

SLAV-P 363 / SLAV-P 563

Survey of Polish Literature and Culture I: From the Middle Ages to 1900 (in translation)

Spring 2008

Prof. Justyna Beinek

Mondays and Wednesdays 4-5:15 pm (Ballantine Hall 247)



This course traces the main developments in the history of Polish literature and culture before 1900 in the context of Western and East European/Slavic traditions, with a particular focus on the interdependence of history, politics, literature, and the arts. Topics of interest: Is there a set of *topoi* and themes with which Polish literature is concerned across ages? What genres dominate the Polish literary tradition? What connections are there between European/Russian and Polish literature and culture?

Readings from a variety of sources: 13-14th-century religious hymns, Renaissance epigrams and funerary poetry, Baroque poetry, Enlightenment fables and the first Polish novel, Romantic lyrics, epic poems, and drama, Positivist novels. Readings supplemented by feature films such as *Pan Tadeusz* and *With Fire and Sword*. All texts in English; students with a good reading knowledge of Polish may read in the original Polish.