**Imagining Polishness: Introduction to Polish Culture**  
**SLAV-P223 (13095)**

Spring 2015  
Tuesday & Thursday (1:00–2:15)  
Ballantine Hall 215

Prof. Joanna Niżyńska (jniejynsk@indiana.edu)  
Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 2:30–3:30  
Office: Global and International Studies Building 4029

Amanda Fisher (fisherac@indiana.edu)  
Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 3:30 – 4:30  
Office: Global and International Studies Building 4029

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 the 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.

**Learning Objectives**

After successfully completing this course students will be able to:

- place Poland in contemporary geo-political configurations of Europe and the world
- address how major historical and cultural events shaped contemporary Polish culture
- identify a broad range of Polish “texts” (literature, film, popular culture, etc.) based on their content and stylistic features and place them in their broader historical and cultural context
- show awareness of complex cultural assumptions underlying reception of foreign cultures as well as examine their own assumptions as members of a specific cultural community
- advance their ability to use basic methods of literary and cultural analysis such as close reading, explication, and comparison
- improve their current writing and analytical skills through written assignments

**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. Students are not allowed to miss the class without a legitimate excuse. Make sure to read, watch and listen at home what's assigned for a given session. 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). It’s imperative you arrive on time so as not to disrupt the flow of the class. Keep in mind that pop quizzes will be given at the beginning of some classes as well. Presence in class without active participation will not give you more than a B- for the “attendance and participation” part of the grade.

**Important:** Your class behavior is part of your participation grade. Be mindful and respectful of your peers and instructors. Do not use your laptops unless specifically allowed by the instructors. The end of the class is announced by the instructors so do not pack earlier. Last but not least, please NO CELL PHONES OUT.
Midterm exam (15%): An in-class exam will take place on Thursday, March 3. The format of the exam will be discussed in class closer to the date.

Final exam (20%): 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 Tuesday, May 3, at 3 p.m. The take-home final will consist mainly of short-essay questions. Questions will be formulated in a manner that encourages reflection rather than restatement. Specific guidelines will be distributed in class.

Pop Quizzes (4% each for a total of 20%): five short-answer, identification, and multiple-choice pop quizzes related to assigned readings and visual/audio material will be given throughout the semester.

Worksheets (5% each for a total of 20%): four worksheets with questions related to assigned materials will be distributed in class and due on assigned dates. Here are the subjects for the worksheets:

1. Poland Fighting (an exhibition on “Polska Walcząca”—the Polish resistance and underground state during WWII in the lobby of GISB; it would be helpful to you if you come to the opening lecture on January 21 at 6pm.) Worksheet due date: Friday, January 29 by 10pm.
3. Folklore. Due date: February 29.

Food project (10%): Working in groups, you will be asked to choose and prepare a Polish dish for the class to share on Tuesday, January 26. Briefly present it to the rest of the class. Your dish will be accompanied by a short report describing its history and position in Polish culture. Specific guidelines will be distributed.

Extra Credit Option

Students who attend the Wiles Memorial Lecture at the Polish Studies Center on Thursday, March 31 and write a 1–2 page response about it will be given extra points when the final grade is assigned.

Note on Plagiarism

Remember to give credit where credit is due. Students who present another writer’s words as their own or who neglect to cite proper bibliographic information when referring to material published online, in reference books, or in a journal or book of any kind are subject to disciplinary procedures as outlined by Indiana University’s Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

Consult the guidelines for proper citation available on the IU libraries’ website at:
http://libraries.iub.edu/help-citing-sources

The official definition of plagiarism used by the College of Arts and Sciences can be found at:
http://college.indiana.edu/plagiarism/

IU’s Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct outlines the University’s position on academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, and can be found at:
http://www.iu.edu/~code/

Provisional Schedule of Readings

The syllabus is subject to change.
Bring assigned texts to class each day. Laptops are not permitted. 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 Canvas. **Before you read the assignments make sure to check the latest version of the syllabus on Canvas.** 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 midterm and the final exam.

**All readings are available on Canvas**

**Week 1** *(January 12, 14)*

**Tue. Imagining Polishness: Class Overview**

Polish pronunciation (consult “Note on Polish Pronunciation” on Canvas)

Chronology (see Lukowski/Zawadzki on Canvas). This is a useful source to consult throughout the course.

**Visual material in class:**

Historical maps of Poland

Tomasz Bagiński, “1000 years in 8 minutes” (8:30)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSlyeo6O9dA

**Th. Defining the Vocabulary. The Beginnings. The Polish Crown**

**At home:**
Consult “Note on Polish Pronunciation” on Canvas and try to pronounce all your classmates’ last names the way you think they would be pronounced by a Pole who doesn’t speak English.

**Required readings:**
Czesław Miłosz, “The Middle Ages” from *The History of Polish Literature* (pp. 3–9)

Michael J. Mikoł: Middle Ages: Cultural Background
http://www.staropolska.pl/ang/middleages/Mikos_middle/Cultural_m.html

“Bogurodzica” (Mother of God)

**Recommended readings:**
Michael J. Mikoł: Middle Ages: Historical Background
http://www.staropolska.pl/ang/middleages/Mikos_middle/Historical_m.html

**Visual material in class:**

“Piast Poland”

Medieval art and architecture

Clips from *Krzyżacy* (Knights of the Teutonic Order, 1960), dir. Aleksander Ford
(Battle of Grunwald, Bogurodzica)

For “Hollywood edition” of *Krzyżacy* (i.e., what would a trailer for the *Knights of the Teutonic Order* look like had the film been made in Hollywood) see:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgktFbRcSm0

Jan Matejko, “Bitwa pod Grunwaldem” (Battle of Grunwald)

Raperzy znad Wisły on Mieszko I
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=031cplUl7_g&list=PLYPq94-7MnjJ3907Q0J385QoIo2t8leu

**Audio material in class:**

“Gaude Mater Polonia”
Week 2  (January 19, 21)

**Tue.**  Golden Age: God and Human

**Required readings:**
Jan Kochanowski, Book I, Song

Mikołaj Rej, *A Short Conversation Between Three Persons: A Squire, a Bailiff, and a Parson*

**Visual material at home:**
Renaissance architecture and art (“Kraków in your pocket”)
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrR89EqIKLk)

**Required readings:**
Michael J. Mikoś: Renaissance: Historical Background
http://www.staropolska.pl/ang/renaissance/Mikos_renaissance/Historical_r.html

Michael J. Mikoś: Renaissance: Cultural Background
http://www.staropolska.pl/ang/renaissance/Mikos_renaissance/Cultural_r.html

**Recommended readings:**
Czesław Milosz, “Humanism and the Reformation” from *The History of Polish Literature* (pp. 25–37)

**Audio material in class:**
Wacław 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)

**Th.**  Golden Age: Love and Loss

**Required readings:**

**Recommended readings:**
Biographical note on Jan Kochanowski
http://literat.ug.edu.pl/autors/kochan.htm

**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
“The Greatest Love of the Kingdom”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_H3iU4Qwbk
Selected paintings representing Barbara Radziwiłłówna and Sigismund Augustus (Artur Grottger, Jan Matejko, etc.)
Listening in class:
Michał Jacaszek, *Treny*.

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=GF8tgKVoX8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF8tgKVoX8)

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### Week 3 (January 26, 28)

**Tue.** Food, Holidays, and Celebrations (Food Project Due!)

**Required readings:**
Joan and David Peterson, “The Cuisine of Poland A Historical Survey” and “Regional Polish Food A Quick Tour of Polish Foods and Their Regional Variations” from *Eat Smart in Poland: How to Decipher the Menu, Know the Market Foods & Embark on a Tasting Adventure* (pp. 1–17 and 19–38)

Upload your response for the food project to your personal dropbox on Canvas by Monday 10 pm. Please bring a print-out of the response to class

**Th.** Baroque: With Words and Swords. Sarmatian Life

**Required readings:**
Jan Andrzej Morsztyn, “To His Mistress,” “To a Corpse”
Jan Chryzostom Pasek, *Memoirs of the Polish Baroque* (pp. 3–6; 249–256)

Watch at home:
On Baroque art and the love affair of Queen Marysieńka and Jan III Sobieski see: [http://vimeo.com/17286804](http://vimeo.com/17286804) (from the Museum of Jan III Sobieski in Wilanów)

**Recommended readings:**
Michael J. Mikoś: Baroque: Historical Background
Michael J. Mikoś: Baroque: Cultural Background
Czesław Milosz, “The Seventeenth Century: Counter Reformation and the Baroque” from *The History of Polish Literature* (pp.111–119)

**Visual material in class:**
Commonwealth of Diverse Cultures: Norman Davies Comments on Polish History (8:11) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI7t19eXy88

The Gentry Commonwealth: 1513–1795 (fragments)

**Audio material in class:**
Bartłomiej Pękiel, "Missa Concertata La Lombardesca" (3:24) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JryJJSnG0OE)
Grzegorz Gerwazy Górczycki, "Laetatus sum"

Upload your exhibition worksheet to your personal dropbox on Canvas by 10pm on Friday, January 29
Week 4  (February 2, 4)

Tue.  *With Fire and Sword*, dir. Jerzy Hoffman, 1999 (film discussion)

Worksheet due on Monday, February 1 at 10 pm.

Upload your film worksheet in the designated area within Canvas “Assignments” by Monday 10pm. Please bring print out of the worksheet to class

Th.  The Enlightened and the Disillusioned: Democracy and Its Decline

Required readings:
Stanislaw Konarski, “On the Effective Method of Deliberating”

Ignacy Krasicki, *Fables* (Part I: 8, 18, 20, 21; Part II: 5, 6, 9) and *Satires* (“Drunkenness” and “The Fashionable Wife”) in *Polish Baroque and Enlightenment Literature: An Anthology*, ed. Michael J. Mikoł (pp. 246–7; 254–62).

Józef Wybicki, “Poland Has Not Yet Perished”

Recommended readings:
Czesław Milosz, “The Second Half of the Eighteenth Century—the Enlightenment” from *The History of Polish Literature* (pp. 159–169)

Andrzej Walicki, “A Few Conclusions,” in *The Enlightenment and the Birth Of Modern Nationhood: Polish Political Thought from Noble Republicanism to Tadeusz Kosciuszko* (pp. 88–93)

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

Week 5  (February 9, 11)

Tue.  Romanticism: Poles’ Heaven and Hell

Required readings:
Adam Mickiewicz, “Romanticism”
Czesław Milosz, “Romanticism” in *History of Literature* (pp. 195–203)

Recommended readings:
Brian Porter-Szücs, “Poles without Poland, 1785–1918” from *Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* (pp. 6–43)

Visual material in class:
*Romantic and Modern Poland: 1796–1945* (fragments)

If you know Polish listen to modern renditions of Romantic poetry:
Marek Grechuta, “Niepewność” (Adam Mickiewicz) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsoQ4m2y-UI)
Marek Grechuta, NIchaj mnie Źoska o wiersze nie prosi (Juliusz Słowacki) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4TpiCV-YwI)
Czesław Niemen, *Moja piosnka* (Cyprian Kamil Norwid) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVy-Cq_qwAw)
Th.  “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)

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Week 6 (February 16, 18)

Tue.  Mickiewicz’s *Forefathers’ Eve*, cont.

Readings:
Adam Mickiewicz, Forefathers’ Eve, Part III, cont. [in Harold Segel, *Polish Romantic Drama: Three Plays in English Translation*]: (pp. 111–176)

Recommended readings:
Jerzy Jedlicki, “Holy Ideals and Prosaic Life, or the Devil’s Alternatives”

Th.  Chopin!

