



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

YIDC11, Jewish History in Eastern and Central Europe, 15 credits

Judisk historia i Öst- och Centraleuropa, 15 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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 2024-11-27 (U 2024/814). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-01 and is valid from the autumn 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 G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of fundamental features of the history of Jews in Eastern and Central Europe, with a (non-exclusive) focus on Yiddish-speaking populations in the 19th and 20th centuries and up to the present;
- give an account of key political, social, cultural, and religious movements in modern Jewish history, such as different kinds of nationalism, feminism, and orthodox movements,
- define the basic terminology used to describe and analyze Jewish history, including relevant concepts from related disciplines such as migration studies, political history, religious studies and sociolinguistics,

Competence and skills

- employ various methods relevant to the study of Jewish history, such as methods derived from social history, cultural studies, intellectual history and religious studies,
- situate relevant sources, ranging from political manifestos to photographs to ethnographic surveys, in their historical and social-political contexts,
- develop and defend arguments in written and oral form about specific aspects of the history of the Jews in Eastern and Central Europe,

Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate the major themes and debates in the history of Jews in Eastern and Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries,
- reflect on the significance and legacy of Jewish history in various contexts in the present.

Course content

This course provides a critical introduction to Jewish history in Eastern and Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries and up to the present. The course focuses on key events and movements in modern Jewish history, as well as on the larger and comparative contexts in which that history unfolded. In the first module, students engage with the social, cultural, religious, and political life of Jews in Eastern and Central Europe, with a particular focus on questions of gender, secularization, and nationalism. In the second module, students learn about the migrational pathways that led beyond Eastern and Central Europe, with a particular focus on Sweden and the Nordic region but also on the United States, Palestine/Israel, and Argentina. In this module, students also reflect on the conditions that gave rise to mass migration, including antisemitism, violence, and poverty.

The course consists of the following modules:

1. Jewish Life in Eastern and Central Europe 7.5 credits
2. Jewish Migration before and after the Holocaust 7.5 credits.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and 1 compulsory seminar with preparatory reading for each module (2 compulsory seminars in total).

The possibility of compenatory assignment or an alternative time for a compulsory part is offered to students who, through no fault of their own, for example an accident, sudden illness or similar event, were unable to complete the compulsory part. This also applies to students who have missed classes due to duties of trust as a student representative.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed through one short written assignment and oral presentation, Module 2 is assessed through 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 modules, the student must have been awarded this grade for all assessed components. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the module, the student must have been awarded this grade for all assessed components.

For a grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on both modules. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade on both modules.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University,
- The course replaces YIDB05 Jewish history in Central and Eastern Europe, 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.
- Module titles in Swedish:

1. Judiskt liv i Öst- och Centraleuropa
2. Judisk migration före och efter Förintelsen