

Polish

Department of Linguistics

Polish
College of Arts and Sciences
609 Baldy Hall
North Campus
Buffalo, NY 14260-1030

PH: 716.645.2177
Fax: 716.645.3825
Web: www.polishstudies.buffalo.edu/

Overview

With almost 40 million people in Poland and more than 10 million Polish Americans, Polish continues to be an important world language. Poland has contributed to world culture and civilization in almost every area, and the tradition of sustaining a rich cultural life is reflected in the output by Polish painters and musical composers and in the number of Nobel prizes for literature won by Polish citizens, including Henryk Sienkiewicz (1905), Wladyslaw Reymont (1924), Czeslaw Milosz (1980), and Wislawa Szymborska (1996).

The Polish program is intended to train students in the spoken and written language and to deepen their knowledge of and interest in the literature, history and culture of Poland.

About our Degrees

The Polish Studies Program at the University at Buffalo has entered a period of programmatic development. We aspire to engage students, scholars and the community whose knowledge and interests center on the Polish experience. The Program's mission involves a broad approach to the discipline that situates Polishness in its historical contexts of cosmopolitanism, transnationalism and diaspora. We seek to provide a contemporary international perspective that reflects the nation's new position as a member of the European Union, incorporating, at the same time, the Polish experience outside of Poland as reflected in the Polish community in Buffalo.

For more information, please visit the [Polish Studies](#) website.

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

For study abroad options, see the Study Abroad section or contact the Study Abroad Programs office at (716) 645-3912.

Career Information and Further Study

Students with a variety of majors can enhance their career opportunities by developing proficiency in Polish and knowledge of Polish history and culture. For individuals with such qualifications, job possibilities with United States corporations doing business in a Poland that promotes private enterprise and encourages foreign investment are expected to expand.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: Minor

Polish Studies - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Acceptance to Track A requires completion of [POL 101](#) Elementary Polish 1st Semester and [POL 102](#) Elementary Polish 2nd Semester. Acceptance to Track B requires completion of any Polish Studies course with a grade of C or above.

Track A

Polish

Prerequisite Language Courses

- [POL 101](#) Elementary Polish 1st Semester
- [POL 102](#) Elementary Polish 2nd Semester

Required Language Courses

- [POL 203](#) Intermediate Polish 1st Semester
- [POL 204](#) Intermediate Polish 2nd Semester

Required Upper Level Courses

Four courses (12 credit hours) chosen from the following:

- [POL 305](#) Advanced Polish: Part I
- [POL 306](#) Advanced Polish: Part II
- [POL 323](#) Polish Literature in Translation
- [POL 324](#) Poland Today
- [POL 338](#) Poland in Europe
- [POL 499](#) Independent Study
- [POL 410](#) Special Topics (repeatable for credit)
- [POL 411](#) Special Topics (repeatable for credit)

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor...18 (+ 6 hours prerequisites)

Note: One 300 or 400 level course from the following list of approved courses may substitute for a required upper level course. These courses will be reviewed annually by the Director to ensure that they are taught by collaborating faculty and contain significant Polish Studies content. Also, courses other these can be used towards the Minor if they are shown to have a significant Polish content and receive approval by the Director of the Polish program.

- [HIS 313](#) 20th Century Europe
- [HIS 319](#) Europe Between the World Wars, 1919-39
- [HIS 346](#) 19th Century Europe
- [HIS 383](#) War & State: European Foundations
- [HIS 384](#) War and Peace since 1800
- [HIS 371](#) Social History of Europe
- [HIS 395](#) History of the Cold War
- [HIS 456](#) European Underground Movements
- [HIS 475](#) The Great War and European Society
- [PSC 351](#) Politics in E. Europe Post Soc. Sts.

Track B

Required 200 level courses

Two courses (6 hours) chosen from the following:

- [POL 222](#) Polish Culture: Theatre
- [POL 223](#) Topics
- [POL 231](#) Introduction to Polish Literature
- [POL 232](#) Introduction to Polish Literature
- [POL 210](#) Special Topics
- [POL 211](#) Special Topics

Required Upper Level Courses

Four courses (12 semester hours) chosen from the following:

- [POL 305](#) Advanced Polish: Part I
- [POL 306](#) Advanced Polish: Part II
- [POL 323](#) Polish Literature in Translation
- [POL 324](#) Poland Today
- [POL 338](#) Poland in Europe
- [POL 499](#) Independent Study
- [POL 410](#) Special Topics (repeatable for credit)
- [POL 411](#) Special Topics (repeatable for credit)

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor...18

Note: One course from the following list of approved courses may be substituted for a required 200 level course.

- [HIS 221](#) Eastern Europe
- [HIS 227](#) Twentieth-Century Europe and the World

Polish

[HIS 299](#) The Holocaust and History

Note: One course from the following list of approved courses may be substituted for a required upper level course. These courses will be reviewed annually by the Director to ensure that they are taught by collaborating faculty and contain significant Polish Studies content. Also, courses other these can be used towards the Minor if they are shown to have a significant Polish content and receive approval by the Director of the Polish program.

[HIS 313](#) 20th Century Europe
[HIS 319](#) Europe Between the World Wars, 1919-39
[HIS 346](#) 19th Century Europe
[HIS 383](#) War & State: European Foundations
[HIS 384](#) War and Peace since 1800
[HIS 371](#) Social History of Europe
[HIS 395](#) History of the Cold War
[HIS 456](#) European Underground Movements
[HIS 475](#) The Great War and European Society
[PSC 351](#) Politics in E. Europe Post Soc. Sts.

POL 101: Elementary Polish 1st Semester

Credits: 5
Type: LEC

Requires no previous knowledge of Polish. Develops speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Students with some familiarity with spoken Polish are welcome.

POL 102: Elementary Polish 2nd Semester

Credits: 5
Pre-requisites: [POL 101](#)
Type: LEC

Requires no previous knowledge of Polish. [POL 102](#) is a sequel to [POL 101](#). Develops speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Students with some familiarity with spoken Polish are welcome.

POL 203: Intermediate Polish 1st Semester

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves further development of all four language skills; introduces selections from Polish literary masterpieces. [POL 204](#) is a spring sequel to [POL 203](#).

POL 204: Intermediate Polish 2nd Semester

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves further development of all four language skills; introduces selections from Polish literary masterpieces. [POL 204](#) is a spring sequel to [POL 203](#).

POL 210: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Explores a selected topic in Polish studies.

POL 211: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Explores a selected topic in Polish studies.

POL 222: Polish Culture: Theatre

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Explores differing topics in theatre within the area of Polish studies.

POL 223: Topics in Polish Culture

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Explores differing topics within the area of Polish studies.

POL 231: Intro to Polish Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Polish

Survey of major Polish literary works from the beginning until the 19th century.

POL 232: Intro to Polish Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Survey of major Polish literary works of the 20th and 21st centuries.

POL 305: Advanced Polish

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Emphasizes conversation and written compositions. Readings of short stories, poetry, essays, and plays yield vigorous discussions in Polish.

POL 306: Advanced Polish

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Emphasizes conversation and written compositions. Readings of short stories, poetry, essays, and plays yield vigorous discussions in Polish.

POL 323: Polish Literature in Translation

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Considers major figures in Polish literature from the 1930s to the present. Readings and discussions focus on Mrozek (drama), Milosz, Herbert, Rozewicz, Szymborska (poetry), Schulz, Gombrowicz, Andrzejewski, and Konwicki (fiction).

POL 324: Poland Today

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines major socioeconomic, political, and cultural happenings and developments in Poland since World War II, Solidarity, the disintegration and collapse of the Communist regime in 1989, the leap to the market economy, and political pluralism.

POL 338: Poland in Central Europe

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Considers the rise, decline, disappearance, and reemergence of Poland as an important power and factor in Eastern European politics.

POL 410: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Explores a selected topic in Polish studies.

POL 411: Explores a Selected Topic in Polish Studies.

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Explores a selected topic in Polish studies.

POL 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-6
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Supplements regular offerings of the department. Students must secure permission of the instructor before registering.