

History 346

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Fall 2020

**POLAND AND ITS NEIGHBORS, 1914-1945****Meetings:** online, asynchronous**Instructor:** Professor Neal Pease**Office Hours:** Virtual: contact by email, as and when needed**E-mail:** [pease@uwm.edu](mailto:pease@uwm.edu)**Final Exam:** M December 21, deadline for turn in 5:00 pm**E-mail Classlist:** [h1st346-poland@uwm.edu](mailto:h1st346-poland@uwm.edu)**Purpose of Course**

To survey the history of Central Europe in the first half of the 20th century, focusing attention on the impact of two world wars on the lands and peoples of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Baltic states, as well as regions now part of Ukraine and Belarus. Students will gain understanding of many of the crucial issues of modern times as they originated and exerted their fullest impact in this sensitive region--the world wars, Nazism, Communism, the Holocaust, the rise of the Cold War. In other words, familiarity with the recent past of Central Europe may impart lessons of universal scope. Satisfies L&S International requirement. Prereq: jr st; satisfaction of GER English Composition competency req.

**Requirements**

1. Attentive study of weekly annotated PowerPoint presentations and completion of reading/viewing assignments.
2. Two essays, each 7 -10 pages long, on one of the suggested essay topics handed out two weeks before the due date, or a review of any book listed as "recommended reading" in the syllabus (not required course readings, or reference works). Papers are due **F Oct 2** and **F Nov 6**. Papers turned in late will be penalized in grading unless the student asks for, and expressly receives, an extension in advance of the due date. Extensions will be granted only for good reason, such as medical or other emergency.
3. A cumulative, take-home, open book final examination composed of essay questions, to be turned in no later than **M Dec 21**, 5:00 pm.

For purposes of grading, the final examination will count roughly 1/3 of the total, with the two papers counting for 1/3 apiece.

All coursework must be turned in to receive a passing grade for the course.

If they wish, students may submit one extra credit paper, at least 5 pages in length, written on a topic approved by the instructor. Papers deemed worthy of extra credit will raise a student's course grade one half step, for instance, from B to B+. Extra credit papers must be turned in no later than the last day of

class, **F Dec 11**. No more than one extra credit paper per student. Extra credit papers will not be accepted as substitutes for paper assignments not completed or the final exam.

### **Graduate Credit Requirements**

Graduate students wishing to receive graduate credit for the course must complete one longer paper (25-30 pp., roughly), on a topic approved by the instructor. The longer paper takes the place of the two shorter papers required of undergraduates. Each student shall confer individually with the instructor in a meeting in which expectations for the paper appropriate to the topic will be defined. Graduate papers should employ as many secondary sources as needed to serve the requirements of the project, and primary sources when available. The use of non-English language materials, where appropriate, is encouraged but not required. All papers should be prepared in conformity with the University of Chicago guidelines, the official style of the Department of History. It is expected that graduate students will consult regularly with the instructor on the progress of their paper. For purposes of grading graduate students, the paper will count roughly 75% of the total with the final exam counting for 25%.

### **E-mail Classlist**

The classlist allows you to send an e-mail message to all members of the class at once, or to receive one from any member of the class, including the instructor. The instructor will use the classlist to post announcements and messages concerning the course. Students should pay close attention to such posts, and it will be their responsibility to monitor these posts and carry out any instructions they might include. Failure to notice such messages will not be accepted as an excuse. The address is: [hist346-poland@uwm.edu](mailto:hist346-poland@uwm.edu). Any message intended only for the instructor should be sent to his e-mail: [pease@uwm.edu](mailto:pease@uwm.edu).

### **Disabled Students**

Should you have a disability, please do not hesitate to consult with me so that any necessary accommodations can be arranged.

### **Academic Advising in History**

All L&S students have to declare and complete an academic major to graduate. If you have not yet declared a major, you are encouraged to do so, even if you are at an early stage in your college education. If you are interested in declaring a major (or minor) in History, or if you need academic advising in History, please visit the Department of History undergraduate program web page at <https://uwm.edu/history/undergraduate/> for information on how to proceed.

### **Academic integrity at UWM**

UWM and I expect each student to be honest in academic performance. Failure to do so may result in discipline under rules published by the Board of Regents (UWS 14). The penalties for academic misconduct such as cheating or plagiarism can include a grade of "F" for the course and expulsion from the University.

UWM policies on course-related matters: See the website of the Secretary of the University, at: <http://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

## UWM and Covid-19

UWM has issued the following statement about its policies for attempting to maintain health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and the wider university community. Since this course is conducted online, it is not directly relevant to course procedures, but you are encouraged to read and familiarize yourself with it:

<https://uwm.edu/cetl/covid-19-syllabus-statements/>

## Readings

There are no textbooks assigned for this course that you are expected to purchase or acquire. You will be assigned to read several chapters from the two books below, which are accessible from the syllabus

Patrice M. Dabrowski, *Poland: the first thousand years* (2014)

Timothy Snyder, *The reconstruction of nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999* (2003)

In addition, students will find within the syllabus three hour-long video documentaries, which are required, and additional videos and short readings, which are recommended, but not required.

## Course Outline

What follows is an outline of lectures, exams, due dates, and reading/viewing assignments and recommendations.

Sept 2 Introduction



Dabrowski, Poland,  
Preface.pdf

Required reading: Dabrowski, Preface

Sept 7-11 Background: to the First World War/**Topics for first paper sent out**

Required viewing: The Struggles for Poland, #1: Once upon a Time, 1900–1923

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nkRJJvsTQk>

Sept 14-18 World War I and the Remaking of Poland and East Central Europe



Dabrowski, Poland,  
chapter 11.pdf

Required reading: Dabrowski, chapter 11



Snyder,  
Reconstruction of Nat

Snyder, chapter 3

Recommended reading: J. Hasek, *The good soldier Švejk* (excerpt),  
<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbooks.openedition.org%2Fceup%2F1078%3Flang%3Den&data=02%7C01%7Cpease%40uwm.edu%7Cc4506ac84a244878396308d849c1707a%7C0bca7ac3fcb64efd89eb6de97603cf21%7C0%7C0%7C637340442444757299&sdata=wMdJvBLwjIqM6aGJxXW8UfpdjiQuij3IBCoA85%2Ba2FU%3D&reserved=0>

Sept 21-25 The Messy Aftermath of War in East Central Europe

Sept 28-Oct 2 Interwar East Central Europe/**First paper due F Oct 2**

Oct 5-9 The Second Polish Republic

Required viewing: The Struggles for Poland, #2: A False Dawn, 1921-1939  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSM3IhKQLJg&t=47s>

Oct 12-16 Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Baltics/International questions/**Topics for second paper sent out**

Oct 19-23 Jews and other Minorities



Snyder,  
Reconstruction of Nat

Required reading: Snyder, chapter 7

Required viewing: "Image Before My Eyes" <https://vimeo.com/93183984>

Oct 26-30 1930s: the Depression decade

Nov 2-6 Hitler and the approach of World War II/**Second paper due F Nov 6**

Nov 9-13 Second World War



Dabrowski, Poland,  
chapter 12.pdf

Required reading: Dabrowski, chapter 12

Required viewing: The Struggles for Poland, #5: Friends and Neighbors, 1939-1945  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpHtozIIrNw&t=1s>

Recommended viewing: World War II, Behind Closed Doors, #1  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2A4hyoOrlU&t=77s>

Nov 16-20 World War II: East Central Europe as killing ground



Snyder,

Required reading: Snyder, chapter 8 Reconstruction of Nat

Nov 23-24 Poland in World War II between Hitler and Stalin  
 Recommended viewing: World War II, Behind Closed Doors, #4  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8EBKlPnxt4&t=117s>

