

Teaching evaluations for JNE 349 Yidishkayt: Yiddish Literature in English Translation, which I taught in the Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Literatures and Cultures as instructor of record at Washington University in St. Louis in Fall 2011

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

STUDENT EVALUATION OF MAIN SECTION

COURSE L75 349

INSTRUCTOR TWITCHELL

SEMESTER FL11

The purpose of this questionnaire is to improve teaching. Please take time to give fair and honest answers and comments. Give your completed evaluation to the student designated by the instructor. This student will place all the forms in an envelope, seal it and return it to the department office. Please feel free to write on the back if you have further comments. Thank you very much!

1. What do you consider the strongest aspects of this course?

Professor Twitchell is fantastic. His teaching methods are very effective, & I always feel engaged in the material. The texts chosen for class are also really great, so the reading assignments are pleasurable. But by far the best part is the teacher. He motivates me to want to improve my writing & analytical skills.

2. Please comment on the instructor's

a. clarity and organization

b. knowledge of the material

c. success in stimulating classroom participation

d. attitude and availability

e. fairness in grading process

- a) He comes to class organized & prepared, & explains things thoroughly & the material is fully understandable & enjoyable
- b) Professor Twitchell is very knowledgeable. He not only has vast literary knowledge & insight, but he gives a great historical context to everything which is very useful
- c) He makes everyone want to participate. We enter fun discussions, & we work off each other's ideas. He sparks creative analysis.
- d) He is always positive, happy, & excited. And he is ALWAYS available for questions & help.
- e) He grades very fair & gives you all the opportunities to succeed.

3. Would you like to see any aspect of the course changed? If so, what and why?

No. It is truly fantastic. Maybe have more levels of Yiddish literature & have Professor Twitchell teach them.

4. Do you think the course has been useful? Would you recommend it to others?

The course has been very useful. It has expanded my knowledge about Jewish studies. I can talk with my grandparents about texts that they read as kids, it's incredible. I recommend this course to anyone with even a minute interest in Jewish studies.

5. Considering everything, how would you rate:

a. the **instructor** - (circle one)

excellent

very good

good

fair

poor

b. the **course** - (circle one)

excellent

very good

good

fair

poor

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1. What do you consider the strongest aspects of this course?

It's a great topic w/ a great prof!! Corey brought such a great deal of energy, passion + knowledge to the course. I would recommend both the course + the prof to anyone!

2. Please comment on the instructor's

- a. clarity and organization
- b. knowledge of the material

- c. success in stimulating classroom participation
- d. attitude and availability
- e. fairness in grading process

a. Very organized + topic was addressed chronological demonstrating both changes in Jewish history + writing style.

b. Corey is incredibly adept at teaching Jewish hist + lit!

c. Never a dull moment in class + everyone was eager to participate.

d. Great attitude! Always available. e. Fair!

3. Would you like to see any aspect of the course changed? If so, what and why?

Don't let them talk you out of Glück! She's cool in her own right. more musicals! ☺

4. Do you think the course has been useful? Would you recommend it to others?

I have always enjoyed Jewish lit, but I can honestly say this course has really contributed to my desire to pursue Yiddish lit. in graduate work. So very glad to have been a part of this class.

5. Considering everything, how would you rate:

a. the **instructor** - (circle one)

b. the **course** - (circle one)

<u>excellent</u>	very good	good	fair	poor
<u>excellent</u>	very good	good	fair	poor

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1. What do you consider the strongest aspects of this course?

The instructor's passion for the material is by far the strongest aspect of this course. He is clearly so knowledgeable about the subject matter and so excited to share it with the students, which made for a fantastic semester. He is what made this course great, and he is the reason this was one of my favorite courses I've ever taken here.

2. Please comment on the instructor's

a. clarity and organization

b. knowledge of the material

c. success in stimulating classroom participation

d. attitude and availability

e. fairness in grading process

The material was always clearly organized, and while we occasionally got off on tangents, they too were really interesting. He knew so much about the material, and had a good answer to almost any question we asked. The class participation was great - never forced and it always seemed like Corey was genuinely interested in what we had to say. This is another of his many strong suits. He was unfailingly positive, fostered an excellent classroom environment, and was always quick to respond to out-of-class inquiries. The grading process was transparent & fair.

3. Would you like to see any aspect of the course changed? If so, what and why?

I would have liked to see the addition of Yiddish film to the course. Screening and examining a film would have made the course a bit more comprehensive.

4. Do you think the course has been useful? Would you recommend it to others?

This has been one of the most useful courses I have taken here, because it focuses so clearly on a culture that if not kept alive by classes like this, would otherwise fade into history. I would, and already have, recommended this course to others, as I would any course taught by Corey. I hope to take something with him again before I graduate.

5. Considering everything, how would you rate:

a. the **instructor** - (circle one)

excellent

very good

good

fair

poor

b. the **course** - (circle one)

excellent

very good

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fair

poor

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1. What do you consider the strongest aspects of this course?

I felt the class as a whole was very enjoyable and informative. For a small class of only four, there was a lot of opportunities to talk about and discuss the materials we covered. Rather than slavishly plow through work, discourse was encouraged and participation was strongly facilitated.

2. Please comment on the instructor's

a. clarity and organization

b. knowledge of the material

c. success in stimulating classroom participation

d. attitude and availability

e. fairness in grading process

a) Very organized - even the digressions were productive in ~~teaching~~ helping us understand the context of the work.

b) Very knowledgeable and approachable.

c) Excellent

d) Upbeat, which greatly encouraged us to contribute in class

e) No complaints 😊

3. Would you like to see any aspect of the course changed? If so, what and why?

~~If we~~ Because Yiddish literature is such a broad topic, it is difficult to add any more content w/o going beyond a semester. I would recommend, however, that more contemporary writers (20th century - now), ~~and~~ poetry, even theatre be included. Also, some exposure of the language itself could be beneficial.

4. Do you think the course has been useful? Would you recommend it to others?

The course has been a delight. I would definitely recommend it to fellow yids, or to some inquisitive goyim that have an interest in European history.

(I would suggest offering a Yiddish language course, if feasible)

5. Considering everything, how would you rate:

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