



Syllabus

Modern Yiddish Literature: An Introduction - 18114

Last update 07-09-2023

HU Credits: 2

Responsible Department: Yiddish

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yaad Biran

Coordinator Email: yaad.biran@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yaad Biran

Course/Module description:

The course is a short introduction to Yiddish culture, its literature and its meaning

in the modern world. The main organizing principle of this course is thematic-cultural and focuses on key issues that have shaped modern Yiddish culture. The timeline from the Middle Ages to the present is a secondary but important organizing principle in the course. We will focus on the central ideas at the heart of modern Yiddish culture and read their literary expressions - both as test cases and in a literary critical way.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

The course will provide tools for orientation in the new Yiddish culture, both as a first step to further research in this field, and as a general introduction in order to enrich studies dealing with adjacent areas of research in history, society and literature.

Attendance requirements(%):

full attendance

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, reading and discussion

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Linguistics as History and Ideology: A Summary of Yiddish History*
- 2. Yiddish and the Modern State: Maskilim, Hasidim and Mendele Moykher Sforim*
- 3. Mass Media: Yiddish Press and Shund Literature*
- 4. Two roads to Modernity: Y.L. Peretz and Sholem Aleichem*
- 5. Dos shtetel: The mold of our native landscape*
- 6. Yiddish in prime time: Theater and Cinema*
- 7. Keyn Ein-Hore: The Importance of Folklore*
- 8. Yiddish Fun Yiddishland: Diasporic Nationalism*
- 9. Folks-shprakh: Socialism in Yiddish*
- 10. Yiddish and the big city*
- 11. Af tsu lakhes: Modernism in Yiddish*
- 12. Part and Parcel of Yiddishland: Yiddish in the Land of Israel*
- 13. Thoughts on the future of Yiddish*

Required Reading:

See Hebrew

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

- Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %*
- Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %*
- Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 20 %*
- Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %*

Additional information: