

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

Timothy Snyder, The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus 1569 – 1999, Yale University Press, 2003, pp. 105-132

Week two

01/25/05 Collective memory: heroic history
Polish uprisings against Russia (facts and memory)

Piotr S. Wandycz, Lands of partitioned Poland, 1795 - 1918, Washington, University of Washington Press, 1974, Chpt 6, 105-131, Chpt 8, pp. 155-189

01/26/05 **Dewey 210 7:40 Film Screening:** *The Promised Land*, dir. A. Wajda

01/27/05 Collective memory: the civilizational transition during the XIXth century. Facts and Memory. Ethnic conflict or collaboration: Poles, Ukrainians, Germans, Jews and Russians).
Students' presentations based on film viewed.

Week three

02/01/05 Year 1918 Memory and the present . The birth of nation states in Central Europe: Poland, Ukraine, Bialorus, Lithuania

John Grenville, History of the World in the twentieth century, Cambridge Mass., Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1994 e-reserve pp. 116-132

02/03/05 Between two totalitarianisms: the interwar period in Central Europe

Joseph Rotschild, Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II, New York, Oxford University Press, CH.I, pp. 3 - 24.
Norman Davies, Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present, Oxford University Press, 2001, Chpt 3, pp. 95-137

Week four

02/08/05 WWII and the Holocaust in Polish and Central European History

Joseph Rotschild, Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe pp 23-74

02/09/05 **Film Screening:** *The Pianist*, dir. R. Polanski

02/10/05 The memory of the witnesses
Jan Karski, Story of a secret state, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994 e-reserve pp. 320-354
Yitzhak Zuckerman, A Surplus of Memory: Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993 e-reserve pp. 520-563

Week five

02/15/05 Communist take-over

Joseph Rotschild, Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe pp. 75-123

02/17/05 Collective memory stolen: Communism

Stephane Courtois, Black book of communism, Cambridge Mass., London, Harvard University Press, 1999 e-reserve pp. 363-393

Week six

02/22/05 02.24.05 Memory and the Fall of Communism

Norman Davies, Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present, Oxford University Press, 2001, Chpt 8, pp. 1-54

Jan Kubik, Power of Symbols against the Symbols of Power, pp 183-238

02/24/05 Poland and her neighbors since 1989

Norman Davies, Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present, Oxford University Press, 2001, Chpt 8, pp. 407-433

Week seven

03/01/05 Contested historical memories between neighbors within the European Union

Timothy Snyder, The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, pp. 277-293

03/03/05 Final test

Books on reserve (books denoted by * are also available at the campus bookstore):

*Courtois, Stephane	<i>The Black Book of Communism</i>
*Davies, Norman	<i>Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present</i>
Grenville, John	<i>History of the World in the Twentieth Century</i>
Halbwachs, Maurice	<i>Collective Memory</i>
Karski, Jan	<i>Story of a Secret State</i>
*Kubik, Jan	<i>Power of Symbols against the Symbols of Power</i>
Lukowski, Jerzy	<i>A Concise History of Poland</i>
Polonsky, A. Michlic, J. ed.	<i>The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland</i>
Rotshschild, Joseph	<i>Return to Diversity: A Political History of East of East Central Europe since World War II</i>
*Snyder, Timothy	<i>The Reconstruction of Nations</i>
Wandycz, Piotr S.	<i>Lands of Partitioned Poland, 1795-1918</i>
Zuckerman, Yitzhak	<i>A Surplus of Memory: Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising</i>