

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
SLAVONIC STUDIES SECTION,
FACULTY OF MODERN AND MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

Paper SL.13:

Introduction to the Language, Literature and Culture of Poland

HANDBOOK



Prof. Stanley Bill

sb2054@cam.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

COURSE AIMS

The course introduces students to the language, literature and culture of Poland through language instruction and a broad survey of Polish literary, cultural and political history.

The paper will pay close attention to the hybridized and multi-ethnic nature of Poland's past, pointing to the interlocking cultural narratives of a broader region laced with shifting borders. There will be a strong focus on often painful international relations – especially with Russia – and on comparative perspectives that place Poland in a much larger, pan-European context.

Weekly lectures and fortnightly supervisions will cover the history of Polish culture from before the symbolic beginnings of 966 until the present day. Students will encounter a wide range of cultural productions, including novels, poems, plays, short stories, memoirs, historical studies, films, musical compositions and works of visual art. Throughout the paper, the powerful influence of historical experience on national culture will remain a central concern.

Students will learn the basics of the Polish language in twice-weekly classes throughout the academic year. No prior experience is required.

The second half of the paper will feature an increasing emphasis on the challenges and techniques of creative translation. By the end of the paper, students will be able to complete short literary translation assignments from Polish into English.

PREPARATORY READING

Before the beginning of the academic year, students should read either *Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present* by Norman Davies or *Poland: A History* by Adam Zamoyski for a general overview of Polish history. Students should also familiarize themselves with the first two units of the Polish language textbook, *Colloquial Polish: The Complete Course for Beginners* (2011).

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of five elements: lectures, seminars, supervisions, language classes and reading.

Lectures: The course will include sixteen lectures, eight in Michaelmas and eight in Lent. The lectures provide an introduction to and overview of the course.

Seminars: There will be two revision seminars in Easter term.

Supervisions: Students will have ten supervisions: four in Michaelmas, four in Lent, and two in Easter.

Language classes: Students will attend two language classes weekly, commencing from absolute beginner level. Lessons will include practical elements of spoken and written communication, but will focus on grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension in preparation for the translation task in the exam.

Reading: The course will include various materials, including films and musical works, but the majority of sources will be textual. Students will read novels, poems, plays, short stories, memoirs, and historical studies. Certain texts will be obligatory, but students will also be able to choose particular areas of interest for more focused study.

USING THE HANDBOOK

The handbook is divided into four sections:

Section 1: Exam

Section 2: Lectures and Seminars

Section 3: Supervisions

Section 4: Reading

SECTION 1: THE EXAM

DESCRIPTION

The exam paper is divided into three sections, and you must answer one question from each section. All sections have equal weight.

Section A is a translation task. You will translate a short passage (approx. 250 words) from Polish into English.

Section B has five essay questions, of which you must choose one. The questions will cover topics from the first half of the course.

Section C has six essay questions, of which you must choose one. The questions will cover topics from the second half of the course.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

Section A: You will have plenty of opportunities to work on translation tasks throughout the paper – in seminars, supervisions, and language lessons.

Sections B and C: The general format of the exam questions will be similar to the essay questions posed for supervisions, which will consequently form a key part of your exam preparation.

SECTION TWO: LECTURES AND SEMINARS

All lectures last fifty minutes. Please check with the departmental secretary for times and venues.

MICHAELMAS

1. Introduction: Poland, Past and Present
2. Pagan Origins to the Beginnings of Polish Literary Culture
3. The Golden Age: The Polish Renaissance
4. Sarmatian Culture: Counter-Reformation and the Baroque
5. Enlightenment and the End of Independence
6. Uprising and Romanticism
7. Positivism and Social Critique
8. “Young Poland” at the Turn of the Century

LENT

9. Independence between the Wars: The Second Polish Republic
10. Into the Abyss: The Second World War
11. Stalinist Poland
12. The Solidarity Revolution
13. Independence Regained
14. Culture Wars: Redefining Polishness
15. Jews in Polish Culture
16. The Future of Poland

EASTER

17. Revision Seminar 1.
18. Revision Seminar 2.

SECTION 3: SUPERVISIONS

Essay preparation: Aim at approximately 1,500 to 2,000 words; research using the general and topic-related reading in the reading lists; cite quotations (in Polish wherever possible) by footnoting; end with a full bibliography.

Please send me your essays at least 48 hours before the scheduled supervision.

Supervisions will take place in RFB 344.

MICHAELMAS

1. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 1 of the Michaelmas list.

2. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 2 of the Michaelmas list.

3. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 3 of the Michaelmas list.

4. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 4 on the Michaelmas list.

LENT

5. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 5 of the Lent list.

6. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 6 of the Lent list.

7. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 7 of the Lent list.

8. Essay supervision

Choose a question from topic 8 of the Lent list.

EASTER

9. Essay supervision

Revision questions for exam preparation.

10. Essay supervision

Revision questions for exam preparation.

MICHAELMAS LIST

Topic 1: Pagan Pre-History to the Middle Ages

1. Discuss some continuities and ruptures between the pagan “pre-history” of the Polish lands and the post-966 Christian Polish state.
2. “Early Polish poetry borrows and reshapes forms and themes from Latin Christian culture.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
3. “Medieval poetry constantly returns to the theme of death.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
4. “Polish literature from the Middle Ages gives an insight into relations between social groups.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
5. “The song *Bogurodzica* combines both eastern and western cultural or religious influences.” Discuss.
6. “The medieval song *Bogurodzica* features a complex and regular structure.” Discuss.

