



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Modern Yiddish Literature: An Introduction - 18114

Last update 10-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

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. Yiddish: History and linguistics
2. Old Yiddish texts & Yiddish by the Maskilim
3. Mendele Moykher Sforim
4. Yiddish theater
5. Sholem Aleykhem
6. Yiddish newspapers
7. Y.L. Perets
8. Yiddish and diasporic nationalism
9. Yiddish and folklore
10. Yiddish as a national language
11. Yiddish folklore in the works of Itsik Manger
12. Modernistic poetry in Yiddish
13. Yiddish in Erets Yisroel

Required Reading:

See Hebrew

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 40 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports
/ Forum / Simulation / others 40 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: