

ASSOC. PROF. DR. FELICIA WALDMAN
CENTER FOR HEBREW STUDIES
FACULTY OF LETTERS
UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST
MA PROGRAM IN HEBREW CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

SYLLABUS

Course name	YIDDISH LITERATURE					CODE	
Year	1	Semester	2	Type of evaluation (E / T / C)			E
Category of the subject matter FD-fundamental, GD-general, SD-specialty, ED-ecomonic/managerial, HD-humanities							SD
Regime of the subject matter Md-mandatory, Op-optional, F- facultative				Md	Number of credits		4
Number of teaching hours		28	Number of hours of individual study (reading of course notes & bibliography, internet research, film watching, etc.)		115	Total number of hours per semester	143
Teaching staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Felicia Waldman						

Objectives	<p>The course introduces students to the major themes of Yiddish literature, their characteristics and their evolution, as well as to several of its most relevant authors. It covers various literary genres, from novels and short stories to non-fiction, film scripts and poetry, and ranges from the dramatic to the comic. The course includes a special study case of the Yiddish theatre tradition in Romania and worldwide, considering that the first professional Yiddish theatre troupe was set up in Iasi in 1876.</p> <p>By the end of the course the students should be able to use their analytical and comparative skills to set Yiddish literary works in context, categorize them according to their genre, theme and period and analyze them from the literary viewpoint as well as from the point of view of their relevance to the field of Israel and Jewish studies.</p>
Contents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergence of Yiddish and the Askenazi culture in Eastern Europe (history, geographic area, structural evolution) 2. Major themes of Yiddish literature (prose, poetry, drama) and their connection to the historical events that marked its age of glory 3. Scholem Asch. General presentation of his work in the context of his time 4. Text analysis: The Old Testament Trilogy (Mary, The Nazarene, The Apostle) 5. Shalom Alechem. General presentation of his work in the context of his time 6. Text analysis: Lucky Me, I Am An Orphan and The Adventures of Menahem Mendel 7. Text analysis: Tevie the Dairyman / Fiddler on the roof 8. Isaac Bashevis-Singer. General presentation of his work in the context of his time 9. Text analysis: The Manor and The Estate 10. Text analysis: Enemies: A love story 11. S. Ansky. General presentation of his work in the context of his time. Text analysis: Dybbuk 12. I. L. Peretz. General presentation of his work in the context of his time. Text analysis: Hassidic tales 13. Poetry: Itzik Manger; Presentation of his work; Text analysis: The World According to Itzik: Selected Poetry and Prose

Bibliography	<p>Minimal course reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scholem Asch, Maria, Lider, 2009 2. Scholem Asch, Nazarineanu, Lider, 2009 3. Scholem Asch, Apostolul, Lider, 2009 4. Shalom Alechem, Romanul unui om de afaceri si Halal de mine sunt orfan, Minerva, 1970 5. Shalom Alechem, Tevye the Dairyman, Pangloss Press, 1994 6. Isaac Bashevis Singer, Conacul, Hasefer, 2005 7. Isaac Bashevis Singer, Urmasii, Hasefer, 2005 8. Isaac Bashevis Singer, Dismance, Hasefer, 2002 9. S. Ansky, The Dybbuk and Other Writings, Yale University Press, 2002 10. I. L. Peretz, Un batrin copac a ris, Hasefer, 1996 11. Itzik Manger, The World According to Itzik: Selected Poetry and Prose, Yale University Press, 2002 12. Israil Bercovici, O suta de ani de teatru evreiesc in Romania, Kriterion, 1982 <p>Background materials:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sh. Anski & Jacob Sonntag (1964) The Trial, Jewish Quarterly, 12:1, 21-23 2. Seth Wolitz (ed.), The Hidden Isaac Bashevis Singer, University of Texas Press, 2001 3. Sol Liptzin, A History of Yiddish Literature, Middle Village, N.Y., 1985 4. Ruth Wisse, I. L. Peretz and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture, Seattle, 1991 <p>Supplementary reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shalom Alechem, Poveste de dragoste, All, 2012 2. Isaac Bashevis Singer, Ghimpl Netotul si alte povestiri, Cartea Romaneasca, 1990 3. Itzik Manger, Jurnal din paradis: minunatele aventuri ale lui Shmuel Abe Abervo, Symposion, 1993 4. Itzik Manger, Cartea raiului, Kiretrion, Bucuresti, 1978
List of necessary didactic materials	<p>The books included in the bibliography</p> <p>Films related to the bibliography: Fiddler on the Roof, Enemies: A Love Story, Dybbuk http://www.itzikmanger.com/index1.html</p> <p>Bio- and biblio-graphic references on the authors</p> <p>Reviews of the books and films in the bibliography</p>
Assignments	<p>Students must read all works in the minimal bibliography. For higher grades reading of the supplementary bibliography is required. Each student shall present one work from the minimal list in class, followed by debates. All students are expected to participate in the debates.</p> <p>Students are additionally required to write 3 short (1-2 page) response papers to the presentations of classmates.</p> <p>Films require pre-class watching for presentation. Arrangements will be made to watch the films in class as well, in view of the debates.</p>

Requirements	Percentage in the final grade
- final exam (paper on a course topic, book or writer)	50%
- presentation/review of a literary work in front of classmates	20%
- active participation in class debates	15%
- 3 short (1-2 page) response papers to the presentations of classmates	15%

Minimal requirements for grade 5 (passing grade)	Requirements for grade 10 (maximum)
Attendance of 8 (out of 14) course meetings Active participation in 5 class debates Reading of the minimal bibliography 5 page final paper touching on a course topic	Attendance of 12 (out of 14) courses Active participation in 10 class debates Reading of supplementary bibliography 10 page final paper