

UW-MADISON POLISH STUDIES



**Welcome home.
Witaj w domu.**

➤ go.wisc.edu/polish



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Welcome from Program Chair

04

Screening Poland since 1991

05

Supporting Students

06

Mapping Cultures

07

Exploring Memory

08

Our Courses

09

Teaching Poland

10

Building Community

11

Meet the Profs

WELCOME FROM PROGRAM CHAIR

“

Since 2019, I have had the honor and privilege to oversee the Polish program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: the oldest and one of the most dynamic Polish studies programs in North America. During this time, we have upgraded our curriculum, introduced new courses, and developed outreach strategies to serve better the needs of our students and the Madison community. Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID pandemic, our enrollments in the past two years have been consistently growing. Each year, we welcome students from all walks of life who seek to learn about Poland's history, language, and cultural heritage.



We would not have been able to accomplish that without the generous support of our community. Your donations and involvement in our events and initiatives help enrich our program. For more information on contributing and to hear testimonials from our outstanding students, please visit go.wisc.edu/polish today.

Łukasz Wodzyński
Assistant Professor of Polish
Dept. of German, Nordic, and Slavic+

”

SCREENING POLAND SINCE 1991

The Madison Polish Film Festival continues, despite challenges.

30 Years and Counting

Communism felt like yesterday, and George H. W. Bush resided in the White House when Ewa Miernowska, then a Ph.D. student in French literature, first decided to host a festival to showcase Poland's vibrant film scene. Since then, the festival has grown into a staple event on campus, now in its 30s.

One-Woman Show

Since its inception, Dr. Miernowska has remained the main driver behind each year's festival. Her tireless work brought hundreds of hours' worth of cinematic material to campus, helping build a sizable Polish film collection. Her efforts were awarded in 2021 when she received special recognition at the annual Polish Film Festival in America.

The Tradition Continues

After close to 30 years in charge, Dr. Miernowska handed the festival's programming over to her successors. Just like other events, the festival has felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the campus shut down in early September 2020, the screenings necessarily moved online. On November 13 and 20, 2022, the festival continued its tradition of promoting Polish film, culture, and language to the Madison and Wisconsin community. See more on gns.wisc.edu/madison-polish-film-festival.

Ready to support initiatives like the Polish Film Festival? Go to gns.wisc.edu/donate or scan the QR code to the right to start giving now.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Today's readers, tomorrow leaders.



The Lapinski Scholarship, generously endowed from the will of Mrs. Leona Lapinski Leute, helps to support students pursuing Polish language and culture courses. This year's winners are Victoria Chowaniak and Julia Paciorek. Gratulacje!

Victoria Chowaniak is a first-generation student and Polish American from Illinois majoring in Biology. She attended the Tadeusz Kościuszko Polish School and now sits on the Polish Student Association board. Victoria values community and connection to her culture. She enjoys hiking, traveling, and sharing Polish culture with her friends.

Julia Paciorek is a dual national (Poland, United States) and triple major in Computer Science, Data Science, and Polish from Houston. She is a member of several Polish organizations and is a Polish folk artist who specializes in the Kashubian/Kraków style. She enjoys spending time with her dog and playing The Witcher series video games.

The Lapinski fund provides financial support for UW–Madison students studying the Polish language, literature, and culture. Our students have also benefited from the support of the Zawacki and Gąsiorowska funds. We express our thanks to our donors and remain grateful for their generosity and continuous support.

Ready to make a difference in students' lives? Go to www.gns.wisc.edu/donate or scan the QR code below to start giving now.



06

MAPPING CULTURES

01

"Growing up in Poland, I was taught the history of Poland as the history of Poles. Then I discovered that reality was much more complex" — these thoughts inspired UW Polish Lecturer Dr. Krzysztof Borowski to develop a new course on Poland's and Central Europe's diverse heritage, which combined his love for cultures—and maps.

