Yiddish

MINOR PROGRAM IN YIDDISH STUDIES

Students in any field may complete a minor in Yiddish Studies. A combination of six language and literature/culture courses is required for the minor, which should be designed in consultation with the program coordinator, Jessica Kirzane, jkirzane@uchicago.edu.

Six courses are required for the minor, typically:

- YDDH 10100-10200-10300 Elementary Yiddish for Beginners I-II-III
- Three additional courses, which may include:
  - YDDH 20100 Intermediate Yiddish I and YDDH 20200 Intermediate Yiddish II: Archival Skills
  - YDDH 21001 Advanced Yiddish I: Yiddish One-Acts
  - YDDH 22321 Advanced Seminar in Yiddish: Lamed Shapiro
  - YDDH 23421 Advanced Seminar in Yiddish: Representations of Race and Racism
  - Yiddish literature/culture courses

Students who elect the minor program in Yiddish Studies must meet with the program administrator before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor and must submit the Consent to Complete a Minor Program form (https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/Consent_Minor_Program.pdf) to their College adviser.

Courses in the minor may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS: MINOR IN YIDDISH STUDIES

Six courses are required for the minor, typically:

YDDH 10100-10200-10300 Elementary Yiddish for Beginners I-II-III 300
Three additional Yiddish courses 300
Total Units 600

YIDDISH COURSES

YDDH 10100-10200-10300. Elementary Yiddish for Beginners I-II-III.
The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in Yiddish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Touchstones of global Yiddish culture are also introduced through song, film, and contemporary Yiddish websites.

YDDH 10100. Elementary Yiddish I. 100 Units.
The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in Yiddish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Touchstones of global Yiddish culture are also introduced through song, film, and contemporary Yiddish websites.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 20300

YDDH 10200. Elementary Yiddish for Beginners-II. 100 Units.
In this course, students will extend basic Yiddish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of regional Yiddish variations in pronunciation and spelling, be able to understand and participate in a conversation in an increasingly comfortable and complex way, read simple texts with ease, have experience tackling more complex texts with the aid of a dictionary, and write short compositions with grammatical complexity. In the course of language study, students will also be exposed to key topics in the history of the Yiddish language and culture.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): YDDH 10100
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 37400, JWSC 20400

YDDH 10300. Elementary Yiddish III. 100 Units.
In this course, students will acquire intermediate Yiddish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the course, students should be able to conduct a conversation on a wide range of topics, be comfortable tackling complex texts with the aid of a dictionary, and write short compositions with grammatical complexity. In the course of language study, students will also be exposed to key topics in the history of the Yiddish language and culture. Students will also be introduced to basic Yiddish research skills.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 20500, YDDH 37500
YDDH 21002. Advanced Yiddish II: Woman Writing Yiddish. 100 Units.
In this course, we will read from a variety of writing by women - memoirs, prose fiction, and poetry. We will discuss how their gender (and the way they were received as women within the literary marketplace) may have influenced their writing, and will talk about contemporary acts of literary recovery and reinterpretation of their work. Authors in this syllabus include: Kadya Molodovsky, Salomea Perl, Esther Kreitman, Shira Gorshman, and Miriam Karpilove, among others. This class is conducted in Yiddish, and all readings will be distributed in Yiddish. Students must have completed two quarters of Intermediate Yiddish or seek permission from the instructor to enroll.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27611, YDDH 31002

YDDH 22321. Advanced Seminar in Yiddish: Lamed Shapiro. 100 Units.
Description: In this course we will read, discuss, and write about the poetry and prose of Yiddish writer L. (Leyvi-Shiye, Lamed) Shapiro (1878-1948), including “Zelbshtuts” (Self-defense), “Der tseylem” (The Cross), “Roykh” (Smoke), “Vayse khale,” (White Challah) and “Nyuyorkish” (NewYorkish), “Der shrayber geyt in kheyder” (The Writer Goes to School) and “Di yidishe melukhe” (The Jewish State). We will also read critics' responses (in Yiddish) to his work. This is a seminar-style course for students with an advanced level of Yiddish. Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27613, YDDH 32321

YDDH 23421. Advanced Seminar in Yiddish: Representations of Race and Racism. 100 Units.
Description: In this course we will read a variety of Yiddish language material addressing or depicting race and racism. The course material will include essays, textbooks, children's literature, prose, and poetry. This is a seminar-style course for students with an advanced level of Yiddish. Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 33421, JWSC 27614