

INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH LANGUAGE I  
GRMN403/JWST033  
FALL, 1996  
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TEXTS:

Uriel Weinreich, *College Yiddish*.  
Uriel Weinreich, *Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary*.  
Eleanor G. Mlotek, ed., *Mir Trogn a Gezang*.  
David Goldberg, *Yidish af yidish* (Yale, 1996)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS:** This course aims to develop your skills in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Yiddish. Our task this term is to conclude Weinreich's *College Yiddish*, and begin the brand new Intermediate/ Advanced level textbook by David Goldberg, *Yidish af yidish*. We will continue with *Yidish af yidish* in the second semester. Supplementary readings will come from an out-of-print anthology by Chava Turniansky, *Fun unzer yidisher literatur*, which I will photocopy selectively, and from Mlotek's collection of songs, *Mir trogn a gezang*. We will also dip into Yiddish journalism, some devotional texts, etc., which I will provide. Weinreich's *English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary*, is a classic work essential for reading "real" Yiddish books.

Of course, I don't need to tell you that 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 and oral presentations. You will also have a midterm and a final exam. Grades will be based on all of the above.

SCHEDULE:

(subject to modification as reality encroaches upon the ideal) (We may also change the time and place of meeting.)

#	Date	Assignment
1	9/5	Introduction. Weinreich, Lesson 20 (grammar review)
2	9/10	Read: Weinreich, Lesson 21 Write: 1 paragraph -- your choice of topic.
3	9/12	Read: Weinreich, Lesson 21 (grammar) Sholem Aleichem, "Der oytser" (Weinreich 287-8). Write: Lesson 21, Exercises A, B, C (odd numbers)

- 4 9/17 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 22 Write: 1 paragraph, using the vocabulary.
- 5 9/19 Read: Mendele Moykhr-Sforim, "A tog in elul" (Weinreich 288) Write: Lesson 22, Exercises A, B (odd numbers), F.
- 6 9/24 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 23 Write: 1 paragraph, using the vocabulary.
- 7 9/26 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 23, grammar Write: Lesson 23, Exercises B & D
- 8 10/1 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 24 (review lesson) Write: Lesson 24, Exercises F and J. 9
- 9 10/3 Read: Brief essays on Yiddish culture (in English), at end of each lesson (21-26) in Weinreich (on Peretz, the Jewish calendar, Jewish family names, Yiddish folksongs, attitude words and forms).
- 10 10/8 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 25 Write: 1 paragraph, using vocabulary.
- 11 10/10 Read: Yitskhok Leybush Peretz, "Di frume katz" (Wein. 293-5) Write: Lesson 25, Exercise C.
- 10/15 Fall Break, no class
- 12 10/17 MIDTERM EXAM, IN CLASS
- 13 10/22 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 26 Write: Lesson 26, Exercises C and D.
- 14 10/24 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 27 Write: A short short play (1-2 pages of dialogue)
- 15 10/29 Read: Binem Heler, "In varshever geto iz khoydesh nisan" Avraham Sutskever, "Exzekutsye" (Weinreich 296-8) Write: Lesson 27, Exercises C and G.
- 16 10/31 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 28 (on women writers) Write: 1-2 page essay.
- 17 11/5 Read: Poems by women writers and a passage from a tkhine (photocopies) [TKHINE FUN LIKHT- BENTSHN (89, Klirs); Malka Heifetz Tussman, "FARGESN," and Kadya Molodowsky, "DOS GEZANG FUN SHABES" (105, Dornboym)] Write: Lesson 28, Exercises A and C (evens)
- 18 11/7 Read: Continue with poems by women writers. View 2 Yiddish documentaries: "Jewish Life in Vilna" and "Warsaw Days." Write: Finish Lesson 28, Exercises A and C, even numbers.

- 19 11/12 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 29 Write: 1-2 pp. about the films. Lesson 29, Exercises A and C (evens)
- 20 11/14 Read: Weinreich, Lesson 30 (review lesson) Write: Preliminary paragraph about what you want to present in class after Thanksgiving. Brainstorm (in Yiddish)! Identify a possible text that you will read (or a couple of possibilities). Start exploring the questions you hope to investigate in your foray into this authentic Yiddish text!
- 21 11/19 Read: Yiddish newspaper or journal articles (photocopies) Write: Lesson 30, Exercises A, C, G, ODD NUMBERS. We'll do J and K orally in class.
- 22 11/21 Read: Yidish af yidish, Chapter 1. Write: paragraph 23 11/26 Read: Yidish af yidish , Chapter 1, continued. Write: paragraph
- 23 11/28 No class -- Thanksgiving
- 24 12/3 Read: Yidish af yidish , Chapter 2. I. L. Peretz, "Oyb nit nokh hekher" (Turniansky 33-6) IN CLASS: STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION OF DISCOVERED TEXT (10 min. + discussion)
- 25 12/5 Read: Yidish af yidish , Chapter 2. I. L. Peretz, "Oyb nit nokh hekher" IN CLASS: STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION FINAL EXAM -- TO BE SCHEDULED. FINAL PAPER ON ORAL PRESENTATION (3-5 PAGES).