

Hebrew and Yiddish Subdivision

The Hebrew and Yiddish subdivision offers a PhD program in Jewish Languages and Literatures. The program offers a philological, historical, and critical approach to Yiddish and Hebrew literatures.

Courses and Seminars:

The program requires that all students take at least four graduate seminars (or their equivalent) within the section of Hebrew and Yiddish in the department of Modern Languages and Literatures. In addition, students are required to take at least four Jewish Studies courses offered in other departments (e.g. History, Near Eastern Studies). By the end of their second year, students will have completed 12 seminars for credit. If needed, students will continue to enroll in advanced language courses.

ABD Requirements:

Qualifying Paper and Prospectus

All students must submit one qualifying paper and a brief dissertation prospectus to both their advisor and DUS. The qualifying paper should be article-length (no more than 8000 words) and suitable for publication in a leading journal in the relevant field. It will be developed and written under the guidance of the student's primary advisor. Two faculty members will determine whether it is of sufficient quality to fulfill the requirement. The dissertation prospectus should be 5-8 pages long, offer a statement of the problem to be addressed and a rationale for its importance, situate the dissertation within existing scholarship, and provide a brief sketch of the chapters as well as a first bibliography.

Comprehensive Reading Exam

By the end of their second semester, students will have developed together with their advisor a reading list to prepare for their Comprehensive Reading Exam which will take place at the end of their sixth semester. The list will be comprised of approximately 30-50 works, mostly primary sources in the target language (either Hebrew or Yiddish, selected by agreement with the Director of Graduate Studies and the student's primary advisor). 10-20 of the works will consist of significant secondary or theoretical works. The works should fall under two categories, devised and defined by the student in consultation with their primary advisor. These categories can relate to conceptual matters, period, genre, form, and so on.

The student will be given several questions in each category. The student will select one question from each category and address them in two written essays of 10-20 pages each over a period of 3 days.

Both essays will be read and assessed by two members of faculty from MLL, including the student's primary advisor. An oral exam will be held at least 1 week after the submission of the written essays. This will be a 1-2 hours discussion with both readers present, in

which the student will be asked to expand on points raised in the essays, to address faults identified in them, and to extend the analysis to other works and concepts.

The examiners will assess the student's essays and performance in the oral exam before determining the result. The examiners will pass the student if a high degree of familiarity with and mastery of the sources is demonstrated, together with an ability to marshal the sources in a way that connects directly with the framework devised by the student. Students will be offered one opportunity to retake the exam should they fail. Failing in the oral exam does not require repeating the written exam, unless specified by the examiners. The format of the retake exam will be the same as the first exam, but the questions presented to the student might be different.

Dissertation Requirements

See pages 17-18 in the Modern Languages Graduate Student handbook.

Doctoral Oral Exam (Dissertation Defense)

Aligning with the [Krieger School of Arts and Sciences guidelines](#), the doctoral oral exam committee will include 5 members: 3 internal and 2 external to the program. The committee will be formed when the student is expected to complete the degree requirements. The list of committee members is presented to the Graduate Board for approval at least four weeks prior to the date for the defense.

The examination committee will be approved by the chair of the department and forwarded to the Graduate Board Office for approval and selection of the chair of the committee. Second readers, even those outside the subdivision or from other departments or universities, must serve as inside committee members. The advisor and second reader will provide the students with their thesis evaluation and comments at least 4 weeks before the exam. The main advisor of the student will provide the committee members an evaluation of the student's thesis along with an electronic copy of the thesis at least 2 weeks before the thesis exam. Documentation will be produced per school policy following the oral final exam by the chair of the committee.

Required Graduate Practicum Courses

In addition to courses that are required by the program, each incoming student of the department of Modern Languages and Literatures must enroll in the Fall and Spring Graduate Practicum courses during the first year of study. These will consist of 12 sessions over an academic year, with one 2-hour session meeting approximately every other week.

Examples of Practicum courses:

Mapping the Scholarly Landscape (Fall semester, AS.211.666)

1. The Value of Information
2. Exploring the Literary Landscape
3. Understanding the Research Process

4. Authority in Context
5. The Information Creation Process
6. Conversation – Collaboration

Research Skills and Tools for Professional Development (Spring semester, AS.211.667)

1. Preparing a syllabus, marketing your classes (DTF, Summer, Intersession) [with the participation of successful DTF/Intersession instructors] Options for online teaching
2. Writing a conference paper abstract; conference presentations
3. Organizing a conference/symposium [led by advanced grad students]
4. How to get published (what, when, where)
5. Academic review writing
6. Options for fellowships/grants/career development.

Five-year schedule

First Year: An entering graduate student will be tested for linguistic proficiency in Hebrew or Yiddish and may be required to register for advanced Yiddish or Hebrew as determined by the respective Language Program Director. This course will not count toward the 12 seminars required for the PhD. Students will take a minimum of five courses for credit; the student’s advisor must approve all courses. By the end of the first year, students will develop a reading list with their advisor for their Comprehensive Reading Exam.

Second Year: By the end of the 4th semester of graduate study, the student should have completed 12 courses. In some cases (e.g., students who need to take an advanced language course), it will be possible to complete coursework in the 5th semester; exceptions must be approved by the student’s advisor. By the end of the second year, the student should have chosen a major field (i.e. either Hebrew or Yiddish) and a dissertation topic. In addition, by the end of the second year, the student should complete at least 25% of the reading list and submit the list of titles they have completed to their advisor.

Third Year: By the end of their fifth semester in the program, the student is expected to submit the qualifying paper. By the end of the sixth semester of the degree, the student is expected to submit the prospectus and to take the Comprehensive Reading Exam.

Fourth Year: The student will typically spend the fourth year abroad, free from teaching obligations and engaged in dissertation research.

Fifth Year: The fifth year will be devoted to the writing of the dissertation.

Program Component	Credit Hours and Schedule
Twelve courses: At least: 4 MLL Graduate seminars and 4 Jewish Studies courses	36 To be completed by the end of the fourth semester
Two semesters of graduate practicum	6

	To be completed by the end of the fourth semester
Qualifying paper	6 To be submitted by the end of the fifth semester
Prospectus	6 To be submitted by the end of the sixth semester
Comprehensive reading exam	6 To be taken by the end of the sixth semester
Dissertation	12 To be completed by the end of the tenth semester
Doctoral Oral Exam	6 To be taken at the end of the tenth semester
<u>Credit total</u>	78

Advising Meetings: In the first 4 semesters, students will meet with their advisor once a month in addition to a planning meeting before the beginning of each semester and a meeting in March for the review process. Beginning in their fifth semester, students will meet with their advisor twice a month during the academic year (if the student is doing Study Abroad during the Fourth year, meetings will be held via Zoom if needed). The advisors will keep track of the student's progress and will fill in a progress form (see attached). Students are asked to fill in a feedback form (see attached) after each meeting. Students are also encouraged to talk with the DGS if they feel their advising needs are not met.

Summer Funding

Competitive summer funding is available through the Stulman Program in Jewish Studies. See: <https://krieger.jhu.edu/jewishstudies/research-opportunities/>