

Poland in the New Europe

Tue, Thu 15:25-16:40

Morey 525

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Office hours: Harkness 101 M 14-15:30, F 10-12 or by appointment

Special Screenings: Dewey 210 Wednesdays January 26, February 9, at 7:40

This is an introduction to modern history of Poland. From the downfall of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth to the emergence of independent nation state following WWI, the interwar period and the tragic experience of WWII to the establishment of the communist rule we will finish with the 1989 collapse of the communist system and the rise of an independent democratic state. Poland's history will be placed in the context of broader regional development. The course will focus on political, social, and economic history seen from various vantage points. We will study the re-writing of history according to newly created collective memories of events and struggles in which contemporary political ends dictate the content of history.

This 2 credit course will meet from January 13 to March 3. All course work must be completed by March 3. You will be graded based on one short paper 5 to 7 pages double space 12 font (50% of the final grade), class participation (20% of the final grade) and a final test (30%) given during the last class on March 3. You will get study questions one week prior to the test.

Class Schedule

Introductory meeting

01/13/05 Collective memory and its role in creating national consciousness

Maurice Halbwachs, Collective memory, New York, Harper & Row, 1980 Historical Memory, e-reserve pp. 50-83

Pennebaker, James and B. Banasik, "On the Creation and Maintenance of Collective Memories: History as Social Psychology" In: Collective Memory of Political Events" e-reserve pp. 3-19

Week one

01/18/05 How new nations were formed in Central Europe: an example of Poles and Ukrainians

Piotr S. Wandycz, Lands of partitioned Poland, 1795 - 1918, Washington, University of Washington Press, Chpt. 12,13, pp. 239-272

01/20/05 Polish and Ukrainian memory of the beginning: the case of Bohdan Chmielnicki and Cossack uprisings of XVII century; fragments of film *With Fire and Sword*, dir. Hoffman

Week five

02/15/05 Communist take-over