

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).

4. Read *INTRODUCTIONS* to: Mikoś, Michael J.: *Medieval Literature of Poland. An Anthology*. New York and London: Garland, 1992; *Polish Renaissance Literature. An Anthology*. Columbus: Slavica Publishers, 1995; *Polish Baroque and Enlightenment Literature. An Anthology*. Columbus: Slavica Publishers, 1996; *Polish Romantic Literature. An Anthology*. Bloomington: Slavica Publishers, 1998, *Polish Literature from 1864 to 1918. Realism and Young Poland. An Anthology*. Slavica Publishers, 2006, and *Polish Literature from 1918 to 2000. An Anthology*. Slavica Publishers, 2008.

Select Bibliography

- Braun, Kazimierz. *A Concise History of Polish Theater from the Eleventh to the Twentieth Centuries*. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2003.
- Davies, Norman. *Heart of Europe: A Short History of Poland*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Haltof, Marek. *Polish National Cinema*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2002.
- Krzyżanowski, Julian. *A History of Polish Literature*. Warsaw: PWN, 1978.
- Lukas, Richard C. *The Forgotten Holocaust 1939-1944*. 2nd rev. ed. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1997.
- Mallach, Stanley et al. *The Polish Shout. Circus, Film, Opera and Theatre Posters: 1960s—1980s*. Milwaukee: UWM Art History Gallery, 1992.
- Michener, James. *Poland*. New York: Random House, 1983.
- Morawińska, Agnieszka. *Polish Painting 15th to 20th Century*. Warszawa: Auriga, 1984.
- Rogala, Jacek et al. *Polish Music in the Twentieth Century*. Kraków: PWM, 2000.
- Suchodolski, Bogdan. *A History of Polish Culture*. Translated by E.J. Czerwinski. Warsaw: Interpress, 1986.