



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## YIDC07, Yiddish Film and Television: Comedy, Horror and Drama, 15 credits

*Jiddisch film och tv: komedi, skräck och drama, 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 2024-05-29 (U 2024/372). The syllabus comes into effect 2024-06-01 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:* Swedish and English

*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

- identify important developments in the history of Yiddish film, from the interwar period to the present, and television, from the 1950s to the present;
- summarize central themes, genres, and styles in Yiddish film and television, with reference to specific examples;
- provide an account of how key historical events shaped the history of Yiddish film and television, such as mass migration and the Holocaust;
- recognize key formal features of film/video as a medium, such as mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, and sound.

## Competence and skills

- discuss and interpret a range of Yiddish films and television shows with reference to their historical context, formal aspects, and reception,
- employ relevant methods of film, media-theoretical, and cultural analysis to specific examples,
- situate Yiddish film and television within the history of film/television more generally and within the larger landscape of modern Jewish culture, especially with reference to the history of modern Yiddish literature and theatre,
- compare and contrast different uses of Yiddish in film and television, with reference to issues such as multilingualism, acculturation, and postvernacularity,
- develop and defend arguments about one or more interrelated phenomenon/a in Yiddish film/television in written and oral form.

## Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate how Yiddish films and television shows represent and reflect on important historical, social, and political issues, such as migration, acculturation, secularization, and mass violence;
- reflect on the potential relevance and significance of Yiddish films and television shows in ongoing debates about cultural memory, identity, and the ethics of representation.

## Course content

In this course, students will learn about and explore the history of Yiddish film and television. Discussions and assignments will focus on the close analysis of films and television shows and, when relevant, other materials, such as short literary texts, reviews, and scholarly articles. Special attention will be paid to the so-called 'golden age' of Yiddish cinema during the interwar period, to cinematic adaptations of Yiddish literature and theatre, to the role of Yiddish in representations of the Holocaust, and to the symbolic or 'postvernacular' use of Yiddish in postwar film and television. 10-11 films and television shows will be screened or available to watch at home throughout the semester, including comedies, melodramas, horror films, documentaries, sitcoms, and so-called 'prestige' television. In class and in written assignments, students will learn how to employ various methods of film and cultural analysis, while also learning more generally about the history of the Yiddish language and its role in modern Jewish culture.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and 10 compulsory seminars.

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 the grade of Pass on the course, students must have been awarded 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 the longer written assignment, the oral presentation and one of the minor written assignments.

## Entry requirements

General requirements

## Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course replaces the course YIDC02, The Golden Age of Yiddish Cinema: An Introduction to Jewish Culture, (15 credits).
- 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.