

German/Jewish Studies 267
Yiddish Song and the Jewish Experience
Syllabus Spring 2017

MEETING TIME: Mondays 12:05-12:55 PM
3250 College Library (WisCEL Space)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jeremy Zima
Office Hours: Mon 1-3 p.m, 3251 College Library (or by appointment)
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TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Lesley Hughes and Eric Ely
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Learning Objectives

- To gain insights into Yiddish song as an expression of the modern Jewish experience
- To develop an appreciation for Yiddish language and culture
- To develop listening and interpretive skills
- To increase understanding of life and culture of marginalized groups in the United States, both historically and in contemporary times

Assignments

Each week all students need to prepare for the Face-to-Face meeting by completed the assignments that are online at our course's Learn@UW site. These include reading, listening, and film viewing. Most weeks there will also be a brief comprehension quiz that will help us gauge how much information you're absorbing. In the Face-to-Face meetings, you will work together with your classmates in various ways to engage actively with the material. The active learning activities we have planned include working together to interpret songs, debate issues, submit written responses, and prepare small group projects. **You may miss one in-class writing assignment without penalty, as long as you notify one of the TAs in writing beforehand.**

All students are required to attend weekly Face-to-Face Meetings, Mondays 12:05 p.m., in the WisCEL Space in Helen C. White Library (College Library 3250).

Technology Policy

Because this is a blended learning course in which you are expected to actively participate, cellphones, your own laptops, and other devices are not allowed in class. The WisCEL space provides laptops for student use; all of your in-class work should be done on the WisCEL laptops only.

Schedule of Topics and Exams

Jan 23 What is Folk Song?

Jan 30 Life in the Shtetl

Feb 6 Persecution in Russia, Customs and Escapism

Feb 13 Breakdown of Traditions, Chassidism and its Opponents

Feb 20 Love, Marriage and Urbanization

Feb 27 Haskalah and Yiddish Theater

Mar 6 The Labor Movement & Emigration

Mar 13 Emigration to America

Mar 18-26 SPRING BREAK

Mar 27 The Labor Movement in America

Apr 3 Life in America and Yiddish Theater

Apr 10 The Holocaust

Apr 17 Yiddish Film and Tin Pan Alley

Apr 24 Antisemitism in America

May 1 Antisemitism in America Part II

May 9 TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE 5/9 @ 9:25 PM