Survey of Polish Literature and Culture I:
From the Middle Ages to 1900
SLAV-P 363 / SLAV-P 563
FALL 2010
Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-5:15 p.m. Woodburn Hall 202
(Note: Spring 2011: Slav-P 364/564 Survey II: The Twentieth Century)

Prof. Justyna Beinek
jbeinek@indiana.edu
Office hours: TR 5:15-6:15 p.m. and by appt.
Office: Ballantine Hall 576

Course description
This course traces the main developments in the history of Polish literature and culture from 1900 in the context of Western and East European/Slavic traditions, with a particular focus on the interdependence of literature vis-à-vis history, politics, literature, and the arts. We will take a grand tour through the main literary and cultural periods between the 10th and the end of the 19th century: the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment, Romanticism, and Positivism. Topics of interest: What characterizes these periods of Poland’s cultural development and the literary styles practiced in different periods? How did West European cultures influence Polish culture? Is there a set of topoi and themes with which Polish literature is concerned across ages? Are there genres that dominate Polish literary tradition? How do Polish writers negotiate the imperative to write socially-engaged works with the impulse to create “art for art’s sake”?

Class readings will come from a variety of sources: 13-14th-century religious hymns and 15-16th-century treatises and morality plays, Renaissance epigrams, songs, and funerary poetry, Baroque religious and lay poetry, Enlightenment fables and satires, Romantic lyrics, epic poems, and drama, and Positivist novels. Readings supplemented by feature films and music recordings. All texts in English; students with a good reading knowledge of Polish may read works in the original Polish.

T 8/31 Course Introduction

FILM: History of Poland in 8 Minutes, dir. Tomek Baginski, 2010 (made for the 2010 Shanghai Expo)

(Source: YouTube: “PARP: Animowana ‘Historia Polski’” posted by parpgovpl or „Animowana Historia Polski” posted by polandexpo2010).
Homework for R 9/2: Watch Baginski’s movie on YouTube at home once or several times, writing down dates that appear in the movie. Using the Internet and/or library resources, find out what historical events the movie is referring to.

THE MIDDLE AGES

R 9/2


*Note: *Monumenta Polonica is supposed to arrive at the IU bookstores and TIS on Friday 9/5. If it does not arrive, a copy of 9/2-7 readings will be posted on Oncourse.

T 9/7


RENAISSANCE

R 9/9


T 9/14


BAROQUE

R 9/16

ENLIGHTENMENT

Konstancja Benisławska, Songs (1776; Pieśni) ONCOURSE

T 9/28  Ignacy Krasicki, The Adventures of Mr. Nicholas Wisdom (1776; Mikołaja Doświadczyńskiego przypadki) BOOK (read half of the novel)

R 9/30  Ignacy Krasicki, The Adventures of Mr. Nicholas Wisdom (1776; Mikołaja Doświadczyńskiego przypadki) BOOK (finish reading the novel)

ROMANTICISM


R 10/7  Adam Mickiewicz, selected poems (1920s-1840s). Bring 10/5 readings by Mickiewicz.


Paper #2 due 10/14

FILM SCREENING: *Pan Tadeusz*

**R 10/21**  

**T 10/26**  
Adam Mickiewicz, *Forefathers’ Eve, Part III* (1832; *Dziady, część III*), Mikos 47-60

**R 10/28**  
Juliusz Słowacki, selected poems (1830s-1840s), Mikoś 71-88, “Kordian” (excerpts), Mikoś 94-97, and “Letter to Mother,” Mikoś 104

**T 11/2**  

**R 11/4**  

**T 11/9**  

**R 11/11**  
Cyprian Kamil Norwid, selected poems (1850s-1860s), Mikoś 129-148 and a handful of poems posted on ONESTART

**T 11/16**  
Cyprian Kamil Norwid, selected poems (1850s-1860s), Mikoś 129-148 and poems posted on ONESTART for 11/11

*Paper #3 due 11/16*

**R 11/18**  
Instructor out of town (annual convention); class activity TBA.

**POSITIVISM**

**T 11/23**  

**R 11/25**  
Thanksgiving Recess (no class)

**T 11/30**  
Bolesław Prus, *The Doll* (1890) (two thirds of the novel)

**R 12/2**  
Bolesław Prus, *The Doll* (1890) (finish reading the novel)
“FREE WEEK”


R 12/9  Henryk Sienkiewicz, *With Fire and Sword* (1884)

**FILM SCREENING: With Fire and Sword**

12/17: Paper #4 is due at 7 pm in lieu of final scheduled by the Registrar’s office 5-7 p.m. Paper #4 should be sent to the instructor by e-mail to her address: jbeinek@indiana.edu.

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**TEXTS**

There are 8 books required for this course, which are marked in the syllabus with the word “BOOK.” Books have been ordered to the IU Bookstore under our course number. Sometimes used copies may be cheaper through other venues such as www.amazon.com. Most of our books can also be loaned at IU libraries (check IUCAT), although copies may be limited. A few texts will be posted on Oncourse as PDF files; these are marked in the syllabus as “ONCOURSE.” You are expected to print these out and bring them to class.

**8 required books ordered to the IU Bookstore:**


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading (all students):

Attendance and class participation: 15%
Quizzes (random, unannounced, covering both last meeting’s materials and readings assigned for
the day of the quiz): 15%
Paper #1: 10%
Paper #2: 15%
Paper #3: 15%
Paper #4: 25%
Oral presentation on a chosen Polish writer (15 minutes): 5%

Paper #1: 3 pages, due 9/21
Paper #2: 5 pages, due 10/14
Paper #3: 5 pages, due 11/16
Paper #4: 7 pages, due 12/17 7 p.m. (in lieu of official final exam 12/17 5-7 p.m.), submitted by
e-mail to jbeinek@indiana.edu.

*Note: assignment questions will be distributed in class one week before the paper is due. The
final paper questions will be distributed 12/2.

Grading scale

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<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>88-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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Course rules

- Class attendance is mandatory. If you miss a class and want to have an excused absence,
you have to present a doctor’s note or a document that proves serious difficulties with
attending class (military and religious orders etc.). Absence, tardiness, lack of
preparation, and/or unwillingness to take part in class discussions will result in a lowered
grade.

- Students are required to bring all class texts to class and be ready to quote from them
during discussions. Literary analysis is a text-based endeavor and cannot be performed
without the text.

- Class materials posted on Oncourse have to be printed out and brought to class.
• E-mail is an official form of communication at IU, i.e., you are expected to check your e-mail once a day for course announcements and notes from the instructor.

• All class announcements will be posted on Oncourse and you will be notified by e-mail that they are there. Check Oncourse periodically to see new resources and get additional copies of exams and essay assignments (if applicable). The syllabus will be on Oncourse at all times.

• All electronic devices such as cell phones, ipods etc. have to be turned off during class. Laptops are allowed only for note taking and possibly for accessing class texts (hard copies, especially of books and longer works, are preferred).

• Late papers/exams will not be accepted unless you have documentation that proves extreme difficulties beyond your control (illness etc.).

• If you have a question/concern, always e-mail/contact the instructor at jbeinek@indiana.edu and/or come to her office hour to discuss the issue.

OPTIONAL FURTHER READING:

Recommended textbook on Polish literature:
• Czesław Miłosz, The History of Polish Literature (University of California Press, 1983).

Recommended textbooks on Polish history:
• Norman Davies, God’s Playground: A History of Poland (2 volumes; Columbia University Press, 2005).
• Norman Davies, Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland’s Present (Oxford University Press, 2001).

Anthologies of Polish Literature: