Learn the basics of a unique and rich language that has had enormous influence on mainstream culture. Learned skills include: reading and writing; elementary grammar; and conversation. Also serves as an intro 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 at least one Yiddish cultural event is a homework requirement. (Check yiddishinstitute.org and class ccle websites regularly.)


DO NOT USE GOOGLE TRANSLATE!!!! Very unhelpful!

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

WEEK 0:
Class 1: 3 for the Price of One: Yiddish alphabet and the Yiddish vowels. (Handouts: Yiddish alphabet)
Learning vowels. (Assignment 1 on origins and history of Yiddish: YIVO web-site: epyc.yivo.org/home.php, NY Times Article on Rhineland)

WEEK 1:
Class 1: Second Day Rosh Hashanah – NO CLASS. We’ll make it up somehow.
Class 2: Let’s Shmooze: first basic conversations (shmues שומע). Song: Let It Be… Zol Zayn

WEEK 2:
Class 1: Student reports on history of Yiddish language and culture from YIVO website. Continued shmues and consonants. Sex and the Single Noun: pronouns, articles, and gender. More consonants
Class 2: Order is In: word order in declarations and questions. More consonants.
Song: Az der rebe zingt אַז דער רעבי זingt (When the Rebbe Sings). (Zucker, Unit 1)

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 חײָן).
Eight Days a Week: Song: Bulbesبولבעס (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 ויזן vs kenen קײָן (Zucker, Unit 3)
Class 2: Proper (and Not-So-Proper) Nouns Are Always Treated Properly: declensions. (Zucker, Unit 4)
My, Aren’t You Possessive? Possessive adjectives. (Zucker, Unit 8)
Song: On Pripechik אוֹן פרײָפֿשיק (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.
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)  

WEEK 9:  
Class 1: Just in Case: Accusative (direct object – What do you eat/buy/kiss/have…?) and Dative (indirect object – pointing at prepositions: With/for/from…what or whom do you dance/work/speak/think…?). (Zucker, Unit 5)  
Class 2: Thanksgiving - No Class

WEEK 10:  
Class 1: It Never Hurts to Repeat: review of grammar and vocabulary.  
Class 2: FINAL

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

--If you sit at home, you won’t wear out your boots!  
אַ מען זיצט אין דער היים, צערײַסט מען ניט די שט еврל!

A guter zitser iz beser vi a guter kop!  

-- A good seat is better than a good head!  
אַ גוטער זיצער איז בעסער װי אַ גוטער קאָפ!  

KEEP CALM AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK