

# Yiddish (YIDDISH)

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## Courses

### YIDDISH 101 Elementary Yiddish 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

In this beginners' course students will learn to speak, read, and write Yiddish. Following the communicative method, students will focus in class on oral communication by playing out short dialogues. Grammar will be taught inductively, based on examples that have already become familiar. The course will offer an introduction to Yiddish culture through a variety of songs, stories, film clips, and other illustrations. By the end of the semester, students should be able to express themselves with some sophistication about a variety of topics in the present tense and also understand the past tense.

#### Objectives & Outcomes

**Course Objectives:** This course will teach Yiddish in the context of modern Yiddish culture. Students will learn the vocabulary and grammar necessary to communicate about several important topics (studies, family, living situation etc.). By the end of this course, students will be able to:

interact with native speakers and discuss familiar topics;  
 write in simple language about familiar topics;  
 read and understand simple texts about familiar topics;  
 read and understand more complex authentic texts using context and reading strategies.  
 Students are expected to participate actively both in class and separately when working on group assignments.

#### Rules & Requirements

**Credit Restrictions:** Students will receive no credit for YIDDISH 101 after completing YIDDISH 1.

#### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

#### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

### YIDDISH 101A Elementary Yiddish 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

In this beginners' course students will learn to speak, read, and write Yiddish, the original language of East European Jews. Using the communicative method and the new textbook *In Eynem*, students will focus in class on speaking by playing out short dialogues. Grammar will be taught inductively, through examples. The course will introduce Yiddish culture through a variety of songs, stories, film clips, and illustrations.

#### Objectives & Outcomes

**Course Objectives:** This course will teach Yiddish in the context of modern Yiddish culture. Students will learn the vocabulary and grammar necessary to communicate about several important topics (studies, family, living situation etc.). By the end of this course, students will be able to:

interact with native speakers and discuss familiar topics  
 write in simple language about familiar topics  
 read and understand simple texts about familiar topics  
 read and understand more complex authentic texts using context and reading strategies.  
 Students are expected to participate actively both in class and separately when working on group assignments.

#### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

#### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

## YIDDISH 102 Elementary Yiddish (Yiddish 2) 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

In this continuation of the beginners' course, students will improve their speaking, reading, and writing in Yiddish. The class will apply the communicative method and continue to use the textbook *In Eynem* (2020). Students will focus in class on speaking and playing out short dialogues, while homework will be devoted to writing and reading. Grammar will be taught inductively, through examples. The course will present Yiddish culture through a variety of songs, stories, film clips, and illustrations.

### Objectives & Outcomes

**Course Objectives:** This course will teach Yiddish in the context of modern Yiddish culture. Students will learn the vocabulary and grammar necessary to communicate about new topics (studies, family, living situation etc.). By the end of this course, students will be able to: interact with native speakers and discuss familiar topics speak about the past, present, and future write in simple language about familiar topics read and understand simple texts about familiar topics read and understand more complex authentic texts using context and reading strategies. Students are expected to participate actively both in class and separately when working on group assignments.

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** Yiddish 101 or equivalent

**Credit Restrictions:** Students will receive no credit for Yiddish 102 after passing Yiddish 2.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

## YIDDISH 102A Elementary Yiddish 2 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

This course is a second-part introduction to the language that has been spoken by Ashkenazic Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover the rich world of Yiddish language and culture through literature, music, folklore, television, blogs, and even memes. Using the communicative approach, we will learn how to speak, read, listen, write, and think critically about the worlds of Yiddish past and present.

### Objectives & Outcomes

#### Course Objectives: •

Participate in conversations using basic grammatical forms and vocabulary

- Read simple texts with ease (print and cursive)
- Write short compositions about a variety of topics

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

## YIDDISH 103 History of Yiddish Culture in English 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2022

This course will trace the development of Yiddish culture from the first settlement of Jews in German lands through centuries of life in Eastern Europe, down to the main cultural centers today in Israel and America. The course will examine how changes in Jewish life have found expression in the Yiddish language. It will provide an introduction to Yiddish literature in English translation, supplemented by excursions into Yiddish music, folklore, theater, and film.

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** 102 or equivalent, or consent of instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

## YIDDISH 104 History of Yiddish Civilization 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024

This course will trace the development of Yiddish civilization down to today from the first settlement of Jews in German lands, roughly a thousand years ago. At its peak, Yiddish was spoken over a larger European territory than any language except Russian. In fact, long before Yiddish culture came to be centered in Eastern Europe, many of the best works of Old Yiddish literature were written in Renaissance Italy. Because Jews were a highly mobile population in contact with many different peoples, Yiddish was everywhere influenced by neighboring languages and became the prototypical fusion language.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required, with common exam group.

## YIDDISH 105 Between Tradition and Modernity: Isaac Bashevis Singer 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course will trace the literary journey of Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904-1993)—the only Yiddish writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature—from the small Polish village where he was born to the Upper West Side of Manhattan. For his American readers Singer represented a bridge between the Old World and the New, between religious tradition and American modernity. He seemed like a kindly old grandfather, telling jokes and feeding the pigeons on Broadway. But Singer was a controversial figure in the Yiddish literary world: critics considered him a sellout for winning commercial success with stories about sex, immorality, and the supernatural.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

## YIDDISH 106 History of Yiddish Cinema 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course will trace the history of Yiddish cinema from its "golden era" before World War II down to today. Jews famously played a big role in the development of modern cinema, especially as Hollywood producers and studio moguls. But although many of these moguls knew Yiddish and were themselves immigrants, they were not anxious to make Jewish films at a time of increasing anti-Semitism. During Hollywood's Golden Age, Yiddish films were not made by the major studios, but independently, mainly in New Many York and Poland. The Yiddish film industry was closely linked to the world of Yiddish theater, which was enormously popular on New York's Lower East Side.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

## YIDDISH 107 Special Topics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

Topics will vary from semester to semester. See departmental announcement for offerings. Additional screening time may be required for film topics.

### Rules & Requirements

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Yiddish/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.