Watch at home:
*Chopin: Women Behind his Music* (dir. Ruppert Edwards; BBC documentary; 1hr 30)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rOOLm3n6GY

Required readings:
Marek Pruszewicz, “The Mystery of Chopin’s Death”

Recommended readings:
Halina Goldberg, *Music in Chopin’s Warsaw* (chapter 1)
Halina Goldberg, *Music in Chopin’s Warsaw* (chapter 5)

Listen at Home:
Listen to “Lulajże Jezuniu” (“Sleep, little Jesus,” traditional Christmas carol) sung by Anna German
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OXruY5Gx8

Listen to Frederic Chopin’s “Scherzo h-moll op. 20” (performed by Croatian pianist Ivo Pogorelich) and find the motif of “Lulajże Jezuniu”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqA6mp6kblc

for international career of “Lulajże Jezuniu,” see The Three Tenors (Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti) in Vienna (1999)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0h1J0pWENw

Chopin, *Revolutionary Etude* op. 10 no. 12, played by Stanislav Bunin, 1985
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0h1J0pWENw)

Chopin, *Polonaise*, op. 53, played by Horowitz
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZGi49Bnghs) and by Yundi Li
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOgpdfFkJoo)

For jazz rendition of Chopin, Mazurek op.68 nr 4 - Urszula Dudziak i Grażyna Auguścik https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlwbtm-9h8Y
Week 7  (February 23, 25)

Tue.  Turbulent Freedom and Artistic Explorations

Required readings:
Tadeusz Peiper, “City, Mass, Machine” (pp. 267–272)
Bruno Jasieński from the section on “Expressionism and Futurism in Poland” (pp. 187–195)
Czesław Milosz, “Independent Poland: 1918–1939” from The History of Polish Literature (pp. 380–385)

Recommended readings:
Brian Porter-Szücs, “The Political Landscape at the Start of the 20th Century” from Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom (pp. 43–65)

Visual material in class:
Interwar art

Th.  Hybrid Identities: Who was Bruno Schulz? Whose is “Drohobycz”?

Required readings:
Bruno Schulz, “August,” “Visitation,” “Birds,” “Tailors’ Dummies” from The Street of Crocodiles (also read the Foreword and Introduction)
Brian Porter-Szücs, “Jews, Ukrainians and Other Poles in the Interwar Period” from Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom (pp. 126–144)

Recommended reading:
Norman Davies, “Żydzi: The Jewish Community” (pp. 240–266)

Watch at home:
Lost Childhood—the Cruel Fate of Bruno Schulz
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5sygvRyzic

Visual material in class:
“Shofar Away”—A History of Polish Jews
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW7sTqxKM34
Bruno Schulz’s drawings and paintings

Week 8  (March 1, 3)

Tue.  Polish Folklore (guest lecture by Natalie Misteravich-Caroll)

Worksheet due by Monday, February 29 at 10 pm.

Readings:
Polish Folk Dances

Watch at home:
Kurpie Zielone: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sS-uoee5Eyg
Łowicz: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OeYlqTDMoo
Beskid śląski: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDXKp_Zw5ek
Upload your folklore worksheet in the designated area within Canvas “Assignments” by Monday 10pm. Please bring print-out of the worksheet to class

Th.  Midterm

Week 9  (March 8, 10)

Tue.  Bloodlands: Poland Between Hitler and Stalin

Required readings:

Recommended readings:
Timothy Snyder "Conclusion: Humanity" from Bloodlands (pp. 379–408)
Timothy Snyder, “Preface: Europe” (pp. vi–xix); “Molotov—Ribbentrop Europe” in Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin (pp. 119–154);

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

Th.  Holocaust

Required 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 Milosz, “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 10  (March 15, 17) SPRING BREAK

Recommended: Watch Man of Marble over the break (worksheet and discussion coming up in Week 12)

Week 11  (March 22, 24)

Tue.  Warsaw Uprising

Watch at home:
Battle for Warsaw – Warsaw Uprising 1944 (BBC series “Timewatch”) (49min.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCHTd1UPHJE
(the film is segmented on YouTube into five parts, make sure to watch all of them)

