

BEGINNING YIDDISH LANGUAGE I
Germanic Languages

GRMN401/JWST031
Fall, 1998

TEXTS: Available at the U. of Penn. Bookstore

REQUIRED:

Sheva Zucker, *Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature, and Culture* (Ktav / Workmen's Circle, 1994)

Eleanor G. Mlotek and Joseph Mlotek, *Mir Trogn a Gezang* (Workmen's Circle) OR
Eleanor G. Mlotek and Joseph Mlotek, *Pearls of Yiddish Song* (Workmen's Circle)

Sheva Zucker, *Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature, and Culture* Audio cassettes. (also in MMETS language lab, basement of DRL 33rd and Walnut)

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:

Uriel Weinreich, *College Yiddish* (YIVO)

Uriel Weinreich, *Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary* (YIVO)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS:

This course will teach you to read, write, speak, understand, and enjoy Yiddish. In the first semester, we will work primarily with Sheva Zucker's textbook for beginners, *Yiddish* and with the accompanying audio cassettes. These cassettes are available for student use in the language lab (MMETS, in the basement of DRL). However, I strongly recommend that you purchase the set for yourselves; in the next week, I will take orders from you. Supplementary readings will include photocopies of songs, poems, and stories. We will also screen a Yiddish film. We'll learn songs from Eleanor G. Mlotek's *Mir Trogn a Gezang*, an anthology of popular Yiddish songs, which you are required to purchase. I recommend that you buy two other texts, both by Uriel Weinreich: 1) *College Yiddish*, which will be the main text for the spring semester of this course, and which we will dip into this term, and 2) *English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary*, a classic work essential for reading "real" Yiddish books, which we will use later in the term.

Your attendance and participation in class are essential to the learning process, as is your faithful fulfillment of the written homework assignments (*di heymarbet*). Homework will be due in class on the dates specified below. We will have periodic quizzes, as noted

below. You will also have a midterm and a final exam. Grades will be based on all of the above.

SCHEDULE:

Sept. 10

Opening class: The alphabet (der alef-beys). Zucker, xv-xvii / handout "Oyfn pripetshik," Mark M. Warshavsky. (Mir Trogn a Gezang, 2)

Sept. 15

Read: Zucker, Unit 1, Reading, pp. 1-7. Hum (softly, to yourself): "Oyfn pripetshik"
Write: Copy out the alef-beys and the Unit 1 vocabulary, pp. 3-4.

Sept. 17

Read: Zucker, Unit 1, Grammar, pp. 7-12. Write: Copy the conjugations of the verbs redn, voynen, heysn, arbetn, pp. 8-9.

Sept. 22

Rosh Hashone -- no class

Sept. 24

Read: Zucker, Unit 2, Reading, pp. 13-18. Read III and IV out loud. Write: Unit 1, Exercises, p. 12.
QUIZ ON 1

Sept. 29

Read: Zucker, Unit 2, Grammar and Oral Exercises, pp.19-26. Write: 5 sentences using Unit 2 vocabulary, 14-15.

Oct. 1

Read: Zucker, Unit 3, Reading, Conversation, Proverbs, pp. 27-34. Write: Zucker, Unit 2, Exercises, pp. 23-25. QUIZ ON 2

Oct. 6

Sukes -- no class

Oct. 7

MAKEUP CLASS

Read: Zucker, Unit 3, Grammar, pp. 35-41. Write: 5 sentences using Unit 3 vocabulary, 28-9; 34.

Oct. 13

Simkhes Toyre -- no class

Oct. 14

MAKEUP CLASS

Read: Zucker, Unit 4, Readings, etc., pp. 47-54. Write: Unit 3 Exercises, pp. 41-45.
QUIZ ON 3

Oct. 15

Read: Zucker, Unit 4, Grammar, pp. 55-62 Write: 5 sentences using Unit 4 vocab., 48, 51-54. Oct. 20 Read: Zucker, Unit 5, Readings, pp. 67-74. Write: Unit 4 Exercises, pp. 62-66. QUIZ ON 4

Oct. 22

Read: Zucker, Unit 5, Grammar, 74-78. Song, "Kinder fun maydanek" pp. 81-83. Write: Paragraph using Unit 5 vocabulary, pp. 68-74.

Oct. 27

MIDTERM EXAM (in class) (Units 1-5)

Oct. 29

Read: Zucker, Unit 6, Reading, pp. 85-89. Write: Unit 5 Exercises, pp. 78-80; 84.

Nov. 3

Read: Zucker, Unit 6, Grammar, pp. 89-96. Write: Paragraph using Unit 6 vocabulary, pp. 86-89.

Nov. 5

Read: Zucker, Unit 7, Reading, pp. 103-110. Write: Unit 6 Exercises, pp. 96-98. QUIZ ON 5 AND 6

Nov. 10

Read: Zucker, Unit 7, Grammar, pp. 111-113. Sholem Aleykhem, "Khaneke gelt," pp. 113-115. Write: Paragraph using Unit 7 vocabulary, pp. 104-9.

Nov. 12

Read: Zucker, Unit 8A, Reading, pp. 121-124, Write: Unit 7 Exercises, 116-120. QUIZ ON 7

Nov. 17

Read: Zucker, Unit 8A, Grammar, pp. 124-128. Write: Paragraph using Unit 8A vocabulary, pp. 123- 124; 128.

Nov. 19

Read: Zucker, Unit 8B, Reading, 133-6. Children's mayselekh ("Yingele tsingele," "Di feygele), Miriam Margolin. Write: Unit 8A Exercises, 128-132. QUIZ ON 8A

Nov. 24

Read: Zucker, Unit 8B, Grammar, 136-141. Itzik Manger, "Afn veg shteyt a boym," 145-7. Write: Paragraph using Unit 8B vocabulary, 135-6.

Nov. 26

Thanksgiving -- no class

Dec. 1

Read: Zucker, Unit 9A, Reading, 149-152. "Bahit," Malka Heifetz Tussman (poem)
Write: Unit 8B Exercises, 141-144. QUIZ ON 8B

Dec. 3

Read: Zucker, Unit 9A, Grammar, pp. 152-157. Write: Paragraph using Unit 9A vocabulary, 150-151.

Dec. 8

Read: "A mol iz geven a mayse," 162-3. Write: Unit 9A Exercises, 158-162. QUIZ ON 9A

Dec. 17

FINAL EXAM -- Units 1-9A. (8:30-10:30 AM) (tentative date and time)