

YIDC13, Yiddish Women's Writing, 7.5 credits

Kvinnors skrivande på jiddisch, 7,5 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 2025-05-26 (U 2025/445). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-05-26 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

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

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, students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- identify key features of the Yiddish literary tradition as shaped by Jewish women writers, from earliest known figures to the present day,
- describe the historical, ideological, and religious contexts shaping Yiddish women's writing,
- give an account of the major themes and stylistic strategies in the works of selected Yiddish women writers,
- explain how gender, secularism, and cultural identity are expressed in Yiddish women's literature.

Competence and skills

- analyse Yiddish literary texts written by women using relevant theories from literary studies, feminism, and cultural history,
- critically assess the forms and functions of women's Yiddish writing in relation to socio-cultural settings and historical periods,
- compare and evaluate how different authors articulate aspects of Jewish identity, migration, trauma, and modernity,
- communicate analyses both orally and in written form, across various genres such as poetry, essays, novels and short stories.

Judgement and approach

- reflect on how women's voices in Yiddish literature challenge dominant narratives in Jewish and world literature,
- critically assess how aspects such as religion, gender, race, social class, age, and sexuality are represented in literary and theoretical discourses,
- evaluate the relevance and legacy of Yiddish women's writing in contemporary discussions on identity, memory, and literature.

Course content

This course provides an overview of the literary contributions of Jewish women writing in Yiddish from the beginnings of the tradition to the present. Through the study of short stories, poetry, memoirs, and intellectual reflections, students explore how gender, identity, tradition, and transformation are articulated in Yiddish literature across different historical and cultural contexts. The course will offer a selection of reading materials drawn from various contemporary anthologies, providing a broader context of understanding the diverse and often overlooked voices of women writing in Yiddish.

Special attention is given to the social, ideological, and cultural frameworks that shaped these writings, including traditional Jewish life, urban modernism, migration, the experience of war, and queer and feminist Jewish identities. Yiddish women's writing offer a lens for examining our own relationship to history, language loss, feminist resistance, and the search for belonging in an increasingly fragmented world.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars of which 6 are compulsory. The course includes 2 obligatory written assignments.

The opportunity to compensate for missed compulsory elements is offered to students who have been unable to participate in compulsory components due to circumstances out of their control such as accidents, illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed classes due to activities as an elected student representative.

Compensatory assignments take place according to teacher's instructions. There are otherwise no opportunities to compensate for compulsory components.

Assessment

Assessment is based on 1 independently written take-home examination and 1 oral presentation.

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 examining components. For a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all examining components.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered by the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- 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.