Imagining Polishness: Introduction to Polish Culture:  
SLAV P-223 (29917)

Spring 2014  
Tue. & Thu. (1:00–2:15)  
Ballantine Hall 246

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Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 2:15–3:15  
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This introductory course aims to give students broad and diverse knowledge about major cultural traditions, historical processes, myths, and figures that have shaped and redefined Polish culture from the Middle Ages to the present moment. We will investigate distinct features of Polish culture, sifting through how it has been perceived and stereotyped in the “West” and how it has represented (as well as stereotyped) itself. We will study Poland’s place on the cultural map of Europe and examine most formative cultural paradigms for the shaping of Polish identity through works of literature, history, political science, film, and the performing arts as well as popular culture. No prerequisites. Readings in English.

Course Requirements

**Attendance and Participation (15%)**: Attendance and active participation are expected of all students. Please let the instructor know in advance if you must miss class. Be prepared to discuss the assigned readings on the day listed in the syllabus. You may want to bring in a summary of what you think are the main points as well as some quotes that support those points (and make sure that you mark page numbers for these quotes).

**Group presentation summarizing the readings (15%)**: Working in your assigned group, you’ll present a summary of the readings for a day to be determined. Volunteers will be sought for Week 2 of classes (Tuesday, January 21); after that, groups will be assigned randomly with a schedule provided for the remainder of the course. Your summary should not exceed fifteen minutes in length, and you may choose the mode of delivery (e.g., chalkboard and handouts, PowerPoint). Please summarize the readings as coherently as you can, list any major points worth remembering, comment on any parts that you found of particular interest, and, as much as possible, link the readings together. You are encouraged to include the visual material with your summaries or any other material that will enhance your presentation. These summaries are meant to review and synthesize the material and ultimately help your classmates to prepare for the quizzes and the final exam. With this goal in mind, try to incorporate in your presentations learning techniques that you found most efficient for your own studying (e.g., mind-mapping, mnemotechnics). Within two days after your presentation, you will be required to submit an electronic version of it (with any changes and additions suggested by the instructor) to be posted on Oncourse.

**Group PowerPoint presentation with abstract and annotated bibliography (20%)**: In the last week of classes, groups will present on a chosen topic. A list of potential topics will be distributed in class, but you are welcome to suggest your own topic and consult me about it ahead of time. Each group will be asked to submit two choices of subject, and I will then select one for each group, taking into consideration subject coverage for the class. These presentations are to include an annotated bibliography listing at least five sources in the form specified by the MLA or the Chicago Manual of Style. Three of those sources should be books (or essays from edited collections) and/or journal articles, and only two can be Internet sources such as websites. You will also need to write an abstract (150–200 words) for your presentation. You should submit your presentation electronically to the instructor by the day you are assigned to present it in class. Specific guidelines will be distributed in class.
Quizzes (5% each for a total of 15%): Three quizzes, short-answer and identification, will be given in class on assigned dates.

Film response (5%): You will be asked to write and submit two responses (circa 600 words each) to the films we are going to discuss (Andrzej Wajda’s Man of Marble and Krzysztof Kieślowski’s Blind Chance). I will choose randomly which of the two I will grade, but you will not know of my choice ahead of time.

Final exam (30%): A take-home exam will be distributed in the last week of classes. It is due by the end of the regularly scheduled final, which is Thursday, May 8, at 5 p.m. The take-home final will consist mainly of short-essay questions. Questions will be formulated in a manner that encourages reflection over restatement.

Provisional Schedule of Readings

The syllabus is subject to change.

Bring assigned text to class each day. The readings must be completed by the assigned time. Based on the progression of the course I will modify the syllabus when necessary and post the updated version on Oncourse. When you prepare the assignments make sure to check the latest version of the syllabus on Oncourse. You are not required to watch “visual material in class” before the class, but you are encouraged to use the appropriate links to visual materials while you are preparing for the quizzes and the final exam.