**Nov 25-29 THANKSGIVING BREAK 🦃**

Nov 30-Dec 4 World War II diplomacy and the fate of Poland and East Central Europe  
 Recommended viewing: World War II, Behind Closed Doors, #5  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSHzVXXcKUC&t=106s>

Dec 7-11 Conclusion and review/**deadline for extra credit paper F Dec 11**

**M Dec 21 FINAL EXAMINATION. Deadline for turnin 5 pm.**

### Recommended Reading

A selected list of books on important aspects of Polish and east central European history, politics, and international affairs from the First World War to the beginning of the Communist era following World War II. Any of these would be suitable as subjects of a book report, or for use as a resource for research papers. All titles are held in the Golda Meir Library collections; if listed as “online access,” available via GML website.

B. F. Abrams, *The Struggle for the Soul of the Nation: Czech Culture and the Rise of Communism* (2004)

D. Ackerman, *The Zookeeper's Wife—A War Story* (2007). Gripping, readable account of Warsaw zookeepers hiding Jews during WW2—much better than the later film version.

W. Bartoszewski, *Righteous Among Nations, How Poles Helped the Jews, 1939-1945* (1969)

O. Bartov, *Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz* (2019) A powerful and harrowing account of the past century in a town now in western Ukraine.

I. T. Berend, *Decades of Crisis: Central and Eastern Europe before World War II* (1998)

N. Bethell, *1939, The War Hitler Won* (1972)

M. Białoszewski, *A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising* (1977)

A. Bikont, *The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne* (2015)

C. R. Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (1998)

L. Cabada and Š. Waisová, *Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in world politics* (2011)

K. Chiger with D. Paisner, *The girl in the green sweater: a life in Holocaust's shadow* (2008). Memoir of a Holocaust survivor in occupied Poland.

- A. Cienciala et al., ed., *Katyn, A Crime without Punishment* (2007)
- A. Cienciala, *Poland and the Western powers 1938-1939: a study in the interdependence of Eastern and Western Europe* (1968). Polish diplomacy during the buildup to WW2.
- N. Davies, *Rising '44, the "Battle for Warsaw"* (2003). On the Warsaw Rising of World War II.
- M. K. Dziewanowski, *Joseph Pilsudski: a European federalist, 1918-1922* (1969). A study of the Polish leader's ambitious but only partly realized vision for post-WWI Eastern Europe, written by a former UWM professor.
- J. Garlinski, *Poland in the Second World War* (1985)
- J. Gross, *Neighbors, the Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (2001). An important and controversial case study of the Holocaust in Poland.
- J. Hasek, *The good soldier Svejk and his fortunes in the World War* (1973). Republished edition of Czech comic antiwar novel, the most famous East Central European novel of the era.
- J. Hiden and P. Salmon, *The Baltic nations and Europe: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in the twentieth century* (1991)
- J. K. Hoensch, *A History of Modern Hungary, 1867-1994* (1996)
- E. Hoffman, *Shtetl, the Life and Death of a Small Town and the World of Polish Jews* (1997)
- J. Karski, *Story of a Secret State* (1944). Account of Polish Resistance in World War II by one of its heroic figures.
- S. D. Kassow, *Who Will Write Our History?: Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Oyneg Shabes Archive* (2007) (online access)
- K. Kersten, *Establishment of Communist Rule in Poland, 1943-1948* (1991)
- H. Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed: Poland and the Poles in the Second World War* (2012)
- J. Korbel, *The Communist Subversion of Czechoslovakia, 1938-1948* (1959)
- J. Korbel, *Twentieth-century Czechoslovakia: the meanings of its history* (1977)
- R. Moorhouse, *Poland 1939: the outbreak of World War II* (2020)
- J. Nowak, *Courier from Warsaw* (1982). On the Polish WW2 wartime Resistance.
- N. Pease, *Poland, the United States, and the Stabilization of Europe, 1919-1933* (1986)
- N. Pease, *Rome's Most Faithful Daughter: The Catholic Church and Independent Poland, 1914-1939* (2009)
- A. Polonsky, *The Jews in Poland and Russia -- v. 3. 1914-2005* (2010)
- A. Polonsky, *The Little Dictators: The History of Eastern Europe since 1918* (1975)
- A. Polonsky, *Politics in independent Poland 1921-1939: the crisis of constitutional government* (1972)
- A. Polonsky and B. Drukier, ed., *Beginnings of Communist Rule in Poland* (1980)
- A. Polonsky, E. Mendelsohn, and J. Tomaszewski, *Jews in independent Poland, 1918-1939* (2004) (online access)
- B. Porter-Szücs, *Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* (2014)
- A. Prusin, *The lands between: conflict in the East European borderlands, 1870-1992* (2010). Impressive study of ethnic conflict in Eastern Europe by a UWM Department of History alumnus.
- E. Ringelblum, *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto* (1958)
- J. Rothschild, *East Central Europe between the two World Wars* (1974)
- H. G. Skilling, ed., *Czechoslovakia, 1918-88: seventy years from independence* (1991)
- T. Snyder, *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning* (2015)
- T. Snyder, *Bloodlands, Europe between Hitler and Stalin* (2010). An important reinterpretation of mass killing by the Soviet and Nazi dictatorships.
- E. Steiner, *The Slovak Dilemma* (1973). Namely: should Slovakia be part of Czechoslovakia, or politically separate from Czechs?

