



**COURSE SYLLABUS
Polish Politics and Society
PSCI 497/597
May Mini 2023**

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

May 15-May 19 (M,Tu,W,Th,F – 10:30am-1:30pm)
Hybrid Location: SRSC Conf. Room or ZOOM, as designated each day
May 22-June 1 (Daily - Poland)

Dr. Robert G. Rodríguez
Associate Professor, Political Science
Coordinator, Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies Minor

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Robert G. Rodríguez
Associate Professor, Political Science
Coordinator, Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies Minor

Office Location: NHS 225 (Nursing Building)

Office Hours:

Daily 1:30pm-2:30pm (please send me an email in advance if you would like to meet at a specific time/date); or by appointment (in-person or zoom).

The BEST way to contact me is via email.

Office Phone: None.

University Email Address: robert.rodriguez@tamuc.edu

Check this Syllabus to see if your question is answered FIRST.

Preferred Form of Communication: Please send me an email if you would like to contact me.

****CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS DAILY****

*****This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the professor's discretion*****

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 class session will involve lectures and robust discussions about the assigned readings. You will regularly be asked to contribute your opinions about the assigned readings and answer questions about the readings. In addition to the assigned readings listed in the syllabus, we will regularly discuss current topics that relate to Polish politics and culture.

Learning Outcomes:

All Students will develop an understanding of the politics and culture of Poland.

In addition,

Graduate Students will

1. demonstrate their knowledge of Polish politics and culture through a research paper that analyzes and interprets the intersections between the politics, history, economics and culture of Poland.
2. apply their knowledge of Polish politics and culture by assisting in leading classroom discussions on the course material.

Global Learning Objectives:

Learning Outcome 1: Students will be able to demonstrate *knowledge* of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

Learning Outcome 2: Students will be able to *apply* knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to view themselves as *engaged* citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

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

UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

Readings Presentations and Worksheets: Each undergraduate student will be assigned to present readings with a partner and help lead the discussions throughout the classroom portion of the course on an equitable and rotating basis. These presentations must be accompanied by a READINGS SUMMARY WORKSHEET to be distributed to all of the students in the class. Each presentation will be strictly limited to 20 minutes each. Your presentations and worksheets are collectively worth **25%** of your grade. The same grade will be assigned to both partners who produce presentations and worksheets.

Note: Graduate Students will produce presentations and worksheets individually (without partners).

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).

- **Attendance Note 1: If a pop quiz or any other assignment is given when you are absent, you CANNOT make it up, regardless of the reason for your absence (excused or unexcused).**
- **Attendance Note 2: I will NOT reply to any emails asking what we did in class during your absence- We will follow the syllabus. If you miss class, get notes from a classmate and ask him/her if there were any announcements.**
- **Attendance Note 3: Students who attend ALL class sessions and do not have ANY unexcused OR excused absences will receive a bonus of 2% added to their attendance grade.**

- **Attendance Note 4: ARRIVE ON TIME! The classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals 5 minutes after class starts. Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early.**

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= -4% from your grade
- 3 absences= -6% from your grade
- 4 absences= -8% 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 grade in the classroom portion of the course will be calculated as follows:

Never Contributes to Class Discussions:	0%
Rarely/Sometimes Contributes to Class Discussions:	2%
Often Contributes to Class Discussions:	4%
Exceptional Contributions to Class Discussions:	5%

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; complying with faculty and staff directives and instructions; notifying your professor **IMMEDIATELY** in the event of any concerning, 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.

Your participation grade in the Study Abroad portion of the course will be assessed by the Faculty and Staff Leaders on the criteria detailed above:

Failure:	0%-10%
Barely Passing:	11-13%
Satisfactory:	14-15%
Very Good:	16-17%
Excellent:	18-19%
Exceptional:	20%

Journal:

ALL Students will also be required to keep a daily journal of activities from May 23-June 1. 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.

UNDERGRADUATES ONLY**Examination:**

There is one exam in this course, worth **25%** of your grade. The exam will be 30 questions, multiple choice, and given online on Monday, May 22. You will have 30 minutes to complete it. It will cover all of the material presented in this course.

If you miss an exam, you will receive 0% for that exam.

If you have a **legitimate reason** for missing an exam (e.g. severe illness or injury requiring professional medical care, emergencies in your immediate family, participation in official university activities, legal obligations) **AND** you have **supporting documentation** for your absence, then you may request taking the MAKE-UP EXAM, which will take place at a mutually-agreed upon time and date **-ONLY IF APPROVED**. Exam 2 will be held during Finals Week, therefore no make-up exams will be scheduled, except in the most extraordinary, legitimate, and documented circumstances.