All readings are available on Oncourse

Week 1  (January 14, 16)

Tue.  Imagining Polishness: Class Overview
Polish pronunciation (consult “Note on Polish Pronunciation” on Oncourse)  
Chronology (see Łukowski/Zawadzki on Oncourse). This is a useful source to consult throughout the course.

Visual material in class:
Tomasz Bagiński, “1000 years in 8 minutes”  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSlyeo6O9dA


Readings:
Andrzej Walicki, “The Three Traditions in Polish Patriotism” (pp. 21–39)  
Adam Zamoyski, “A Country in the Moon” (pp. 1–7), “The Polish Crown” (pp. 8–26), and “Tatars and Teutons” (pp. 27-45)  
“Bogurodzica” (Mother of God)

Visual material in class:
Clips from Krzyżacy (Knights of the Teutonic Order, 1960), dir. Aleksander Ford (Battle of Grunwald, Bogurodzica)  
For “Hollywood edition” of Krzyżacy see:  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgktFbRcSm0
Week 2 (January 21, 23)

Tue. Golden Age

Readings:
Zamoyski, “The Jagiellonian Adventure” (pp. 46–74)
Zamoyski, “God and Caesar” (pp. 75–91)
Zamoyski, “A Royal Republic” (pp. 92–104)
Zamoyski, “The Kingdom of Erasmus” (pp. 105–125)

Group summary of readings (Student names)

Visual material in class:
Renaissance architecture and art
Renaissance music
Waclaw z Szamotuł, “Już się zmierzcha”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_e2aXHnmi4
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1mtUKFxW5U (contemporary rendering by Anna Maria Jopek)

Thu. Love and Loss in the Kingdom

Readings:

Visual material in class:
Jan Matejko, “Jan Kochanowski at the coffin of Urszula Kochanowska”
http://bi.gazeta.pl/im/6/6921/z6921016Q,Jan-Kochanowski-nad-zwlokami-Urszulki—Jan-Matejko-.jpg
Selected paintings representing Barbara Radziwiłłówna and Sigismund Augustus (Artur Grottger, Jan Matejko, etc.)

“The Greatest Love of the Kingdom”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_H3jU4Qwbk

Optional at home:
Watch coronation scene in the 1936 film on Barbara Radziwiłłówna (dir. Józef Lejtes, starring Jadwiga Smosarska) and in the 1981 TV series (dir. Janusz Majewski starring Anna Dymna)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFBtgKVdOX8

Week 3 (January 28, 30)

Tue. Sarmatism

Readings:

Collective Will: Jagiellonian Prosperity (1385–1569) and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569–1795)
Zamoyski, “Morbus Comitialis” (pp. 152-168), “The Reign of Anarchy” (pp. 169-188), and “Oriental Baroque” (188-205)

Jan Chryzostom Pasek, Memoirs of the Polish Baroque (pp. 3–6; 249–256)

Visual material in class:
Commonwealth of Diverse Cultures: Norman Davies Comments Polish History
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBlt0fGNN6c&list=PLC8CD783FA57B2EB6

The Gentry Commonwealth: 1513–1795 (fragments)

On Baroque art and love affair of Queen Marysieńska and Jan III Sobieski see:
http://vimeo.com/17286804 (from the Museum of Jan III Sobieski in Wilanów)

Coffin portraits (“google images” and search “Polish Baroque coffin portraits”)

Polish Baroque music:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnCjUIYpxyg
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5cfh1dLI3k&list=PLsiEF5zINRD0aFkcry5uPeNK3VeA4yTF

Thu. Res Publica and Its Decline

Readings:
Zamoyski, “Stanislaw the Last” (pp. 222-244) and “A Gentle Revolution” (245-258)
Walicki, “The Legacy and Historical Vicissitudes of the Democracy of the Gentry”

Group summary of readings (Student names)

Visual material in class:
The Gentry Commonwealth: 1513–1795 (fragments)

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Week 4 (February 4, 6)

Tue. Quiz (Week 1–Week 4)

