 1-3	02.04 Start Units 4-6	02.05	02.06	02.07
Wk VI	02.10	02.11	02.12	02.13	02.14
Wk VII	02.17 Essay 2	02.18	02.19	02.20	02.21
Wk VIII	02.24 Quiz Units 4-6	02.25 Group Project - Song	02.26 Group Project – Drama	02.27 Group Project - Game	02.28
Wk IX	03.02 Spring Break	03.03 Spring Break	03.04 Spring Break	03.05 Spring Break	03.06 Spring Break
Wk X	03.09	03.10	03.11	03.12	03.13
Wk XI	03.16 Midterm Exam	03.17 Start Units 7-9	03.18	03.19	03.20
Wk XII	03.23 Essay 3	03.24	03.25	03.26	03.27
Wk XIII	03.30 Conference	03.31 Conference	04.01	04.02	04.03
Wk XIV	04.06 Quiz Units 7-9	04.07 Passover	04.08 Passover	04.09 Start Unites 10-11	04.10
Wk XV	04.13 Essay 4	04.14	04.15	04.16	04.17

Wk XVI	04.20 Final Exam	04.21	04.22	
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