

Polish Studies Program Spring 2009

Polish Minorities: The Multicultural Experience Past and Present POL 411/HIS 306/APY 410

Dr. Slawomir Jozefowicz
Tuesdays/ Thursdays 12:30 - 1:50



This course will look at **“Polish minorities”** in two different ways, reflecting the dual meaning of this concept. It will examine the significant role of ethnic minorities in Poland and the concept of what it means to be a Pole and to live abroad.

Polish Minorities: The Multicultural Experience Past and Present will consider and compare these two different experiences of multiculturalism as seen from the Polish perspective. It will reconstruct different historical, political and economic contexts which caused Poles to emigrate. We will also discuss the case of Poles who never left their homeland and became minorities due to foreign aggressions, wars and shifts of borders.

The course will not only explore the specific character of various experiences of the Polish diasporas in different countries and cultures (with special emphasis on the Polonia in North America), but will also attempt to draw more universal conclusions, regarding the role and status of ethnic minorities in general, especially in the context of today’s ideas and policies of multiculturalism.