Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Polish Culture and Civilization 236 (3 credits)

Instructor: Michael J. Mikoś
Curtin Hall 819
Office hours M W F 11:00-12:00
or by appointment
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This course deals with major achievements of Polish culture during ten centuries of its existence. It covers selected topics in history, art, architecture, literature, and film and views them against the crucial developments that formed today’s Poland and its people. Lectures, discussions, and readings will be illustrated by numerous videos, slides, and recordings.

Major lecture topics include:

- Poland today—its territory, physical environment, population, political and socio-economic issues.
- Major historical events from 966 to 2015.
- Polish architecture and art during the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment, 19th and 20th century periods.
- Major works of literature in their historical setting.
- Selected recordings of music.
- Polish film.
- Cultural life in present day Poland.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements

The course is open without prerequisites to UWM students on a three-credit basis or for credit/no credit (including Special Students). Students can take this course for 3 Humanities credits.

Students enrolled for credit will be required to:

1. Attend all lectures, read assigned readings, and participate in class discussions (40% of final grade).
2. Take two short tests and a final examination over the content of the course (40% of final grade). The questions for the final examination will be based on the material from lectures and readings. A paper on an approved topic (at least 1,500 words), may be submitted in place of the final examination and turned in before the end of the course.
3. Write and present short comments on the discussed topics (20% of final grade).

Select Bibliography


