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 are 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

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<th>Six courses are required for the minor, typically:</th>
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<td>YDDH 10100-10200-10300 Elementary Yiddish for Beginners I-II-III</td>
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<td>Three additional Yiddish courses</td>
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<td>Total Units</td>
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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.
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.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 20400, YDDH 37400

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 20100. Intermediate Yiddish I. 100 Units.
This course offers students the opportunity to study the Yiddish language at the intermediate level. It reviews and extents students' knowledge of the grammar of the Yiddish language, enhances vocabulary, and includes
literary and cultural readings. Designed to further develop listening, speaking, reading comprehension, and writing skills. 
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27301

**YDDH 20101. Intermediate Yiddish: The Yiddish Press. 100 Units.**
This sequence combines an intensive review of grammar with the acquisition of complex grammatical concepts. Specific attention is paid to regional variants in grammar and orthography. Students develop their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills by focusing their attention on the literature and history of the Yiddish press and radio.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27502, YDDH 30101

**YDDH 20200. Intermediate Yiddish II: Archival Skills. 100 Units.**
This course offers students the opportunity to study the Yiddish language at the intermediate level. The focus of this course is learning to navigate and study from a variety of archival materials including newspapers, music archives, and historical texts. The course is designed to further develop listening, speaking, reading comprehension, and writing skills and to give students tools to continue Yiddish reading and research independently.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27401, YDDH 39600

**YDDH 21000. Advanced Yiddish I: Readings in Yiddish Literature. 100 Units.**
In this class, students will be exposed to essays, short stories, poetry and other writings by some of the great Yiddish writers of the twentieth century, including Abraham Reisin, Bella Chagall, Abraham Sutzkever, Esther Kreitman, and Dovid Bergelson. Students will write critical essays and creative responses, listen to excerpts read aloud, participate in discussions and debates. This course will be conducted entirely in Yiddish.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 31000, JWSC 27610

**YDDH 21001. Advanced Yiddish I: Yiddish One-Acts. 100 Units.**
In this course, students will build fluency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the Yiddish language through seminar-style conversations and performative read-alouds of works of Yiddish literature. The theme for this course will be short, one-act theatrical pieces and dialogue/centered sketches. Prerequisite: Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 31001, JWSC 27612

**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 Gorsman, 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.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27611, YDDH 31002

**YDDH 21023. Translating Yiddish Literature. 100 Units.**
This course will primarily be a workshop for sharing, revising and refining our own translations-in-progress from Yiddish literature. Drawing from a corpus of Yiddish texts written in or about Chicago, we will explore and translate within a variety of genres. Each week, in addition to our continuing work on translation projects, we will study the work of translation. This will include comparing different English translations of Yiddish literary texts, as well as examining Yiddish translations of English texts, to discuss how translators make decisions and the impact those decisions have on the resulting text; reading (in English) and discussing (in Yiddish) major theoretical texts about translation studies; and examining Yiddish language texts about translation. All of this study will inform our own translations. At the end of the term, the class will create profile of polished translations of Chicago Yiddish writing, together with translators’ introductions, which (with the permission of the students) may be distributed to future courses on Chicago Jewish history and culture.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 21023

**YDDH 21101. Advanced Yiddish: The Yiddish Press. 100 Units.**
This course supports students as they engage advanced grammatical concepts. Specific attention is paid to reading and writing at an advanced level and in different registers. Students develop these skills by focusing their attention on the literature and history of the Yiddish press. Students also pursue independent research projects on international Yiddish media outlets.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 31101, JWSC 27602

**YDDH 21721. Women Who Wrote In Yiddish. 100 Units.**
This course explores memoirs, plays, essays, poetry, novels, and journalistic writing of women who wrote in Yiddish, as well as a discussion of the context in which they wrote and their reception and self-perception as “women writers.” Among the writers whose work may be represented in this course are Glikl, Yente Mash, Kadya Molodowsky, Chava Rosenfarb, Yente Serdatsky, Rosa Pailatnik, Anna Margolin, Celia Dropkin, Rochl Korn, Beyle Shaechter-Gottesman, Gitl Shaechter-Viswanath, Bella Chagall, Blume Lempel, Esther Kreitman, Debora Vogel, Rochl Brokhes, Sarah Hamer-Jacklyn, Malka Lee, Ida Maze, Roselle Weprinski, Miriam Karpilove, Zina Rabinovitz, Rochl Szabad, Rochl Fayngbnberg, Paula Prilutsky, Shira Gorsman, Esther
Shumiatsher-Hirshbein and Freydi Shtok. Many of these writers have been underexamined in the history of Yiddish literary studies and this course will bring renewed attention to their work. This course will be taught in English with readings translated from Yiddish.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 31721, GNSE 21721, YDDH 31721, JWSC 27651

YDDH 21723. Jewish Civilization III: Chicago Jewish History and Culture. 100 Units.
In this course, students will explore key moments in Chicago Jewish History and culture. We will read and examine primary source documents from the founding of the city’s first Jewish communities, hospitals, and philanthropic institutions to the public performance of Jewish identity at Chicago’s World’s Fairs to the 2020 Metropolitan Chicago Jewish Population Survey. Drawing upon literary, journalistic, and archival accounts, we will uncover the vibrancy of Chicago’s historic Jewish immigrant neighborhoods, Jewish urban politics, and Jewish suburbanization, mapping out a multivocal understanding of Jewish life in the city. The course will have a research project component.
Equivalent Course(s): CHST 21723, JWSC 12007

