

Slav-P365/565 TOPICS IN POLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE:

POST-COMMUNIST POLISH CULTURE (1989-PRESENT)

Prof. Justyna Beinek

SPRING 2008: LAST 8 WEEKS' COURSE

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-6 pm
Ballantine Hall 215**



Photos: Katarzyna Kozyra

In the post-communist period (1989-present), Polish culture has undergone profound changes due to the introduction of democracy and development of civil society; the rise of capitalism and switch to market economy; the accession to the European Union in 2004; the erasure of communist censorship; the influx of Western aesthetic and social ideas. In this course we will discuss how these changes have influenced culture: literature, film, visual arts, theater, music, mass media, and the culture of everyday life.

Prose writers: Chwin, Tulli, Tokarczuk, Maslowska, Stasiuk. Poets: Milosz, Szymborska, Rozewicz, Herbert, Zagajewski, Rozycki, Swietlicki. Films by Kieslowski, Holland, Kolski, Trzaskalski, Fabicki. Visual artists: Kozyra, Libera, Rajkowska, Kulik, Nowosielski, Tarasewicz.

Issues: Is there a link between contemporary culture and Polish historical heritage? What are the new topics and forms of expression? What accounts for the popularity of today's dominant cultural trends? How does contemporary Polish culture refract the socio-political changes of the last 19 years of democracy?