

Poland Today

Fall 2010



Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM **125 BALDY Hall**

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The goal of this course is for the students to get to know contemporary Poland, through reading and viewing re-creations and documentaries of its recent history (since 1944) and its current diverse, thriving and continually changing culture. We will be examining original artworks that question the nature of Polishness; we will watch world known, award-winning movies that fictionalize the country's most recent story. We will read literature and poetry that will help us understand how it felt and what it meant, in specific places in time, to be Polish for various recognized Polish authors. We will attempt to acquire a fair view of the little fatherlands that make up the common mother country of Poland today, including several regional allegiances, the growing and diverse group of immigrants, and the numerous Polish community residing abroad, who are all an important part of the picture. We will also analyze documents of a diplomatic and political nature, in order to comprehend the development of Poland's relations with the rest of the world, especially the US and the European Union, its main partners and allies since 1989.

By looking at the sources provided by the instructor, as well as additional materials recommended by her, we will try to dissect Poland, understood as a nation, a political entity, an idea, a "Tradition," a home, an imagined home, a destination and a point of origin as well as of reference. In simpler terms, our goal is to comprehend *how* Poland has become what it is today, *what* it is today, and what perspectives it has for the future, as well as its links with other nations and states in economic and cultural terms.