



POL 211 European Union: History and European Identity

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 - 12:20, 124 Park
Instructor: Marta Cieslak



This course examines **the political, economic, social and intellectual history of the European Union (EU)**. We will explore the following questions:

- Why does the EU refuse to open its door to some countries while inviting others to join?
- What is the relation between the EU and those European states and peoples that remain excluded from EU membership?
- How has the existence of the EU contributed to the notion of European identity and how has the EU expansion changed it?
- How does the concept of European identity correlate with the national, racial, class, ethnic, gender or linguistic identities of the individuals and peoples who inhabit the EU and reside outside of its borders?
- What are the major challenges that the EU may confront in its nearest future?

We will approach these questions from the perspective of Poland, the largest among the more recently accepted member-states. As Poland is home to both some of the most passionate EU enthusiasts and most fervent nationalists, its standpoint will help us understand why the EU has been triggering such extreme and often fluctuating reactions among the citizens of the EU member-states.