YDDH 21724. Jewish Civilization III - Mothers and Motherhood in Modern Jewish Culture. 100 Units.
Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Spring course in 2022 will focus on mothers and motherhood in modern Jewish culture. From sentimentalized keepers of Jewish tradition to objects of ridicule burdened by stereotypes of overbearing, guilt-inducing behavior, Jewish mothers hold a prominent role in Jewish self-representations. Writing alongside or against these stereotypes, Jewish mothers themselves have struggled with the obligations and expectations of Jewish motherhood. Engaging with a variety of literary, theological, historical, and pop culture texts, this class explores Jewish feminisms in relation to motherhood, Jewish fictions of motherhood, and the role of motherhood in Jewish religious life and thought. This course includes material from a variety of different contexts for modern Jewish life, but places particular emphasis on American Jewish history and culture.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 16004, RLST 22013, JWSC 12004

YDDH 22000. Yiddish Literature in America. 100 Units.
This course examines a wide range of Yiddish literary production in America. We will read poetry and prose from authors such as Sholem Aleichem, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Yenta Serdatsky, Morris Rosenfeld, I. J. Schwartz, Moyshe Leyb Halперн, Celia Dropkin, Lamed Shapiro, Joseph Opatoshu, Fradl Shtok, Jacob Glatztein, and Blume Lempel. We will explore themes of displacement, intergenerational conflict, race, and gender. Readings are in English translation.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 32000, JWSC 27650

YDDH 22231. 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. (Levi-Shiye, Lamed) Shapiro (1878-1948), including "Zelbstshuts" (Self-defense), "Der tseylen" (The Cross), "Roykh" (Smoke), "Vayse khale," (White Challah) and "Nyuyorkish" (New Yorkish), "Der shrayber geyt in khveyder" (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.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27613, YDDH 32321

YDDH 22323. Advanced Yiddish: Shikage literarisher khoydesh zshurnal. 100 Units.
In this course we will make our way through issues of Shikage literarisher khoydesh zshurnal, the monthly organ of Yiddish Chicago of the 1930s. Each class we will examine a different piece - poetry, prose, essay, etc. as well as exploring its historical context and drawing out linguistic nuances from the literature we read. Students will be expected to compose weekly response papers in Yiddish discussing the items they read in the journal.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 32323, JWSC 27652

YDDH 23333. Yiddish for Reading and Research. 100 Units.
This course provides an introduction to the components of Yiddish grammar necessary for reading Yiddish texts. Student will learn dictionary skills, be introduced to various Yiddish orthographies, and explore major academic articles critical for researchers working with Yiddish texts.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 33333

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.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27614, YDDH 33421
YDDH 25002. Gender and the Body in Yiddish Literature. 100 Units.
Sing critical theory as a lens into the world of Yiddish writing, we will encounter medieval troubadours and healers, spirit possession, feminist performance art, and more. With an emphasis on poetry, the syllabus begins with some of the earliest known Yiddish verse (c. 1382) and concludes with the 20th-century avant-garde. Literary authors include Peretz Markish, Meyshe Kulbak, and Dvoyre Fogel. Theoretical and historical studies include the work of Eve Sedgwick, Mel Chen, and Alexis Pauline Gumbs. No prior knowledge of Yiddish is required for enrollment. All course literature for the seminar will be available in English translation. An additional weekly session will meet to read Yiddish texts in the original.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 25011, YDDH 35002, CMLT 25002, JWSC 24310, CMLT 35002

YDDH 25116. Yiddish Literature Between the World Wars. 100 Units.
This course provides an introduction to the major authors, themes, and literary styles of Yiddish prose between the two World Wars. In the wake of WWI—"The Catastrophe" as it was known in Yiddish—writers tried to make sense of the new cultural, linguistic and political landscapes with which they were met. The result is a body of texts in which discharged soldiers, urban migrants, struggling poets, committed communists and dissolving rabbinical dynasties compete for power and attention. We will examine these issues in texts produced in the shifting centers of Yiddish modernism: Moscow, Berlin, Warsaw and New York. We begin with Sholem Aleichem's "Tevye the Dairyman", published as the First World War was coming to an end and we conclude with a novel by Yankev Glatshteyn, published only months after the German invasion of Poland. This discussion-based course will presume no previous knowledge of Yiddish literature or language. Taught in English. Yiddish readers will meet for an additional weekly session.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 25116, GRMN 35116, YDDH 35116, GRMN 25116

YDDH 25524. Advanced Yiddish: Miriam Karpilove. 100 Units.
In this course, we will examine the Yiddish reportage, humor writing, short stories, and novels of pioneering popular Yiddish writer Miriam Karpilove in the context of labor politics, gender politics, literary realism, and the middelbrow. We will consider Karpilove's narrative strategies, ask questions about narratorial perspective, use of irony and pedagogical sense of judgement in Karpilove's work - published fiction and nonfiction as well as personal correspondence. Students will read Karpilove's published writing in newspapers and books and also be challenged to read some of Karpilove's work in handwritten manuscript form. The course will be conducted as a literature seminar, and students will be asked to produce three short analytical papers in Yiddish over the course of the quarter.
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 27653, YDDH 35524

YDDH 29700. Independent Reading: Yiddish. 100 Units.
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and Director of Undergraduate Studies Students must consult with the instructor by the eighth week of the preceding quarter to determine the subject of the course and the work to be done. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.