**YIDB01 – Yiddish Language and Culture, Fall Semester 2014**

Syllabus 9/9 – 9/12, 2014: Tuesday 17:00-19:00.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: This is the first of a two-term Elementary Yiddish sequence: an introduction to Yiddish language and culture. The five language skills - speaking, listening, comprehension, reading and writing - will be developed in the course. Moreover, the course introduces Yiddish culture through songs, films and folklore. Yiddish conversational skills will be emphasized in role-plays and listening exercises. No prerequisites. Knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet is not required.

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**: Classroom activities are designed to help the student master basic Yiddish conversational skills. This will be done through role-plays in class and listening to Yiddish dialogues at home.

**EVALUATION**: Three tests are given during the term. The final quarter grade is based on:

tests, final exam, written assignments, and class participation.

**It is very important that you have a reliable internet connection, and that your computer is connected to the LUVIT platform before the class begins. We will start promptly at 17:15 and take a 10 minute break after 45 minutes.**

**Textbooks**

Weinreich, Uriel, College Yiddish: An Introduction to the Yiddish Language. Workman’s Circle; 6 edition, 1999

Zucker, Sheva Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature and Culture. Vol.I-

II (including CDs), 1994 and 1998 Workman’s Circle.

Jan Schwarz and Rebecca Lillian, The Yiddish Teacher, CD (YIVO Chicago 2005)

Reference works

Weinreich, Uriel, Modern English-Yiddish/Yiddish-English Dictionary. Schocken, 1987

Niborsky, Yitskhok and Neuberg, Shmuel, *Verterbukh fun loshn-koydesh shtamike verter*

*in yidish*. Medem-bibliotek, Paris 1999.

Katz, Dovid, Words on Fire. The Unfinished Story of Yiddish. Perseus Books Group

2004.

Wex, Michael, Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of Its Moods. St.

Martin’s Press, New York 2005

**Week 1-2: September 9 and 16**

1. Yiddish alphabet – *alef beyz*:

Zucker, p.15-17

Weinreich, p. 25-29

1. Grammar

Verbs in present tense

Zucker, chapter 1

1. *Lider* (songs):

*Az der rebbe, Zucker* s.10-11

1. Test 1: vocabulary, grammar, culture

5. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 1

**Week 3-4: September 23 and 30**

1. Yiddish alphabet – *alef beyz*:

Zucker, p.15-17

Weinreich, p.25-29

1. Grammar:

The verbs “*hobn*” and “*zayn*”; articles (*der, di, dos*);

Zucker, chapter 2; Weinreich, chapter 1

1. Lider (songs):

*Bulbes*, Zucker, p.40; *Afn priptetsik*, Zucker, p.21.;

1. Yiddish as a Key to Jewish Life

Weinreich 34-36; Kumove, *Shprikhverter* (“God”, 142-143),

“Names of God”: *An oytser fun der yidisher sphrakh*

5. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 2

**Week 5-6: October 7 and 14.**

1. Grammar:

The nominative case; Yiddish questions

Zucker, chapter 3

1. Lider (songs):

“*Ale mentshn zaynen brider”*, Weinreich, 61

1. Components of Yiddish (Germanic, Slavic, Hebrew)

Weinreich, 58-60 and 66-67; Kumove, *Shprikhverter* (Curses, 86-91)

1. Yiddish Websites I
2. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 3
3. Test 2: vocabulary, grammar, culture

**Week 7-8: October 21 and 28.**

1. Grammar:

Plural of nouns; the negative; declension of names

Zucker, chapter 4; Weinreich, chapter 2

1. *Lider*: “Yidl mitn fidl”
2. Yiddish dialects:

Weinreich, 43-44; listen to recordings of Yiddish speakers

4. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 4

**Week 9-10: November 4 and 11**

1. Grammar

Accusative case; diminutive

Zucker, chapter 5

2. Yiddish names in the diminutive

“*Kinder fun maydanek*”, 82-83, Zucker

1. Lider (songs): “*Zog nisht keynmol*”
2. Yiddish Websites II
3. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 5
4. Test 3: vocabulary, grammar, culture

**Week 11-12: November 18 and 25.**

1. Grammar Review: present tense; plural; nominative and accusative case

Weinreich, chapter 3.

1. Scholem-Aleichem

Kumove, Proverbs - *Shprikhverter* (“yidn”, 176-177); Scholem-

Aleichem,”*Oysgetreyselt*” (A Jom Kippur Scandal)

1. Lider: “*Tum-balalayka*”, Weinreich, p.154-155
2. Yiddish Websites III
3. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 6

**Vecka 13-14: December 2 and 9.**

1. Grammatik

Imperative; modal verbs

Zucker, chapter 6

1. The Weather in Yiddish
2. The Yiddish Teacher, chapter 7

4. Lider: “*Ale brider*”

**Final exam will be scheduled**