Music/Jewish Studies 319
Yiddish Song and the Jewish Experience
Professor Potter
SPRING SEMESTER 2014

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
F 12:05 PM Comm-B (DIS 301)
Isidora Miranda, imiranda@wisc.edu
2101 Mosse Humanities Building

F 1:20 PM Comm-B (DIS 302)
Brendan Loula, loula@wisc.edu
2111 Mosse Humanities Building

F 12:05 PM (DIS 303)
Brendan Loula, loula@wisc.edu
1221 Mosse Humanities Building

F 1:20 PM (DIS 305)
Isidora Miranda, imiranda@wisc.edu
1221 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 12 and May 7) and at least one final written project required of all students, to be submitted on or before May 13. See section syllabus for additional details.

Required Reading

All reading assignments will be posted on Learn@UW. These will include:

-- songs lyrics with translations
-- journal and newspaper articles
-- selections from:


**Additional Media**

Selected recordings and films will be available 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