Visual material in class:

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Collective Ideal: Romanticism and the Age of Partitions (1795–1918)

Thu. Romanticism: Poles’ Heaven and Hell

Readings:
Zamoyski, “Heroic Years” (pp. 259-285)
Alina Witkowska, “Romanticism” (pp. 149-171)
Jerzy Jedlicki, “Holy Ideals and Prosaic Life, or the Devil’s Alternatives”

Group summary of readings (student names)

Visual material in class:
Romantic and Modern Poland: 1796–1945 (fragments)
Week 5 (February 11, 13)

Tue.  “There are two ways of fighting: you must be a fox and a lion”

Readings:
Adam Mickiewicz, Konrad Wallenrod
Roman Koropeckyj, “Preface” (pp. ix–xii); excerpt from “Exile” (pp. 92–98 on Konrad Wallenrod)

Thu. “Poland, Christ of Nations!”

Readings:
Adam Mickiewicz, Forefathers’ Eve, Part III
in Harold Segel, Polish Romantic Drama: Three Plays in English Translation: “Introduction” (pp. 21–45); “Forefathers’ Eve, Part III” (pp. 73–111)

Visual material in class:
Clips from Dziady, theater adaptation, dir. Konrad Swinarski (1973)
Clips from The Faithful River, dir. Tadeusz Chmielewski (1987)

Week 6 (February 18, 20)

Tue. Chopin’s Salons and Country Manors

Readings:
Halina Goldberg, Music in Chopin’s Warsaw (Chapter One)
Halina Goldberg, Music in Chopin’s Warsaw (Chapter Five)

Visual material in class:
Images of country manors (Żelazowa Wola, Pałac Branickich, Rogalin, Łańcut)

Collective Interest (Reconstitution of Poland 1918–1939) and Collective Loss (World War II 1939–1945)

Thu. Turmoiled Freedom

Readings:
Adam Zamoyski, “The Republic” (pp. 340—355)
Alina Kowalczykowa, “The Interwar Years—1918–1939” (pp. 202-227)
Norman Davies, “Żydzi: The Jewish Community” (pp. 240–266)

Group summary of readings (Student names)

Visual material in class:
“Shofar Away”—A History of Polish Jews
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rGAv2Je6o8&list=PLC8CD783FA57B2EB6
Week 7 (February 25, 27)

Tue. Interwar Artistic Explorations

Readings:
Tadeusz Peiper, “City, Mass, Machine” (pp. 267–272)
Bruno Jasieński from the section on “Expressionism and Futurism in Poland” (pp. 187–195)
Bruno Schulz, Street of Crocodiles (fragments)

Thu. Quiz (Week 4—Week 7)

Visual material in class:
Bruno Schulz’s drawings and paintings
Witkacy’s drawings and paintings

Week 8 (March 4, 6)

Tue. Bloodlands: Poland Between Hitler and Stalin

Readings:
Zamoyski, “Ordeal by Fire” (pp. 356–372)
Timothy Snyder, “Preface: Europe” (pp. vi–xix); “Molotov—Ribbentrop Europe” (pp. 119–154); and “Conclusion: Humanity” (pp. 379–408)
Norman Davies, “The Legacy of Defeat: Poland’s Wartime Experience” (pp. 55–71)

Group summary of readings

Visual material in class:
Clips from historical documentaries on Nazi occupation of Poland

Thu. Holocaust

Readings:
Tadeusz Borowski, “This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen” (pp. 29–49) and Jan Kott, “Introduction” (pp. 11—26) from This Way for the Gas
Czesław Miłosz, “Campo di Fiori,” “Poor Christian Looks at the Ghetto”

Visual material in class:
Clips from The Pianist (2002), dir. Roman Polański
Clips from Korczak (1990), dir. Andrzej Wajda
Clips from documentaries on ghettos and concentration camps

Week 9 (March 11, 13)

