



Polish Studies Program Spring 2013

POL 338 Poland in Europe Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 - 12:20, 104 Clemens Instructor: Marta Cieslak



Poland in Europe aims to examine the idea of how political and historical processes taking place in Europe have shaped Poland as a nation and as a state and, conversely, how Poland as a political entity contributed to the formation of Europe. This course will investigate the evolution of the concept of Europe, its relation to such notions as Eastern, Western, or Central Europe, and its impact on the current politics of the European Union. The question of what it really means for a country and its population to be part of Europe and to be defined as European and what factors decide whether a nation or a state may be included in Europe will rest at the center of our investigation.

We will explore:

- How shifting geographical borders as well as changing political and social concepts have influenced the idea of who may belong to and who is excluded from European tradition;
- How Poland, one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse European countries building its multicultural heritage for centuries, turned into a relatively homogenous nation-state in only a few decades of the twentieth century;
- The political, economic and social factors that shape the place of today's Poland in Europe and the European Union.