SLAVIC 245/LITTRANS 247

Multiculturalism in Central Europe



02

Instead of traveling to Poland or the region, students in the course took a virtual journey there as they collaborated on digital projects exploring the area's rich cultural heritage. Instead of writing final papers, they created a virtual guide titled Mapping Multiculturalism in Central Europe using mapping software.

From Berlin to Białystok, from Vienna to Wolin, students' projects trace cultural diversity through text, imagery, and videos. According to its description, the project tells the story of how multiple cultures, languages, and religions co-existed and evolved in the Central European region.

03

The digital guide's first edition includes such locales as Berlin, Białystok, Gdańsk, Gniezno, Kashubia, Łódź, Poznań, Silesia, Vienna, Wilamowice, and Wolin. To read our blog post about the project and start interacting with the project, go to go.wisc.edu/polish.

Support our innovative teaching of Polish language and culture. Go to www.gns.wisc.edu/donate or scan the QR code to the right to start giving now.



EXPLORING MEMORY

MARTIAL LAW

01

The introduction of martial law on December 13, 1981 in Poland remains a focal point in Polish historical memory. To explore its significance and impact, our Polish Studies faculty organized a panel, The Anniversary of Martial Law in Poland.



02

The panel took place on April 21, 2022, at the Pyle Center, attracting an audience of faculty, students, and community members. Panel participants included Prof. Łukasz Wodzyński (Slavic), Dr. Krzysztof Borowski (Slavic, both UW), Prof. Brian Porter-Szűcs (History, University of Michigan), and UW historian Kathryn Ciancia, who moderated the discussion. The UW Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) sponsored the event.



03

First, Prof. Porter-Szűcs analyzed post-1989 statistical data about life in communist Poland to challenge mainstream martial law narratives. Next, Prof. Wodzyński discussed Polish literature of and about martial law to draw parallels between reality and fiction. Finally, Dr. Borowski continued this theme as he examined Netflix's TV series "1983" in light of the historical events of 1981 and contemporary political life in Poland. The discussion following the panel invited intriguing questions from the audience.

Support the planning and organization of more events like this one. Go to www.gns.wisc.edu/donate or scan the QR code to the left to start giving now.

OUR COURSES

Explore history and culture through language

Learn Polish




Fall 2022
SLAVIC 111: First Semester Polish
 4 Credits
 MTWR 11:00-11:50 am
 Instructor: Krzysztof Borowski

Why learn Polish?
 Polish is the most commonly spoken Slavic language of the European Union and the second largest Slavic language in the world, with over 50 million users across the globe. Polish culture has a remarkably rich tradition, shaped by a millennium of artistic and intellectual innovation as well as struggles for political, social, and cultural independence.

SLAVIC 245 / LITTRANS 247: History and Ethics on Film

POLISH CINEMA



Fall 2020
 TR 1:00-2:15 pm
 3 Credits
 Instructor: Lukasz Wodzyński

SLAVIC 245
 LITTRANS 247
 ESCAPING UTOPIA:
 CULTURES AFTER COMMUNISM

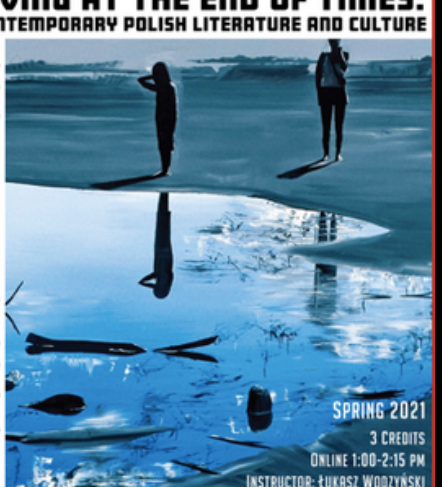


SPRING 2020
 TR 1:00 - 2:15 PM
 OPEN TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS
 INSTRUCTOR: LUKASZ WODZYNSKI

