

# POL/REEES 115

## Intro to Polish Culture

Spring 2025

TR: 12:30-1:50

219 Gregory Hall

Dr. George Gasyna

ggasyna@illinois.edu

A nation located at the cross-roads of eastern and western Europe, throughout its thousand-year history Poland has been influenced in dramatic ways by its neighbors while at the same time resolutely holding onto a distinct cultural and political identity. Some of the questions we will address this semester include: given the general turbulence of its past, can Poland be said to be a “typical” European country? National crisis has long affected the sense of Polish identity; in what ways does this legacy play out today? In elaborating a “country profile,” we will examine literary texts, biographical “mini-capsules,” and visual works from diverse genres including film, and we’ll investigate some of the key figures of Polish cultural life – from peasants and exiled nobles to mystics and “outsiders.”

Authors we will read this semester include: Adam Mickiewicz, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Bruno Schulz, Marek Hłasko, Czesław Miłosz, Olga Tokarczuk, and Andrzej Stasiuk



ALL COURSE MATERIALS IN ENGLISH – NO KNOWLEDGE OF POLISH REQUIRED

Course fulfills General Education Requirements for Cultural Studies: Western and Literature & the Arts

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

