



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## YIDC05, Testimony: Literature, Film and Oral History, 15 credits

*Vitnesskildring: Litteratur, film och muntlig historia, 15 högskolepoäng*  
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-06-04 (U 2024/459). The syllabus comes into effect 2024-09-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

### General information

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

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

Yiddish                      G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

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

#### Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate sound knowledge of the history of testimony and related genres of witnessing, with a focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and on sources in Yiddish (available in translation), as well as other languages,
- explain the importance of the relationship between testimony, oral history, literature, and film/video, both in general terms and with reference to specific examples,
- compare and contrast various theoretical texts that offer a critical account of testimony as historical and legal evidence and as a component of literary and cinematic work,

- account for the fundamental features of key examples of testimonial writing and film, with a focus on Yiddish sources, but also with frequent reference to sources in other languages (in translation or in the original, depending on the capacities of the student).

### **Competence and skills**

- discuss and interpret works of testimony with reference to the conditions in which they were produced, and with reference to their language/s and medium/media of transmission,
- employ relevant methods of literary/media-theoretical, cultural, and historical analysis to various forms of testimony, such as oral history interviews, memoirs/autobiographical writings, literary texts, documentary and fiction films/videos,
- situate testimonial works in their historical and social-political contexts,
- develop and defend arguments in written and oral form about how the medium/media of testimony affects our understanding of its content,
- produce an account of one or more interrelated phenomenon/a in a testimonial work in a written assignment.

### **Judgement and approach**

- critically evaluate the major themes and debates in the study of testimony;
- reflect on the significance of testimony for thinking through artistic, ethical, historical, and legal debates in contemporary society.

### **Course content**

In this course, students will learn about and investigate the interrelationship between testimony, literature, film, and oral history. Discussions and assignments will focus on the close analysis of written texts, films, and video testimonies that, in different ways, bear witness to experiences of extreme violence, destruction, and dispossession (including but not limited to the Holocaust). Throughout the semester, students will also engage with theoretical and interdisciplinary debates that have emerged about testimony and its role in shaping historical understanding, collective memory, and cultural production, as well as with questions of media specificity, transmission, and translation. The course puts particular emphasis on Yiddish-language sources (available in English translation), though it situates these sources in a broadly comparative framework, with additional attention, for example, to Arabic-, English-, French-, German-, Hebrew-, Russian, Spanish-, Swedish-, and Ukrainian-language sources. In their final written assignment, students will be encouraged to work with sources in the original, building on their different language skills and areas of interest.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures and 6 compulsory seminars with preparatory reading. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or retake compulsory components. This also applies to students who have missed classes because of activities as a student representative.

## Assessment

The course is assessed through two short written assignments, an oral presentation, and one longer written assignment.

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 a grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all assessed components. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this the grade Pass with Distinction on the longer written assignment, the oral presentation as well as one of the two minor written assignments.

## Entry requirements

General requirements and 60 higher education credits from studies in Humanities and/or Social Sciences.

## Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- 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.
- The course name in Swedish: Vittneskildring: Litteratur, film och muntlig historia