

**POL 410: Polish Cinema since 1989:
Between the Romantic Myth and the Magic of the Mundane**



Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM
Instructor: Dr. Zofia Kolbuszewska

This course aims to broaden a narrow and selective view of the Polish cinema that is often based on the reputation of a few outstanding Polish film directors. It will explore the works of the younger generation whose films were produced in the 1980s and after the political change in Poland in 1989.

The course will be devoted to comparing the new perspective on Polish identity that emerges from the films made after 1989 with that offered by the best Polish directors. The students will become familiar with the Polish films widely acclaimed all over the world and those rarely watched outside Poland. We will examine how complex interlacing of local historical heritage, current social and political circumstances, and the shaping of an individual's life are observed in these films through the lens of changing gender roles and such forming moments as birth, initiation and death. We will also address the questions of how and why in representing the transition between the Romantic model of Polishness and the sense of rapture with the marvelous potential of the individual's mundane existence, the Polish cinema employs the aesthetical as a vehicle for ethical reflection.