Music/Jewish Studies 319  
Yiddish Song and the Jewish Experience  
Professor Potter  
SPRING SEMESTER 2012

LECTURES            MW 12:05 PM  
                    1111 Mosse Humanities Building

OFFICE HOURS        W 9:30-11:30 AM  
                    5524 Mosse Humanities Building

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SECTIONS

M 1:20 PM Honors (DIS 301)  
Prof. Potter  
2251 Mosse Humanities Building

F 12:05 PM (DIS 302)  
Isidora Miranda, imiranda@wisc.edu  
2637 Mosse Humanities Building

F 1:20 PM (DIS 303)  
Isidora Miranda, imiranda@wisc.edu  
2637 Mosse Humanities Building

F 12:05 PM Comm-B (DIS 304)  
Richard Floeckher, richard.floeckher@gmail.com  
2261 Mosse Humanities Building

F 1:20 PM Comm-B (DIS 305)  
Richard Floeckher, richard.floeckher@gmail.com  
2251 Mosse Humanities Building

Course Goals

--- 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

Course Requirements and Grading

Each section will have its own requirements and grading percentages. There will be two in-class written exams (March 7 and May 9) and at least one final written project required of all students, to be submitted on or before May 14. See section syllabus for additional details.

Required Reading

All reading assignments will be posted on Learn@UW. These will include:
-- songs lyrics with translations
-- selections from:


-- additional articles

**Additional Media**

Selected recordings and films will be available at Mills Music Library (in the basement of Memorial Library) and through E-Reserves, which can be accessed through MyUW. Details will be provided in section throughout the semester.

**Overview of Topics (subject to change)**

Week 1: Introduction: What is Jewish music?

Week 2: Lullabies, songs of childhood, gender roles

Week 3: Songs of love and marriage

Week 4: Breakdown of traditions and superstitions

Week 5: Poverty and escapism

Week 6: Persecution in Tsarist Russia

Week 7: Yiddish musical theater in central Europe

Week 8: Coming to the New World

Week 9: Life in America

Week 10: Yiddish musical theater in the U.S.

Week 11: Antisemitism in the U.S.

Week 12: Songs of the Jewish labor movement

Week 13: Songs of the Holocaust

Week 14: Influences on Tin Pan Alley and Broadway

Week 15: The klezmer revival and Jewish identity