



POL 411 The Polish Experience in America from Jamestown to the end of WW II

Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:50, Clemens Hall 204

Instructor: Dr. Piotr Derengowski

Registration number: 20373



In this course we will explore the participation and impact of representatives of the Polish ethnic group on the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States. We will investigate these themes not only using a broad range of sources (memoirs, diaries, speeches, newspapers etc.) but also through the exploration of the life histories of prominent Poles and Polish-Americans, such as Kazimierz Pułaski, Gaspard Tochman, Helena Modjeska, or Ignacy Paderewski.

- We will look at how Polish pioneers explored the American continent.
- We will examine what led members of both political and economic Polish migrants to take part in the major conflicts fought on American soil, the War of Independence and the Civil War.
- We will investigate the role of the Polish ethnic group in the abolitionist movement in mid-19th century, as well as in the labor movement of the late-19th and early 20th century.
- We will explore the role of the Polish diaspora in America during the two world wars and its impact on U.S. government foreign policy.

The course will foster students' understanding of Polish experience in America.