

**Polish Politics and Society**  
**PSCI 589**  
**May Mini 2016**  
**STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**  
**May 16-May 20 (M,Tu,W,Th,F – 9:00am-1:00pm Political Science Conf. Room)**  
**May 21-May 29 (Daily - Poland)**

**Dr. Rodríguez**  
**Office: Social Science Building 149**  
**Telephone: (903) 468-3094**  
**email: robert.rodriguez@tamuc.edu**  
**Office Hours: M-F 1:00pm-2:00pm, or by appointment**

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an intensive study of Poland, including what is certain to be an unforgettable visit to the country, including Warsaw, Krakow, and Oswiecim. You will have the unique opportunity to learn the politics, history, economics, and culture of this Central European country in a two-step process. For the first week of this course, you will learn about Poland utilizing a historical text in a classroom setting. Then, you will embark on a one week visit to Poland. The emphasis of the classroom portion of the course will be on learning the political history of the country in order to be properly prepared for our travels, while the study abroad portion of the course will complement the classroom instruction by being able to gain a first-hand look at many of the historically significant landmarks that you will have read about.

Please note the following important items:

- This course involves *extensive* reading ON A DAILY BASIS. It will be impossible to have productive discussions about the course material unless students have carefully read the assigned material before class. We will average 89 pages of readings per day.
- The nature of the material we will read, and some of the places we will visit are of a highly sensitive nature. Students ARE REQUIRED to display maturity and respect for the themes that we will digest throughout the summer in an effort to better understand the political history of Poland.

**Format:**

Each graduate student will be responsible for presenting the assigned readings on a rotating basis (see Requirements/Assignments). Each class will involve a round-table discussion about the assigned readings. Please note: *This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the professor's discretion.*

**Learning Outcome:**

Students will understand the political history of Poland.

***NO PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY  
TIME.***

***THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO):***

***CELL PHONES,***

***LAPTOPS,***

***iPADS,***

***iPODS,***

***MP3 Players/Recorders,***

***Translation Devices***

***VIDEO CAMERAS***

***AND ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND***

***IF ANY OF THESE DEVICES ARE PRESENT IN CLASS YOU WILL BE ASKED  
TO STORE THEM OR LEAVE THE CLASS IMMEDIATELY.***

### **Requirements/Assignments**

#### **Paper:**

You must produce one paper (5 pages -not more, not less-, typed 12-point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins all around). This is worth a total of **20%** of your grade. The research paper must focus on a topic approved by the professor analyzing some aspect of Polish politics or society. Papers must be submitted as a hard (printed) copy on the due date (May 21). You will be provided with specific guidelines to complete the paper.

Note: Your research paper cannot be the same or similar to papers you submitted for another course. Likewise, you cannot use the research paper you write in this course for another class without the expressed permission of the other professor. ***Late papers will NOT be accepted for ANY reason.***

#### **Examination:**

There is one take home exam in this course, worth **20%** of your grade. The exam requires you to answer TWO questions in an essay format (2 pages each, typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1-in margins all around). The purpose of this requirement is to prepare you for comprehensive master's degree exams in political science. You will be provided with specific guidelines to complete the take-home exam. ***Late exams will NOT be accepted for ANY reason.***

**Readings Presentations:** Each graduate student will be assigned to **present readings** and help lead the discussions throughout the classroom portion of the course on an equitable and rotating basis. ***These presentations must be accompanied by AN OUTLINE to be distributed to all of the students in the class. Each presentation will be strictly limited to 20 minutes each.*** Your presentations are collectively worth **10%** of your grade.

**Attendance:** 10% of your grade is based on your class attendance during the classroom portion of the course. Students are required to attend ALL classes and attendance will be taken at each class session using a sign-in sheet. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have signed in. Arriving late and/or leaving early will negatively impact your attendance grade. *Attendance is critical, discussions are irreplaceable, and course sessions cannot be "made up."* **I will not be managing any excuses for absences. You can miss up to ONE class session without penalty for any reason. More than one absence will result in a SIGNIFICANT reduction in your grade, REGARDLESS of the reason (excused OR unexcused).**

*The attendance grade scale appears below.*

- *0 absences = you will get a bonus of 2% added to your grade*
- *1 absence= no penalty*
- *2 absences= -7% from your grade*
- *3 absences= -8% from your grade*
- *4 absences= -9% from your grade*
- *5 or more absences= -10% from your grade*

**Participation:** YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE WILL BE BASED ON **BOTH** THE CLASSROOM PORTION OF THE COURSE, AS WELL AS YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY ABROAD PORTION OF THE COURSE.

Your participation in the classroom portion of this course is worth **5%** of your grade.

Positive participation *in the classroom* includes: responding to my questions, asking your own questions, and contributing to class discussions. Your participation grade will be reduced if you use personal electronic devices in class, misbehave in class, or disrupt class in any way.

Your participation in the study abroad portion of this course is worth **20%** of your grade.

Positive participation *in the study abroad* portion of the course includes: -above all- **BEING FLEXIBLE AND DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE** –particularly when faced with adverse and/or unexpected circumstances; notifying your professor **IMMEDIATELY** in the event of any strange, emergency, or potentially emergency situations; not complaining; being on-time; correctly following instructions; being where you are supposed to be; and fully participating in ALL required activities.

**Journal:** ALL Students will also be required to keep a daily journal of activities from May 22-May 28. This will consist of at least one handwritten page per day in a traditional spiral notebook (wide ruled) or the equivalent. The journal is worth **15%** of your grade.

## Grades:

Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below. Specifically, the following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- Research Paper (May 21): 20%
- Take-home Exam (May 21): 20%
- Readings Presentations (as assigned): 10%
- Attendance (May 16-20): 10%
- Participation (classroom portion): 5%
- Participation (study abroad portion): 20%
- Journal (May 22-May 28): 15%

**A 90-100%; B 80-89.9%; C 70-79.9%; D 60-69.9%; F Below 60%**

## Course Policies

**Notes on Academic Dishonesty of ANY kind:** Any student who is caught committing any kind of academic dishonesty will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration. “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating [or attempting to cheat] on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), [signing the attendance sheet for a student who is absent (or asking another student to sign you in when you are absent)], and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material” (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures A13.12). If there may be any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

**Notes on plagiarism:** Any student who is caught plagiarizing will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration for academic dishonesty. If you have any doubt as to what may constitute plagiarism, please consult me prior to submitting any written work.

**Code of Student Conduct:** *Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.* Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and commonsensical directions listed above may result in a verbal request to cease inappropriate behavior, your immediate removal from the class, being immediately dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Failure to comply with all faculty or staff instructions while abroad, failure to comply with any aspects of the Code of Student Conduct and the Student Handbook, failure to treat all of your fellow participants and faculty with respect, engaging in ANY illegal activity, engaging in any activity that hinders your full participation in all program activities, and/or engaging in any activity that may bring disrepute to Texas A&M University-Commerce, the International Studies Office, or yourself, may result in your immediate dismissal from the program, a grade of "F" in this course, YOUR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM EUROPE AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency.**

**In order to maximize your performance in this course, you must:**

- ***TURN OFF ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO): CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, iPADS, IPODS, MP3 Players/Recorders, Translation devices, VIDEO CAMERAS, AND ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND***
- ***IF ANYONE IS FOUND TO BE TEXTING OR ANSWERS A PHONE CALL DURING CLASS, THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL TAKE A *POP QUIZ* ON THE SPOT.***

**Cell phone Quizzes will consist of FOUR questions.**

**Each incorrect answer will reduce your grade in the course by .5%**

- Attend each class session AND arrive ON TIME (the classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals **15 minutes after class starts**; Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early (this may affect your grade);
- ***Read the assigned material before class and be prepared to discuss the topics presented;***
- Refrain from reading materials or working on other homework during class;
- Do NOT get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom unless absolutely necessary;
- Be courteous to -and respectful of- your fellow students and professor.

**Note to Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library, Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

[studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Required Book:**

There is **ONE required text** for this course:

#### **Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom**

Brian Porter-Scücs

ISBN: 978-1-4443-3219-3

***ELECTRONIC BOOKS (e-books) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS COURSE***

### **Course Schedule:**

#### **Monday, May 16      Film/Introduction to the Course and Study Abroad Program**

Read: 5

- Porter-Scücs: Introduction (5)
- Watch [Schindler's List](#)

#### **Tuesday, May 17      Leading up to the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century/WWI**

Read: 84

- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 1 Poles Without Poland 1795-1918 (37)
- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 2 The Political Landscape at the Start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (22)
- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 3 Nation and/or Revolution 1914-22 (25)

#### **Wednesday, May 18      The Interwar Period**

Read: 52

- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 4 The Ambivalence of Democracy and Authority, 1922-39 (15)
- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 5 Hyperinflation and Depression: The Interwar Period (20)
- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 6 Jews, Ukrainians, and Other Poles in the Interwar Period (17)

#### **Thursday, May 19      World War II and Its Aftermath**

Read: 112

- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 7 World War II, 1939-45 (42)
- Porter-Scücs: Ch.8 Conquest or Revolution 1945-56? (44)
- Porter-Scücs: Ch. 9 The Year 1956 and the Rise of National Communism (26)

**Friday, May 20**

**Democratization**

Read: 108

- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 10 Communism and Consumerism (26)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 11 The End of the PRL, 1976-89 (43)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 12 Shock Therapy (20)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 13 Politics in the Third Republic (19)

**Saturday, May 21 Research Paper AND Take-Home Exam DUE; Departure**

*NOTE: The historical locations that we will visit may vary from those listed in the syllabus.*

- Check Departure Gate and Time online in the afternoon for **Lufthansa Flight 439**
  - Meet at DFW Terminal D NO LATER THAN 1:00pm.
  - Bring your printed research paper and take-home final to the airport
  - TRAVEL Flight DFW-Frankfurt, Germany (Depart 3:55pm)

**Sunday, May 22 Transfer in Frankfurt, Germany; Arrive in Warsaw, Poland**

- TRAVEL Arrive in Frankfurt, Germany at 8:55am
- TRAVEL Depart Frankfurt, Germany at 12:05pm on **Lufthansa Flight 1348**
- TRAVEL Arrive Warsaw, Poland at 1:40pm
- Clear Customs and Immigration; Pick up baggage and transfer to hotel
- Check-in at **HOTEL GROMADA WARSZAWA CENTRUM**
- Evening on your own to get settled, eat dinner, etc.

**Monday, May 23**

**Warsaw**

- Old Town
- Royal Castle
- National Museum
- Lazienki Park
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Polish Army Museum
- Palace of Science and Culture
- Botanical Gardens
- Warsaw Rising Museum
- Ghetto Heroes Monument
- Museum of the History of Polish Jews
- Pawiak Prison Museum

**Tuesday, May 24**                      **Warsaw**

- Holy Cross Church
- Gestapo Headquarters
- Rynek Starego Miasta (Old Town Market Square)
- Barbican
- St. Casimir's Church
- Marie Curie Monument
- Warsaw Ghetto Wall
- Little Insurgent Monument
- Field Cathedral of the Polish Army
- Karinski Gardens
- Monument to the Ghetto Uprising

**Wednesday, May 25**                      **Journal Check; Warsaw; Krakow**

- TRAVEL Warsaw-Krakow (**depart 10:55am ; arrive 1:28pm**)
- **Journals Collected on the train**
- Check-in to **CRYSTAL SUITES APARTMENTS**
- Wawel Castle
- Dragon's Den
- Schindler's Factory
- Rynek Glowny (Old Town)
- Cloth Hall

**Thursday, May 26**                      **Oswiecim (Auschwitz-Birkenau)**

- Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum (All day study tour begins at **8:50am**)

**Friday, May 27**                      **Krakow**

- Town Hall Tower
- St. Mary's Church
- Kazimierz Jewish Quarter
- Podgorze Jewish Ghetto
- Collegium Maius
- Free time in Krakow to explore your individual interests

**Saturday, May 28**                      **Krakow; Warsaw; Journal DUE**

- TRAVEL Krakow-Warsaw (**depart 11:35am; arrive 1:55pm**)
- Check-in to **HOTEL GROMADA WARSZAWA CENTRUM**
- Free time in Warsaw to explore your individual interests
- **Journals Collected in the evening**



**Sunday, May 29**

**Return to the USA**

- TRAVEL Warsaw-DFW (for most participants, unless you have made other arrangements)
- Check-in at Warsaw Airport 4:00am
- Depart Warsaw 6:55am **Lufthansa Flight 1353**
- Arrive Frankfurt 8:45am
- Depart Frankfurt 10:10am **Lufthansa Flight 438**
- Arrive DFW 2:10pm

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**STUDENT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the syllabus in its entirety, and understand the guidelines and policies therein. Furthermore, I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this course, and that failure to do so may result in serious consequences, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course, receiving a grade of “F” in the course, and/or being sent home from Europe at my own expense.**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**