FULFILLS LITERATURE BREADTH, 3 LAS CREDITS

LIVING AT THE END OF TIMES:
 CONTEMPORARY POLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

SLAVIC 361 / LITTRANS 361



SPRING 2021
 3 CREDITS
 ONLINE 1:00-2:15 PM
 INSTRUCTOR: ŁUKASZ WODZYŃSKI

SLAVIC 245 / LITTRANS 247


SPRING 2021
 3 CREDITS
 ONLINE MWF 2:25-3:15 PM
 INSTRUCTOR: KRZYSZTOF BOROWSKI



**The Politics of Laughter:
 Polish Comedy Culture**

SLAVIC 245/LITTRANS 247

Multiculturalism in Central Europe



SPRING 2022
 3 CREDITS
 MWF 2:25 PM - 3:15 PM
 INSTRUCTOR: KRZYSZTOF BOROWSKI

TEACHING POLAND

The UW–Madison Polish Studies program offers a full suite of Polish language, literature, and culture courses. Each semester dozens of students take advantage of our courses as a doorway into getting to know Poland and its culture better.

Polish Language

First Semester Polish
 Second Semester Polish
 Third Semester Polish
 Fourth Semester Polish
 Introduction to Intensive Polish
 4th/5th/6th Semester Intensive Polish
 Third Year Polish
 Fourth Year Polish

Polish Literature and Culture

Contemporary Polish Literature & Culture
 Escaping Utopia: Cultures After Communism
 History and Ethics on Film: Polish Cinema
 Multicultural Central Europe
 Polish American Migration Experience
 Polish Literature in Translation
 Politics and Comedy in Poland
 War and Culture: The Polish Experience

Help support our Polish language, literature, and culture courses. Go to www.gns.wisc.edu/donate or scan the QR code to start giving now.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

01

The first semester in college can often feel lonely. Whether you enjoy pierogi, trivia, or retreats, the Polish Student Association (PSA) has got you covered. With a long list of activities and initiatives, joining the PSA is the thing to do to enhance the UW-Madison college experience.



02

Victoria Chowaniak, a first-generation student from Chicago, cannot speak highly enough of it. "I joined the PSA and am now on the board as the secretary. I look forward to going to PSA every time. I have been able to meet so many amazing people and build so many relationships," she declares.

In the past, the PSA has organized spring break retreats, game nights, sports games, trips to Chicago and Milwaukee, and socials. The PSA also organizes the Madison Polish Film Festival each year. Above all, members have a good time together while learning about and maintaining their interest in all things Polish: language, culture, or food.

03

The Polish Student Association is a student organization dedicated to expanding cultural awareness of Poland. Members participate in biweekly general meetings to explore and discuss history, geography, traditions, pop culture, and current events relating to Poland and its people. Most importantly, no Polish heritage or language skills are required to be a member and everyone is welcome to join.

Support the PSA and other initiatives by donating today. Go to www.gns.wisc.edu/donate or scan the QR code to the right to start giving now.



MEET THE PROFS



Łukasz Wodzyński, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Polish

Intrigued by the concept of adventure, post-communism, and Polish modernism, Prof. Wodzyński is currently completing his book manuscript on re-enchantment in Polish and Russian early 20th-century novels. At UW, he teaches courses on Polish literature and film as well as post-communism.



Ewa Miernowska, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer

A longstanding Polish language lecturer in the department, Dr. Miernowska (aka Pani Ewa) has educated scores of UW students, passing them on her love for Polish culture, film, and literature. Pani Ewa's flagship initiative is the Madison Polish Film Festival, now in its third decade of running.



Krzysztof Borowski, Ph.D.

Lecturer in Polish Studies

Fascinated by contemporary Poland, Dr. Borowski's work explores emerging trends in politics, language, and culture. His teaching staples are students' digital projects. At UW, he teaches courses on Polish political comedy, the multicultural heritage of Central Europe, and the Polish American experience.



UW--MADISON POLISH STUDIES

UW Polish Studies Program
1454 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Dr
Madison, WI 53706

➔ go.wisc.edu/polish

