



Polish Studies Program Spring 2013

POL 411: Polish Transatlantic Crossings
Tuesdays/Thursdays: 12:30-1:50, 114 Baldy
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Cross-cultural encounters, including both the maintenance of separate diaspora identities and immigrant acculturation and integration processes, make up a significant part of the history of all societies. This course examines those broad themes in the Americas from the standpoint of one of the largest participants in transatlantic encounters—**Poland and its diaspora**.

The peoples of Poland have been crossing the Atlantic Ocean in search of “bread and freedom” for centuries. This course:

- Investigates Poland and its diaspora in their multifaceted transatlantic contexts;
- Explores Polish immigrants’ participation in and impact on the political, economic, social, and cultural history of countries on both American continents;
- Looks at the broader question of the various ways in which both the newcomers and their descendants in the Americas maintained links to their ancestral homelands;
- Looks into a particular dimension of “foreign relations” that encompass economy, politics and culture;
- Encourages the students to confront numerous portrayals of the immigrants, placing them in the context of past and present racial, ethnic and class relations.