



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## YIDC01, Yiddish: Modern Jewish Culture and the Narrative Art of Sholem Aleichem, 15 credits

*Jiddisch: Den moderna judiska kulturen och Sholem Aleichems berättarkonst, 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 2020-02-19. The syllabus comes into effect 2020-02-19 and is valid from the autumn semester 2020.

### General information

Subject: Yiddish

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

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

The course is normally taught in English, but can also be taught in Swedish, 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. Noncompulsory material in Yiddish may be included.

*Main field of  
study*

*Specialisation*

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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

- give an account of Scholem Aleichem's central role in the creation of a modern Jewish culture in Russia and the USA with special focus on the period 1882-1914,

- give an account of central themes and narrative art styles in Scholem Aleichem's monologues and novels,
- on a general level describe basic cultural history expressions in Scholem Aleichem's main work,
- account for the most important methodological perspectives used in research into Scholem Aleichem's works and the creation of a modern Jewish culture,

### **Competence and skills**

- discuss and orally present different critical views on the work of Scholem Aleichem,
- discuss the most important cultural history expressions of the creation of a modern Jewish culture,
- discuss theoretical and methodological problems in the area in speech and writing,

### **Judgement and approach**

- critically analyse and discuss the role that the work and narrative art of Scholem Aleichem have played in modern Jewish culture,
- critically analyse and discuss the literary, existential, moral, ideological, religious, commercial and scholarly aspects addressed in Scholem Aleichem's narrative art and its importance for the creation of a modern Jewish culture.

### **Course content**

Throughout the course, the narrative art of Sholem Aleichem in relation to the creation of a modern, Jewish culture in Russia and the USA during the period 1883-1914 is explored. Sholem Aleichem's most important work includes his monologues the Milk man Tevye, Railway Stories and Menakhem Mendel. These works are discussed and analysed in relation to the crisis that Russian Jewish culture went through from the beginning of the 1880s up to the outbreak of the Second World War. Sholem Aleichem's meeting with American culture - his stay in the USA 1905-1906 and his emigration to the USA in 1914 - are discussed based on his plays that became films and shown at Jewish theatres. In conclusion, the course will show the respects in which respects Sholem Aleichem's unique narrative art constitute the main contribution to the creation of a modern, Jewish culture.

### **Course design**

Teaching consists of lectures and 10-11 compulsory seminars. Absence can be compensated for with a written report.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is through through a take-home exam and 2-3 seminar assignments.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

For the grade of Pass on the course, students must have been awarded at least the grade of Pass on all assessed components. To be awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction, students must also have been awarded the grade of Pass with Distinction on at least three of the five course modules.

## Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: English 6

## Further information

1. The course is offered by the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
2. The course replaces YIDB18 Modern Jewish Culture and the Narrative Art of Sholem Aleichem, 15 credits.
3. The number of credits allocated for course content that is shared in whole or in part with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details, see current registration and information material.