Requests for taking the make-up exam must be **submitted in writing within 24 hours** of the scheduled exam **AND include documentation** explaining and substantiating why the absence was legitimate. An approval to take the make-up exam will be based solely upon the professor's evaluation of your request and any supporting documentation.

GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY**Readings Presentations and Worksheets:**

Graduate Students will produce presentations and worksheets individually (without partners). Your presentations and worksheets are worth **20%** of your grade.

Leading Class Discussions:

Graduate Students will assist the professor in leading class discussions. Your assistance in leading class discussions is worth **5%** of your grade.

Research Paper:

You must produce one paper (10 pages -not more, not less-, typed 12-point font, double spaced, 1inch margins all around). This is worth a total of **25%** of your grade. The research paper must focus on a specific topic approved by the professor that analyzes and interprets the intersections between the politics, history, economics and culture of Poland. Papers must be submitted on D2L Brightspace **ONLY** on the due date (**Monday, May 22**). You will be provided with specific guidelines to complete the paper.

Grading Scale:

UNDERGRADUATES

Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below.

- Readings Presentations and Worksheets (Due on dates assigned): 25%
- Exam (May 22): 25%
- Attendance (May 15-19): 10%
- Participation (classroom portion): 5%
- Participation (study abroad portion): 20%
- Journal (May 23-June 1): 15%

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

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below.

- Readings Presentations and Worksheets (Due on dates assigned): 20%
- Assistance in Leading Class Discussions (Throughout the course): 5%
- Research Paper (May 22): 25%
- Attendance (May 15-19): 10%
- Participation (classroom portion): 5%
- Participation (study abroad portion): 20%
- Journal (May 23-June 1): 15%

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

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Specific Course Policies:

1. **Electronic devices** (such as cell phones, laptops, ipads, earbuds, smartwatches, etc.) of any kind are NEVER permitted during class. You will be directed to stop using these items and/or leave the classroom immediately if you have an electronic device visible.

2. **Disruptions of any kind** (as determined by your professor, such as side-conversations and ANY display of disrespect to anyone) are absolutely prohibited in a university classroom. You will be directed to cease this type of activity and/or leave the classroom immediately if you disrupt class in any way. Persistent disruptions will be reported to the Dean of Students office for further action and you will be prohibited from attending class until the Dean of Students has authorized your return.

3. **Be on time.**

If you know you will be arriving late or need to leave class early for any reason, you must inform your professor before class begins.

4. Follow the Code of Student Conduct.

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. Faculty have the authority to direct students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the classroom 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 dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook:

http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf

5. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Failure to comply with all faculty or staff instructions while abroad, failure to comply with any aspect 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.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced.

Email

Before you ask me a question in an email, check to see if the syllabus answers your question FIRST. I generally reply to emails within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. Emails sent to me over weekends will be replied to on Mondays. I do not reply to emails that ask questions about items covered in the syllabus, such as what chapters are covered on an exam or what the assigned readings are for a given class session.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the University attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

If you have any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

Nondiscrimination Notice

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.

TAMUC COVID-19 Statement

A&M-Commerce recommends the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories.

TAMUC Counseling Center Statement

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

<https://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campuservices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Note: This section does not apply to the international travel portion of this program.

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

****Some activities in this course will require accessing D2L Brightspace****

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technology Required

USE CHROME OR FIREFOX BROWSERS WITH D2L—DO NOT USE Microsoft EDGE as this tends to have bugs when using this learning platform

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and uploading digital images.

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

REQUIRED BOOKS

There are TWO **required** texts for this course.

1. **Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom**
Brian Porter-Scücs
ISBN: 978-1-4443-3219-3
2. **Culture Smart! POLAND**
Gregory Allen
ISBN: 978-1-8573-3709-9

There is ONE **optional, but recommended** text for this course.