Tue. Katyń and Warsaw Uprising

Readings:
Norman Davies, Raising ’44, “After the Rising” (pp. 433–464. Note: The selection posted on Oncourse is longer than the assignment, and you are encouraged, but not required, to read the
entire section)
Anne Applebaum, “A Movie that Matters”
Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński (selected poems)

Group summary of readings

Visual material in class:
Clips from Canal (1956), dir. Andrzej Wajda
Clips from Katyń (2007), dir. Andrzej Wajda
Documentary clips on the Warsaw Uprising and Katyń

**Communist Poland (1945–1989)**

**Thu. The Seizure of Power**
Zamoyski, “Plans and People” (pp. 373–397)
Norman Davies, “The Legacy of Humiliation: Post-war Poland to the Crisis of the People’s Republic (1944–1983),” from Heart of Europe (pp. 1–25)

Group summary of readings

Visual material in class:
Clips from Ashes and Diamonds (1958), dir. Andrzej Wajda

**Week 10**
Spring break: Watch Man of Marble over the break (available on electronic reserve through Oncourse). Write 600-word response (due March 25)

**Toward Dissent**

**Week 11** (March 25, 27)

**Tue. Discussion of Man of Marble** (dir. Andrzej Wajda, 1976). **Response due**

**Th. Quiz on the Interwar and War Week**

Readings:
Sławomir Mrożek, Strip tease and The Elephant (pp. 16–20; 24–28; 131–135)

Visual material in class:
Mrożek’s cartoons

**Week 12** (April 1, 3)

**Tue. The Power of the Powerless**

Readings:
Zamoyski, “Trial and Error” (pp. 354–369)
Adam Michnik, Letters from Prison TBA
Poems from Spoiling Cannibals’ Fun
Group summary of readings

Visual material in class:
Solidarity Poland 1981 (10 min.)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peT3-xSzj08

Clips from John Paul II’s trips to Poland

Thu. 1989
Guest lecture by Prof. Padraic Kenney (History Department, IU)

Readings:
Padraic Kenney: A Carnival of Revolution: Central Europe 1989
“Introduction: Street Theater, Concrete Poetry” (pp. 1–16); “Eating the Crocodile with a Spoon, or, a Career Guide to the Underground” (pp. 23—56)

Week 13 (April 8, 10)
Tue. Gender of Resistance: Solidarity’s Secret

Readings:
Irena Grudzińska-Gross, “Foreword” (pp. xi–xiv); Shana Penn, “Introduction: National Secret” (pp. 1–28); “Wild Card: The Female Stereotype as Camouflage” (pp. 179–205); “Our Romantic Model: Myth, Literature, and Women’s Place” (pp. 241–261) in Shana Penn, Solidarity’s Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland

Summary of readings

Visual material in class:
Clips with female dissidents

Watch Blind Chance (available on electronic reserve through Oncourse. Write 600 word response (due April 10)

Thu. Discussion of Krzysztof Kieślowski’s Blind Chance. Response due

Readings:

Week 14 (April 15, 17)
Tue. New Poland, New Problems: Capitalism, Globalization, Emancipation

Readings:
Zamoyski, “The Third Republic” (pp. 385–409)

Summary of readings

Thu. Artur Żmijewski, “Them”
Watch “Them” at home. Prepare for discussion
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoEkWhuh6a4

**Readings:**
Interview with Żmijewski
http://moussemagazine.it/articolo.mm?id=483

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**Week 15 (April 22, 24)**
- **Tue.** Course overview. **Quiz (Week 8–Week 15)**
- **Thu.** Group work on PowerPoint presentations

**Readings:**
No readings are assigned for this session. Each of you is responsible for collecting the material on the topic of your final presentation to share it with your group members (you are encouraged to email your group members the sources you found before the class so that you can make your work in class more efficient). After the session, each group will be responsible for sending me a provisional outline of your presentation.

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**Week 16 (April 29, May 1)**
- **Tue.** Presentations
- **Thu.** Presentations

**Final exam due Thursday, May 8, at 5 p.m. Please email it to the instructor.**