



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **JUDA12, Jewish Studies: Level 1 A, 15 credits**

*Judaistik: Grundkurs I, 15 högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2015-11-27 to be valid from 2016-01-18, spring semester 2016.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish

*Main field of studies*

History of Religions

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- account for central personalities, events and phases in Jewish history based on the required reading
- account for political, cultural, economic and social circumstances and changes that have characterised Jewish history, Jewish culture and Jewish religion
- account for the stereotypes of Jewish humour
- exemplify how Jews have used humour to represent and relate to Jewish identity, religion, culture and history, and their relationship to Gentile society

### **Competence and skills**

- use the concepts "imagined community", "collective memory" and "cultural memory" to discuss issues of the relationship between the use of history and identity formation
- individually and in groups perform a contextual reading of Jewish humorous texts
- independently execute a basic textual analysis
- orally present a given material

### **Judgement and approach**

- assess the role of humour for the identity of a community
- take a position on and judge how women and men throughout history have put their stamp on Jewish tradition and culture in relation to prevailing social structures

### **Course content**

The course provides the student with an introduction to Jewish history and culture.

Module 1 deals with Jewish history and Jewish culture from its origins to the present from a mainly chronological perspective.

Key historical events and personalities are highlighted from a Jewish perspective. The course also addresses Jewish history, memory and identity from a clear outside perspective. This perspective is based on issues of, for example, the relationship between history and identity, facts and collective memory, historical interpretation and the presence of parallel historiography.

Module 2 enables the students to specialise and broaden their knowledge of Jewish religion and identity, history and tradition from the 19th century to the present using the required reading, Jewish humorous anecdotes and short stories. The emphasis is placed on a western context, highlighting above all the relationship between social context, Jewish identity and Jewish humour, as well as the contribution of humour to the creation and maintenance of a Jewish identity. The module deals with classical Yiddish humour and its characters, humour in the context of persecution and present-day Jewish humour, and addresses the question whether present-day Jewish humour is specifically Jewish or an element permeating western culture as a whole.

Module 1: Jewish History and Culture

Module 2: Jewish Humour and Identity

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars, some of which can take place online. Students are expected to have access to a computer with Internet connections.

### **Assessment**

The assessment of module 1 is based partly on minor online repetition exercises during the course, partly on a final written exam in which students are permitted to use the required reading and their own notes.

The assessment of Module 2 is continuous and based on five written assignments and a final individual home assignment amounting to approximately 5-8 pages.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

To be awarded a grade Pass on the whole course, students must have been awarded this grade on both modules.

To be awarded a grade Pass with Distinction on the whole course, students must have been awarded this grade on at least one of the modules and a grade of Pass on the other module.

## **Entry requirements**

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: History 1 and Social Studies 1 or History A and Social Studies A

## **Further information**

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
2. All modules in this course can also be taken as freestanding courses.
3. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
4. Module titles in Swedish:
  1. Judisk historia och kultur
  2. Judisk humor och identitet

## Subcourses in JUDA12, Jewish Studies: Level 1 A

Applies from V16

- 1501 Jewish History and Culture, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1502 Jewish Humour and Identity, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction