

## Spring 2015

POL 211/AMS 295 History of Poland

Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:20, Clemens Hall 104 Instructor: Dr. Piotr Derengowski Registration number: 15304



This is an introductory course in the history of Poland. Throughout the semester we will be exploring the rise of the Polish state, its integration with Latin civilization as well as its role in Eastern Europe, Poland's disappearance from the maps of Europe for 123 years, followed by the struggle for independence and sovereignty throughout the 20th century.

Among many others we will answer following questions:

- ➢ Why did Poland adopt Christianity from the Czechs rather than from the Holy Roman Empire or Byzantium, and what impact did it have on the history of the Polish state?
- > Why did Poland form a Union with pagan Lithuania?
- > Why did Poland disappear from the political map of Europe for more than a century?
- > Why did the World War II begin in Gdańsk?
- > Why did the Communist regime negotiate with "Solidarity" and agree to semi-free elections in 1989?