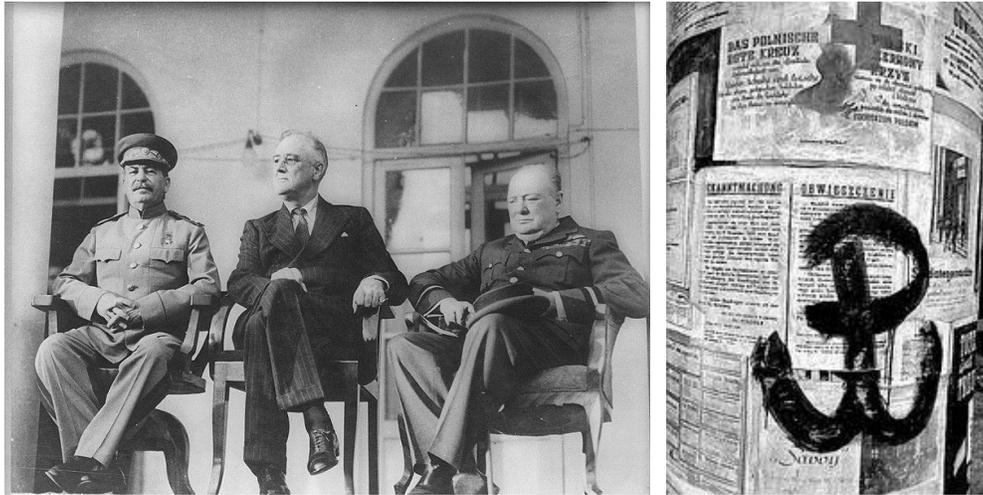


**POL 338/ HIS 385: *Poland in Europe*, Spring 2011**

Thursdays: 3:00-5:40, 17 CLEMENS HALL

Instructor: Marta Marciniak

Office hours: 426 Baird, Thursdays 1:45-2:45pm or by appointment: [martamar@buffalo.edu](mailto:martamar@buffalo.edu)



**Course description**

*Poland in Europe* aims to examine the idea of how political and historical processes taking place in Europe have shaped Poland as a nation-state and, conversely, how Poland as a political entity contributed to the formation of Europe. This course will investigate the evolution of the concept of Europe and its relation to such notions as Eastern, Western, or Central Europe. The question of what it really means for a country to be part of Europe and to be defined as European and what factors decide whether a nation-state may be included in the idea of Europe will rest at the center of our investigation. The students will explore how shifting political borders and concepts like unification and European-ness have influenced the idea of who may belong to the European heritage and who is excluded. They will also attempt to draw the borders of Europe and decide how they are different from the geographical boundaries of the European continent.

The course will focus on the place of Poland in Europe as seen and explored from the internal perspective of Polish authors, artists, political and religious leaders, as well as from the viewpoint of outsiders. Students will look into the question of how the concept of Europe has shaped the historical, social, and national consciousness of Poles and how Poles have contributed to and helped preserve the complex heritage of Europe. They will also investigate how Poland, one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse European countries, turned into a homogenous nation-state in only a few decades of the twentieth century, and how that influenced the Poles' ties with other Europeans. The course will also examine the place of today's Poland in Europe and the European Union. The students will analyze the politics of the European Union and attempt to connect the principles of this politics with the foundations of the idea of Europe.