Required readings:
Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, selected poems (selected poems)
Anna Świrszczyńska (Swir), Building the Barricade (selected poems)
Miron Białoszewski, A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising (pp. 133-144)
Wisława Szymborska, “In Broad Daylight”
Recommended readings:
Norman Davies, Uprising overview from God’s Playground: A History of Poland (particularly pp. 471–480); you can also find plenty of overviews online. For FAQ I suggest: http://www.warsawuprising.com

Norman Davies, from Raising ’44: “Foreword”; “350-XXX-999 TO8 DE1”; “After the Rising” (pp. 433–464. Note: The selection posted on Canvas is longer than the assignment, and you are encouraged, but not required, to read the entire section)

Visual material in class:
Clips from Canal (1956), dir. Andrzej Wajda

Th.  The Seizure of Power. Nowa Huta—Poland’s First Socialist City

Required readings:
Katherine Lebow, "New Man" in Unfinished Utopia: Nowa Huta, Stalinism, and Polish Society, 1949–56 (pp. 44–74).

Recommended readings:

Visual material in class:
Destination Nowa Huta! (Kierunek - Nowa Huta!) Poland, (dir: Andrzej Munk, 1951) (12 min.)
Clips from Ashes and Diamonds (1958), dir. Andrzej Wajda

Recommended to watch at home:
Communism: The Promise and the Reality (Brave New World) for general background on Cold War
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkvpTSZzc5I

Week 12  (March 29, 31)


Worksheet due on Monday, March 28 at 10 pm.
Upload your worksheet in the designated area within Canvas “Assignments” by Monday 10pm. Please bring print-out of the worksheet to class

Required readings:
Katherine Lebow, "The Poor Worker Breaks His Legs" in Unfinished Utopia: Nowa Huta, Stalinism, and Polish Society, 1949–56 (pp. 74–96).

Recommended readings:
Thu. Popular Culture and Everyday Life in Communist Poland

Readings: TBA

Visual material in class:
Kabaret Starszych Panów (“Przeklinę cię,” “Upiorny twist”); Teatrzyk Bim Bom Czesław Niemen (Sopot 1967), Michał Szpak (X Factor) "Dziwny jest ten świat"
Selections from comedies (“Sami swoi,” “Jak rozpętałem drugą wojnę światową, "Miś")

Week 13 (April 5, 7)

Tue. Solidarity: The Polish Revolution

Required readings:

Watch at home:
Communism: The Promise and the Reality (People Power)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL3hXprCMdk

Recommended readings:

Visual material in class:
Solidarity Poland 1981 (10 min.)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peT3-xSzi08
Clips from John Paul II’s trips to Poland
Protest songs (“Mury,” “Piosenka dla córki,” “Nasz będzie ten dzień”)

Thu. Gender of Resistance

Required readings:
Shana Penn, “Introduction: National Secret” (pp. 1–28) in Shana Penn, Solidarity’s Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland

“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

Week 14 (April 12, 14)

Tue. Orange Alternative

Required readings:
Padraic Kenney, “How the Smurfs Captured Gargamel, or, A Revolution of Style” from A Carnival of Revolution: Central Europe 1989 (pp. 157–193)
Thu.  *Beats of Freedom*, 1989 (Watch in class)

**Week 15** (April 19, 21)

**Tue.**  *Beats of Freedom* and Youth Culture

**Readings:** TBA  
**Visual material in class:**  


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

**Required readings:**  
Interview with Żmijewski  
http://moussemagazine.it/articolo.mm?id=483  
Brian Porter-Szücs, “Shock Therapy” in *Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* (pp. 328–348)

**Week 16** (April 26, 28)

**Tue.**  Looping Back

**Required readings:**  
Andrzej Walicki, “The Three Traditions in Polish Patriotism” (pp. 21–39)

**Visual material in class:**  
Solidarity, Solidarity… (fragments)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE497SAW4mg

**Thu.**  Polish Culture in Self-Satire. Course overview. Preparation for the final exam.

**At home:**  
A review of Polish history by T-Raperzy znad Wisły (only for those who know Polish, alas!):  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlKax7CLD8

**Take home final exam due Tuesday, May 3, at 3 p.m. Upload your exam in the designated area within Canvas “Assignments”**