



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

**LIVR74, Literature-Culture-Media: Yiddish Modernism,
1907-1954, 15 credits**

*Litteratur - kultur - media: Jiddischmodernism, 1907-1954, 15
högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2015-12-02 to be valid from 2015-12-03, autumn semester 2015.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the MA in Literature-Culture-Media. It is also offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The course is normally taught in English, but can also be taught in Swedish or Yiddish, provided there is a special agreement between the lecturer/s and the students. Such an agreement requires that all lecturers and all students are proficient in Swedish or Yiddish.

Main field of studies

Literature-Culture-Media with
specialization in Yiddish literature

*Depth of study relative to the degree
requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle
course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- provide both a general and a specialised account of Yiddish modernism, focusing on poetry and prose 1907-1954

- account for the specific nature of Yiddish modernism with regard to the approach of authors and texts to the general modernist currents in Europe and USA
- provide a specialised description of Yiddish modernism with regard to key poets and prose writers in USA and Europe
- account from the perspective of literary history for Yiddish language modernism as it was manifested in manifestoes and criticism

Competence and skills

- account for the approach to issues of Jewish identity in Yiddish modernism
- account for the significance of Yiddish modernism to Jewish culture and identity in eastern and central Europe and USA 1907-1954
- apply and critically review the handbooks and methodological tools available for learning how to analyse and interpret texts

Judgement and approach

- identify and critically assess the themes and forms of Yiddish language modernism in relation to the social, cultural and political situation of Jewish diaspora communities in Europe and USA
- identify and critically assess methodological tools in order to analyse and interpret narrative and poetic texts

Course content

The course explores a number of key works of Yiddish authors in relation to artistic and ideological aspects, in particular with regard to how their work was influenced by the modernist currents in Europe and USA in the first half of the 20th century. The period is delimited by the publication of the first Yiddish modernist play in 1907, I. L. Peretz's *Bay nakht the afn altn mark* (At night in the old marketplace) and the culmination of Yiddish modernist prose: Abraham Sutzekver's *Griner akvarium* (Green aquarium) in 1954. The modernist Yiddish theatre will be examined through recurring screenings of recorded theatre productions. Finally, the course will examine how Marc Chagall's art and theatre paintings played a part in shaping cultural Yiddish modernism through the artist's use of the Hebrew alphabet and religious images.

Course design

The teaching mainly consists of independent study, but written and oral assignments are included. Four skills-oriented components are compulsory.

Assessment

The assessment is based on four skills-oriented assignments during the course and a written assignment at the end of the course.

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.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed a Bachelor's degree project in literature specialising in general, English, French, Russian, Scandinavian, Spanish, German or Yiddish literature or the equivalent. A further requirement is proficiency in English corresponding to English B from Swedish upper secondary school.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
2. 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.

Subcourses in LIVR74, Literature-Culture-Media: Yiddish Modernism, 1907-1954

Applies from H15

1501 Yiddish Modernism 1907-1954, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction