

Yiddish (YIDDISH)

Courses

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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.

Elementary Yiddish: Read More [+]

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.

Elementary Yiddish: Read Less [-]

YIDDISH 101A Elementary Yiddish 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

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.

Elementary Yiddish: Read More [+]

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.

Elementary Yiddish: Read Less [-]

YIDDISH 102 Intermediate Yiddish 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Further intensive study of Yiddish, building on the foundation established in 101. Advanced grammar and introduction to the reading of original texts.

Intermediate Yiddish: Read More [+]

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.

Intermediate Yiddish: Read Less [-]

YIDDISH 103 History of Yiddish Culture in English 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

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.

History of Yiddish Culture in English: [Read More](#) [+]

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.

History of Yiddish Culture in English: [Read Less](#) [-]

YIDDISH 104 History of Yiddish Civilization 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

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.

History of Yiddish Civilization: [Read More](#) [+]

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.

History of Yiddish Civilization: [Read Less](#) [-]

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

Terms offered: Not yet offered

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.

Between Tradition and Modernity: Isaac Bashevis Singer: [Read More](#) [+]

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.

Between Tradition and Modernity: Isaac Bashevis Singer: [Read Less](#) [-]

YIDDISH 106 History of Yiddish Cinema 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

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 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.

History of Yiddish Cinema: [Read More](#) [+]

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.

History of Yiddish Cinema: [Read Less](#) [-]