The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies

SPRING 2012

Polish Literature and Culture
POL 324 (also listed as REE 325)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class meetings: TTh 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PAR 208
Instructor: Bernadeta Kamińska
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Phone: 232-9133
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Friday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Course Description:

The course presents the highlights of Polish literature and culture through the works of internationally recognized Polish directors and selected readings.

Students will study major works of Polish literature in the context of Western and East European/Slavic traditions. The road will start in the Middle Ages, and continue through Renaissance, Baroque, Enlightenment, Romanticism, Positivism, and literature in the 20th century.
Readings include early Polish poetry, short stories, novels, plays, and drama.
All texts, movies, and discussions will be in English. Students with good knowledge of Polish may read in the original Polish.

Prerequisites:

There is no prerequisite for this course.
Texts:

**Required text:** *The History of Polish Literature* by Czeslaw Milosz, California Press 1983

Literary texts will be available at the Reserve or as handouts.

**Texts on Reserve in PCL:**

Reymont, Wladyslaw 1867-1925.
The Peasants: a tale of our own times / From the Polish of Ladislas Reymont. PCL Stacks 891.85 R332CTD 1925 V.1 PCL Stacks 891.85 R332CTD 1925 V

Ashes and diamonds; a novel. Translated from the Polish by D. F. Welsh. PCL PG 7158 A7 P613

Sienkiewicz, Henryk, 1846-1916.

Fredro, Aleksander, hrabia, 1793-1876.


The Faithful River, Stefan Żeromski ; translated from the Polish by Bill Johnston

**For Those Who Read Polish**

Some of the course materials are in Polish in PCL. Most older items, not covered by copyrights, can be found in the Polish Internet Library: [http://www.pbi.edu.pl/](http://www.pbi.edu.pl/)

**Requirements and Grading:**

Attendance 10%
Class preparation, participation in discussions 20%
Presentation 20%
Quizzes 25%
Final paper 25%

Attendance

This course meets twice a week. Attendance is very important. You may miss a total of 3 class meetings without occurring any penalty. Further absences will count against your attendance grade. You will miss one point from your final grade points for every absence. Please, be on time. The quizzes will start and finish for all students at the same time. If you show up late, you have lost time – and I will not repeat instructions or oral questions that you have missed. You have to finish the quiz at the same time as other students.

Class preparation, participation in discussions

Absence (excused or not), tardiness, lack of preparation, and/or unwillingness to take part in class discussions will lower your grade.
You should read the sections indicated in the course calendar. Pay special attention to the works and writers covered.
There will be seven movie versions of the literary works shown in class. Participate in movie discussions.
All the movies have subtitles. You can find some of them in the UT library and all of them at Vulcan Video. www.vulcanvideo.com

Presentation

It is a 15-20 minutes oral presentation on a chosen Polish writer. Their names and dates of the presentations are provided in the course calendar.
The evaluation will include: organization, subject knowledge, graphics, eye contact, and elocution.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be covering both last meeting’s materials, movies, and readings assigned for the day of the quiz.
If you have to miss the class, please make appointment with me to make up the quiz ASAP.

Final paper

This will be a writing assignment based on the book and a movie. You need to choose one book and read in the original or the English translation. The books are on reserve. The paper will involve an analysis of a work in relation to its period and comparison of the literary work and its cinematic version.
More information about the paper will be distributed later.
Grades

100 - 90  A
89 – 80  B
79 – 70  C
69 – 60  D
59 and less  F

No plus or minus grades.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please, check Registrar Office Honor Code Chapter 11. Student Discipline and Conduct “Academic dishonesty” or “scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the SSD.

Religious Holidays:

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

A few reminders on courtesy:

• No eating, drinking chewing gum in class
• No texting during class
• No use of cell phones, i Podes, or other electronic devices. Laptops are allowed only for note taking and possibility for accessing class texts
• Don’t talk to other students if a student is asking a question, or I’m responding to this question, or if I’m addressing the whole class
• Put you cell phone into SILENT mode. If your phone goes off during a quiz, you will lose 5 points on that quiz.
• Be on time! Don’t interrupt.

COURSE CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) – SPRING 2012

T 01/17  Course Introduction  The readings are from Miłosz (paperback)
They are assigned for the following classes:

**The Middle Ages**

Anonymous 3 - 24

**Th 01/19**

Polish History
Guest lecture

**Humanism and Reformation**

Mikołaj Rej 1505 - 1569 25 - 110
Jan Kochanowski 1530 – 1584 ( 1 presentation)

**Baroque / Enlightenment**

Ignacy Krasicki 1735 - 1801 110 - 194

**Romanticism**

Adam Mickiewicz 1798 – 1855 ( 2 presentation ) 195 – 232
Juliusz Słowacki 1809 – 1849 ( 3 presentation ) 232 - 249
Zygmunt Krasiński 1812 - 1859

**T 02/02**

*Pan Tadeusz* (movie)

**T 02/07**

*Pan Tadeusz* (movie)

**T 02/14**

Movie Discussion
Cyprian Norwid 1822 – 1883 ( 4 presentation ) 266 - 280
Poetry

**T 02/16**

Aleksander Fredro 1793 – 1876 (5 presentation) 249 - 254

**T 02/21**

*Zemsta* (movie)

**T 02/23**

*Zemsta* (movie)
Movie Discussion

**Positivism**

Bolesław Prus 1845 – 1912 ( 6 presentation ) 281 – 303

**Th 03/01**

Eliza Orzeszkowa 1841 – 1910 ( 7 presentation ) 303 – 308
*On the Bank of the Niemen - Nad Niemnem* (movie)
T 03/06  Nad Niemnem(movie)

Th 03/08  Nad Niemnem(movie)
Movie Discussion

T 03/20  Henryk Sienkiewicz 1846 – 1916 ( 8 presentation )  308 - 315
Historical Novel
Trilogia

Th 03/22  Colonel Wolodyjowski – Pan Wołodyjowski (movie)

T 03/27  Colonel Wolodyjowski – Pan Wołodyjowski (movie)

Th 03/29  Movie Discussion

Young Poland

Poetry  322 - 369
Novelists
Stefan Żeromski 1864 – 1925 ( 9 presentation )

T 04/03  The Faithful River – Wierna Rzeka (movie)

Th 04/05  The Faithful River – Wierna Rzeka (movie)

T 04/10  Movie Discussion
Władysław Reymont 1867 – 1925 (10 presentation)  369 – 371

Th 04/12  The Peasants – Chłopi (movie)

T 04/17  The Peasants – Chłopi (movie)

Th 04/19  The Peasants – Chłopi (movie)
Movie Discussion

Independent Poland 1918 - 1939

T 04/24  Poetry  380 - 440
The Theater
The Novel and the short story
Witold Gombrowicz 1904 – 1969 (11 presentation)

World War II and the First Twenty Years of People’s Poland

Th 04/26  Prose  441 - 458
*Ashes and Diamonds- Popiół i Diament (movie)*

**T 05/01**
*Ashes and Diamonds- Popiół i Diament (movie)*

**Th 05/05**
Movie Discussion
Course Evaluation