- W. Szpilman, *The Pianist: The Extraordinary True Story of One Man's Survival in Warsaw, 1939-1945* (1999, 2003)
- P. S. Wandycz, *France and her eastern allies, 1919-1925* (1962). Classic study of French-Polish-Czechoslovak relations after WWI.
- P. S. Wandycz, *Polish diplomacy 1914-1945: aims and achievements* (1988)
- P. S. Wandycz, *Soviet-Polish relations, 1917-1921* (1969). On the Polish-Soviet war.
- P. S. Wandycz, *The twilight of French eastern alliances, 1926-1936: French- Czechoslovak-Polish relations from Locarno to the remilitarization of the Rhineland* (1988)
- R. M. Watt, *Bitter Glory: Poland and its Fate, 1918 to 1939* (1979). Readable political history of interwar Poland with a focus on the career of Józef Piłsudski.
- E. D. Wynot, Jr., *Polish politics in transition: the camp of national unity and the struggle for power, 1935-1939* (1974)
- A. Zamoyski, *Paderewski* (1982)
- A. Zamoyski, *Warsaw 1920: Lenin's failed conquest of Europe* (2008). The Polish-Soviet war.
- J. K. Zawodny, *Death in the Forest, the Story of the Katyn Forest Massacre* (1988)

### Useful Websites

- <https://www.1944.pl/en>. Site of Museum of Warsaw Uprising, Warsaw, in English.
- <http://www.polin.pl/en>. Site of Polin: the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, in English.
- <http://auschwitz.org/en/>. Site of Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, in English.
- <https://ipn.gov.pl/en>. English-language site of Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), the Polish “Commission for Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation” in WW2 and the Communist era.
- <http://muzeum1939.pl/en>. Site, in English, of Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, Poland, a new museum with a controversial back story.
- <http://www.jhi.pl/en>. Site of Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, in English.
- <https://culture.pl/en>. Useful online newsletter on Polish history, culture, and miscellanea.

### Handbooks and Stylebooks

The University of Chicago Press, Chicago Manual of Style is the preferred guide to preparation of papers and theses of the UWM Department of History. Print versions are available in Golda Meir Library. The most recent edition can be accessed online at:

<https://www-chicagomanualofstyle-org.ezproxy.lib.uwm.edu/book/ed17/frontmatter/toc.html>