



Polish Studies Program Spring 2010

POL 338/HIS 385 Poland in Europe
Thursday 3:00 - 5:40, 88 Alumni
Instructor: Marta Cieslak



Poland in Europe aims to examine the idea of how political and historical processes taking place in Europe have shaped Poland as a nation-state and, conversely, how Poland as a political entity contributed to the formation of Europe. This course will investigate the evolution of the concept of Europe and its relation to such notions as Eastern, Western, or Central Europe. The question of what it really means for a country to be part of Europe and to be defined as European and what factors decide whether a nation-state may be included in the idea of Europe will rest at the center of our investigation.

We will explore how shifting geographical borders as well as changing political and social concepts have influenced the idea of who may belong to and who is excluded from European tradition. We will also investigate how Poland, one of the most ethnically and religiously diverse European countries, which was building its multicultural heritage for centuries, turned into a homogenous nation-state in only a few decades of the twentieth century. The course will also examine the place of today's Poland in Europe and the European Union. We will analyze the politics of the European Union and attempt to connect the principles of this politics with the foundations of the idea of *Europe*.