

Polish Studies Program Spring 2009

POL 211/HIS 206

Polish Society and Politics

Dr. Slawomir Jozefowicz

Tuesdays/ Thursdays 9:30 - 10:50



For the last 20 years Poland - the sixth largest European Union nation in terms of population and the largest among the 12 new EU members - has been undergoing considerable changes. In 1988 it was still a socialist country and a member of the Warsaw Pact. Today Poland is a fully fledged parliamentary democracy with a growing market economy, belonging to both NATO and the EU.

Polish Society and Politics Polish Society and Politics aims to explain how these historic changes have been possible, examining the unique and unprecedented processes of transition and transformation, their mechanisms, and positive and negative consequences.

This interdisciplinary course will discuss such issues as: characteristic features of Poland's political and party system, its main political and ideological conflicts, Polish foreign policy and relations with neighboring countries, challenges and consequences of European integration, social costs of the market-oriented economic reforms, the role of the Catholic Church, the ongoing Westernization (and Americanization) of Polish culture and way of life.