

**The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies**

Fall 2012

**Contemporary Polish Cinema
POL 324 (also listed as REE 325, C L 323, and EUS 347)**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class meetings: TTh 12:30 p.m. – 2:90 p.m. PAR 103

Instructor: Bernadeta Kamińska

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 – 2:30p.m
Monday and Wednesday 12:30 – 1:00p.m
or by appointment

Course Description:

In this course, we will study Polish national cinema from 1945 to the year 2007. The different stages of development of Polish cinema are usually related to changing political situation in Poland. The focus is on full-length narrative films of seven great Polish directors: Leonard Buczkowski, Andrzej Wajda, Roman Polanski, Krzysztof Zanussi, Krzysztof Kieslowski, Sylwester Checinski, and Wladyslaw Pasikowski. We will start with the first postwar movie, follow with later movies of the Polish School period paying tribute to the victims of the war. Next, we will watch “Cinema of Distrust” with series of contemporary films centers around the conflict between individual and the state during communism. The Solidarity movement and the most popular works will follow. We will conclude with movies showing Poland in a process of transition from one political system to another and return to democracy. We will see a comedy to bring some hope that in Poland it might be finally possible to laugh at matters normally very serious. The conclusion will be a Polish crime thriller whose director draws on formula of American action films, but despite that makes “very Polish” movie.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Texts:

The following text is required for the course:

Polish National Cinema, Marek Haltof, Berghahn Books 2002, available at Coop
List of recommended readings for your research essays will be posted on Blackboard.

Requirements and Grading:

The final grade for the course will be cumulative and based upon the percentages indicated. There will be no final examination.

Attendance	10%
Class preparation, participation in discussions	20%
Presentation	20%
Two Research Essays	50% (25% each)

Attendance

This course meets twice a week. Attendance is very important. You may miss a total of 3 class meetings without any penalty. Further absences will count against your attendance grade. You will miss one point from your final grade points for every absence. Please, be on time. Being three times late counts as one absence.

Class preparation, participation in discussions

Absence (excused or not), tardiness, lack of preparation, and/or unwillingness to take part in class discussions will lower your grade.

No use of cell phones, I Pods, or other electronic devices. Laptops are allowed only for note taking and possibility for accessing class texts.

Careful readings of all assigned texts for the day on which they are assigned are required.

Please, check the Blackboard regularly for assigned readings and important announcements.

There will be ten movies shown in class. All the movies have subtitles. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to watch the movie outside of class.

Participate in movie discussions.

Presentation

It is a 15 minutes oral presentation with a partner on a chosen Polish director. The evaluation will include: organization, subject knowledge, graphics, eye contact, and elocution. The presenters for the day will prepare a handout and/or power point presentation for the class. See the grading rubric on Blackboard.

Research Essays

The written requirements for the class, for which detailed instructions will be provided later, include two research essays. The topics will be suggested.

Grades

100 - 90	A
89– 80	B
79 - 70	C
69 – 60	D
59 and less	F

No plus or minus grades.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please, check Registrar Office Honor Code Chapter 11. Student Discipline and Conduct “Academic dishonesty” or “scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the SSD.

Religious Holidays:

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

A few reminders on courtesy:

- No eating, drinking chewing gum in class
- Don't talk to other students if a student is asking a question, or I'm responding to this question, or if I'm addressing the whole class
- Put you cell phone into SILENT mode
- Be on time! Don't interrupt!

COURSE CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

August

1 week

30

Syllabi
Poland after World War II
Introduction to Polish Cinema (Lecture)

September

2 week

4

Movie Showing "*Forbidden Songs*" by Leonard Buczkowski (1947)

6

Movie Showing, Director Presentation (Buczkowski), Discussion

3 week

11

Director Presentation (Wajda)
Movie Showing "*Kanal*" by Andrzej Wajda (1956)

13

Movie Showing, Discussion

4 week

18

Movie Showing "*Katyn*" by A. Wajda (2007)

20

Movie Showing, Discussion

5 week

26

Movie Showing "*The Pianist*" by Roman Polanski (2002)

27

Movie Showing

October

6 week

2

Director Presentation (Polanski)
Film Discussion

4

"Cinema of Distrust"
Director Presentation (Zanussi)

7 week

9

First Research Essay Due
Movie Showing "*Camouflage*" by Krzysztof Zanussi (1976)

11

Movie Showing, Discussion

8 week

16 Movie Showing "*Man of Iron*" by Wajda (1981)

18 Movie Showing

9 week

23 Solidarity Movement, Film Discussion

25 Director Presentation (Kieslowski)
Movie Showing "*The Scar*" by Krzysztof Kieslowski (1976)

10 week

30 Movie Showing, Discussion

November

1 Movie Showing "*The Decalogue*" by Kieslowski (1988)

11 week

6 Movie Discussion

8 The Return of Democracy
Director Presentation (Checinski)

12 week

13 Movie Showing "*Controlled Conversations*" by Sylwester Checinski (1992)

15 Movie Showing, Discussion

13 week

20 Poland in Transition
Director Presentation (Pasikowski)

22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

14 week

27 Movie Showing "*The Pigs*" by Wladyslaw Pasikowski (1992)

29 Movie Showing, Discussion

December

15 week

4 Polish Films with American Accent

6 **Second Research Essay Due**
Conclusion, Course Evaluation

