

YIDC14, Yiddish: Jewish Holidays and Tradition in Yiddish Literature, 15 credits

Jiddisch: Judiska högtider och judisk tradition i jiddischlitteraturen, 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 2026-06-08 (U 2026/360). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-08 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

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

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. Non-compulsory material in Yiddish may be included.

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

- identify and account for basic terminology of Jewish Studies, including key concepts and terms, with focus on Yiddish culture and literature,
- account for the central ideas and notions of the Jewish faith and religious practices,

- identify the holidays of the entire Jewish year as well as Jewish life cycle ceremonies (e.g., birth and wedding),

Competence and skills

- read and explain how themes of religion and tradition are addressed in Yiddish literature (in translation),
- interpret the connections between Judaism and Yiddish as intertwined expressions of Jewish religious and cultural life,
- distinguish between religious law (halacha) and tradition (minhag),
- contextualise the diverse elements that shape the identity of Swedish Jews today,
- analyse and reflect on religious expressions in society, with a certain degree of autonomy,
- execute basic searches for information on Yiddish studies and Jewish Studies in both physical and virtual libraries,

Judgement and approach

- critically evaluate approaches towards religion and expressions of religious identity within Jewish society in the modern period,
- differentiate between internal and external perspectives in the study of religion and Jewish culture,
- assess how Jewish identity intersects with factors such as gender, age, and class.

Course content

The course aims to offer a deeper understanding of Yiddish literature through guided reading of relevant prose and poetry, as well as an exploration of Jewish religious tradition. It explores how principles of Jewish religion are manifested in the personal and communal practices of Ashkenazi (Yiddish-speaking) Jews. Attention is given to the Jewish year (the cycle of festivals and holy days), life-cycle ceremonies, and the variety of attitudes toward religion within Jewish society in the modern period. The course also examines how these factors continue, to some extent, to shape the lives and identities of Swedish Jews today.

Course design

Teaching consists of 15 lecture/seminar meetings, usually with a reading assignment beforehand. Attendance in 12 meetings is mandatory. A visit to a synagogue will take place as one of the classes. A virtual alternative will be provided for long distance students.

The opportunity to compensate for compulsory components will be offered to students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control such as accidents, illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of duties as a student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on two smaller written assignments and a written exam. When the course is offered online, the written exam is monitored by a camera with the support of real time streaming.

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 the written exam as well as for one of the two written assignments.

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.