3. **Lonely Planet: Poland**
Simon Richmond, et. al.
ISBN: 978-1-78657-585-2

Electronic versions of the books are acceptable for this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Monday, May 15 IN-PERSON CLASS AT SRSC Conference Room
Introduction to Poland and Study Abroad Program
Read: 50

- Allen: Introduction (pages 7-11) (4)
- Allen: Ch. 1 Land and People (Geographical Overview, A Brief History p 12-46)(34)
- Allen: Ch. 1 (Ethnic Groups, The Intelligentsia, Poland's Cities, Government and Politics, Poland in the European Union p 47-59) (12)

Tuesday, May 16

IN-PERSON CLASS AT SRSC Conference Room

Polish Culture

Read: 56

- Allen: Ch. 2 Values and Attitudes (13)
- Allen: Ch. 3 Customs and Festivals (9)
- Allen: Ch. 4 Making Friends (11)
- Allen: Ch. 7 Travel, Health and Safety (13)
- Allen: Ch. 9 Communicating (10)

Wednesday, May 17

SYNCHRONOUS CLASS ON ZOOM (Link will be provided)

World War II and Its Aftermath

Read: 91

- Porter-Scucs: Introduction (5)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 7 World War II, 1939-45 (42)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch.8 Conquest or Revolution 1945-56? (44)

Thursday, May 18

SYNCHRONOUS CLASS ON ZOOM (Link will be provided)

Communism

Read: 95

- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 9 The Year 1956 and the Rise of National Communism (26)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 10 Communism and Consumerism (26)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 11 The End of the PRL, 1976-89 (43)

Friday, May 19

SYNCHRONOUS CLASS ON ZOOM (Link will be provided)

Democratization

Read: 39

- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 12 Shock Therapy (20)
- Porter-Scucs: Ch. 13 Politics in the Third Republic (19)

Monday, May 22

Exam (Undergraduates) OR Research Paper (Graduate Students)

DUE ONLINE

- You must complete the exam (undergraduates) OR submit your research paper by 12:00pm.
- Make your final preparations for the travel portion of the class.

Tuesday, May 23 **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 Finnair 0020
- Meet at DFW Terminal D NO LATER THAN 1:30pm.
(you need to make your own arrangements for someone to pick you up at the airport)
- TRAVEL Flight DFW-Helsinki, Finland (Depart 4:50pm)

Wednesday, May 24 Transfer in Helsinki, Finland; Arrive in Warsaw, Poland

- TRAVEL Arrive in Helsinki, Finland at 10:45am
- TRAVEL Depart Helsinki, Finland at 11:35am on Finnair Flight 1143
- TRAVEL Arrive Warsaw, Poland at 12:15pm
- Clear Customs and Immigration; Pick up baggage and transfer to hotel
- Check-in at Marriott Hotel WARSZAWA
- Once we get settled in, we will have lunch somewhere
- Walk to/around Rynek Starego Miasta (Old Town Market Square)
- Evening on your own to get settled, eat dinner, etc.

Thursday, May 25 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

Friday, May 26 Journal Check; Warsaw; Krakow

- TRAVEL Warsaw-Krakow (Time/Train TBA, possibly depart 10:55am ; arrive 1:28pm)
- Journals Collected on the train
- Check-in to AMBER BOUTIQUE HOTEL KRAKOW
- Wawel Castle
- Dragon's Den
- Schindler's Factory
- Rynek Glowny (Old Town)
- Cloth Hall

Saturday, May 27 Krakow

- Town Hall Tower
- St. Mary's Church
- Kazimierz Jewish Quarter
- Podgorze Jewish Ghetto
- Collegium Maius

Sunday, May 28 **Krakow/Wieliczka**

- Wieliczka Salt Mine Day Trip
- Free time in Krakow to explore your individual interests

Monday, May 29 **Krakow/Oswiecim (Auschwitz-Birkenau)**

- Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum (Must Arrive by 10:30am)
- Free time in Krakow to explore your individual interests

Tuesday, May 30 **Krakow; Warsaw; Journal DUE**

- TRAVEL Krakow-Warsaw (Time/Train TBA, possibly depart 11:35am; arrive 1:55pm)
- Check-in to Marriott Hotel WARSZAWA
- Holy Cross Church
- Gestapo Headquarters
- Barbican
- St. Casimir's Church
- Marie Curie Monument
- Warsaw Ghetto Wall
- Journals Collected in the evening

Wednesday, May 31 **Warsaw**

- Little Insurgent Monument
- Field Cathedral of the Polish Army
- Karinski Gardens
- Monument to the Ghetto Uprising
- Free time in Warsaw to explore your individual interests

Thursday, June 1 **Return to the USA**

- TRAVEL Warsaw-DFW
- Check-in at Warsaw Airport 6:00am
- Depart Warsaw 8:55am Finnair Flight 1142
- Arrive Helsinki 11:35am
- Depart Helsinki 12:25pm Finnair Flight 0019
- Arrive DFW 3:05pm (you need to make your own arrangements for someone to pick you up at the airport)

**Polish Politics and Society
PSCI 497/597
May Mini 2023
STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM
Dr. Rodríguez**

STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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: _____