

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

TELEPHONE 263-1906

E-MAIL pmpotter@wisc.edu

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:

Irving Howe, *World of Our Fathers* (New York: Harcourt, 1976)

Ruth Rubin, *Voices of a People: The Story of Yiddish Folk Song* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1979)

Abraham Cahan, *The Education of Abraham Cahan*, trans. L. Stein, A. P. Conan, L. Davison (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1969)

Sholom Aleichem, *The Best of Sholom Aleichem* (Ed. I. Howe and R. Wisse, Washington, D.C.: New Republic, 1979)

Irene Heskes, *Passport to Jewish Music: Its History, Traditions, and Culture* (New York: Tara, 1994)

Stephen J. Whitfield, *In Search of American Jewish Culture* (Hanover, N.H.: Brandeis UP, 1999)

Leonard Dinnerstein, *Antisemitism in America* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1999)

-- 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