Learn the basics of one of the most unique and rich languages on earth. Language skills include: reading and writing, elementary grammar, conversation. Introduction to Yiddish culture through popular folk and theater songs, humorous and serious readings, viewing a classic Yiddish film, and attending at least one local Yiddish cultural event. Emphasis is placed on participation in classroom conversation and homework review. Grading is based on class attendance (20%), homework preparation (20%), mid-term (25%), and final (35%). Attending a Yiddish cultural event is a homework requirement. (Check the yiddishinstitute.org, cjs.ucla.edu websites regularly.)


On-line Resources for assignments and general use provided on the class CCLE website (ccle.ucla.edu).

WEEK 0:

WEEK 1:
Class 1: Let’s Shmooze: first basic conversations (shmues שณะ). Song: Let it Be…Zol Zayn
Class 2: Student reports on history of Yiddish language and culture from YIVO website. Continued shmues and consonants.

WEEK 2:
Class 1: Sex and the Single Noun: pronouns, articles, and gender. More consonants
Class 2: Order is In: word order in declarations and questions. More consonants.

WEEK 3:
Class 1: Let’s Do It with Basic Syntax: subject – verb matchings; conjugation of regular verbs in the present tense. (Handouts, Zucker, Unit 1) Highly Irregular: to be (zayn צײַן) and to have (hobn האָבן).

Eight Days a Week? Song: Bulbes בולבעס (Potatoes). (Handouts, Zucker, Units 2, 3)

WEEK 4:
Class 1: Ubiquitous Anonymity: “They say” and “One does…” “To”, one little preposition in English = five in Yiddish. Knowing is not Being Able: visn קײַן vs kenen (Zucker, Unit 3)
Class 2: Proper (and Not-So-Prop) Nouns Are Always Treated Properly: declensions. (Zucker, Unit 4) My, Aren’t You Possessive? possessive adjectives. (Zucker, Unit 8)

Song: Ofn Pripechik אײַן פּריפּעטשיק (In the Hearth)

WEEK 5:
Class 1: No Way: forming negative sentences and distinctions between definite/indefinite articles and singular/plural nouns (I don’t have the pencils; I don’t have any pencils). (Zucker, Unit 4)
Class 2: Make it Short and Sweet: contractions with the definite article, cute little diminutives. (Zucker, Unit 5)
WEEK 6:
Class 1: It Never Hurts to Repeat: review of grammar and vocabulary. Possibly attending morning session at American Jewish Music Conference, Rm. 314 Royce.
Afternoon session (1:30 – 3:00 - “The Language of Yiddish Theatre: Translating Within and Out” – opportunity to attend Yiddish cultural event.
Class 2: Mid-Term.

WEEK 7:
Class 2: Quite a Yarn: review of first essays. Song: *Yidl Mitn Fidl*, יידל מיטן פֿידל

WEEK 8:
Class 1: So That’s What You Look Like: describing the face and body. (Handout/ Zucker, Units 4,5)
Class 2: Thanksgiving - No Class

WEEK 9:
Class 2: Just in Case: accusative (direct object – What do you eat/buy/kiss/have...?) and dative (indirect object – With/for/from...what or whom do you dance/work/speak/think...?). (Zucker, Unit 5)

WEEK 10:
Class 1: They Say It’s Going to Rain: describing the weather. Song: *Vu bistu geven* (Where Were You?) Using the imperative (commands). Adverbs formed from adjectives.
(Zucker, Unit 6)
Class 2: It Never Hurts to Repeat: review of grammar and vocabulary.

Az men zitst in der heym, tserayst men nit di shtiv!

---If you sit at home, you won't wear out your boots!

אוייב מען זיצט אין דער היים, צערײַסט מען ניט די שט еврל!