Topic 2: The Golden Age and Sarmatian Culture

1. “Jan Kochanowski’s poems are simultaneously rooted in their historical moment and universal in their themes.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
2. Discuss some similarities and differences between ONE of Jan Kochanowski’s “songs” or “epigrams” and ONE of his *Treny* (Laments), considering questions of style, content, tone, mood and worldview.
3. “The Polish Renaissance was both derivative and original.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
4. “The poetic works of Jan Kochanowski embody a perfect union of form and content.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
5. “The poetic works of Jan Kochanowski epitomise the Polish Renaissance.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
6. “Jan Pasek’s *Pamiętniki* embody the key aspects of Polish Sarmatian culture.” Discuss.
7. Describe the general worldview of Jan Pasek as expressed in his *Pamiętniki*.
8. “Jan Pasek’s *Pamiętniki* offer a glimpse into both public and private dimensions of the life of a Polish nobleman in the seventeenth century.” Discuss.
9. “Jan Pasek’s *Pamiętniki* reveal that the supposed tolerance of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is a myth.” Discuss.
10. “Jan Pasek’s *Pamiętniki* reveal both the strengths and weaknesses of the Sarmatian worldview in the seventeenth century.” Discuss.

Topic 3: Romanticism

1. “After the Third Partition, the Rzeczpospolita disappeared from the map of Europe, but it survived in the minds of its inhabitants.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts from the Romantic period.
2. “The art of the Polish Romantics was not art for art’s sake.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
3. “Adam Mickiewicz’s national ideology and poetic works include various irresolvable contradictions.” Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.

4. "In Polish culture, the development of the Romantic movement – especially in literature – is inseparable from the historical context of lost independence." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
5. "The works of Adam Mickiewicz are both national and universal in their themes, interests, and style." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
6. Discuss Adam Mickiewicz's representation of the concept of nation with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
7. Discuss Adam Mickiewicz's use of folk motifs in TWO OR MORE texts.
8. "The works of Adam Mickiewicz are engaged in the construction of an 'imagined community'." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.

Topic 4: Positivism and Young Poland

1. "Nineteenth-century Polish realist writing embodied a new spirit of social critique in the wake of failed national uprisings." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE literary works.
2. "Late-nineteenth-century Polish prose writing focuses on symbols rather than realist description." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE literary works.
3. "Late-nineteenth-century Polish prose writing focuses in various ways on the relationship between the individual and society." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
4. "Late-nineteenth-century Polish prose writing expresses deep pessimism about history, society, and the possibility of individual autonomy." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE works.
5. "Late-nineteenth-century Polish prose writing often does not fit neatly under the label of 'Positivism'." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
6. "Stanisław Wyspiański's play *Wesele* mixes realism and symbolism in order to comment on Poland's past and present." Discuss.
7. "The Young Poland movement was especially interested in the Polish village and countryside." Discuss with reference to Stanisław Wyspiański's *Wesele*.
8. "Key works of the Young Poland movement are fundamentally critical of the movement itself." Discuss with reference to Stanisław Wyspiański's *Wesele*.
9. "Stanisław Wyspiański's *Wesele* exposes the fault lines running through Polish society in the late nineteenth century." Discuss.
10. "Stanisław Wyspiański's *Wesele* is both a social satire and a symbolic representation of the tragic dimension of Polish history." Discuss.

LENT LIST

Topic 5: Independent Poland and the Second World War

1. "The instability of 'form' was a central concern in the writings of Bruno Schulz." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
2. "Nothing is more serious than the absurd." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts by Bruno Schulz.
3. "The stories of Bruno Schulz transform everyday events in a provincial town into a type of mythology." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
4. "Bruno Schulz's literary technique is to fill everyday things with unexpected content." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.

5. "Bruno Schulz's writing is rich in metaphor and hyperbole, which function to create an atmosphere of dreamlike excess and unreality in his stories." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE stories
6. "Polish writers developed new literary techniques in order to bear witness to the horrors of the Second World War." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
7. "Polish writing about the Second World War grapples with the fundamental question of what makes a human being in the most extreme conditions." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
8. "Polish writing about the period of the Second World War raises questions about the meaning of literature in the face of historical catastrophe." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.
9. "The first-person narrator of Tadeusz Borowski's stories presents himself as both victim and perpetrator." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE stories from *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*.
10. "Polish writing about the period of the Second World War focuses on the moral dilemmas faced by the victims of oppression." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE texts.

Topic 6: Communist Poland

1. "The creative development of postwar Polish cinema was closely connected to the changing political situation in the country." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE films.
2. "Postwar Polish cinema both constructs and deconstructs national myths." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE films.
3. "Post-war Polish cinema was torn between political commitment and individual expression." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE films.
4. Compare and contrast Andrzej Wajda's *Pokolenie* (1954) and *Kanał* (1957), paying particular attention to the transition from the limitations of socialist realism to freer forms of cinematic expression.
5. "Polish cinema of the 1950s subverted the dominant narratives of the communist regime." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE films.
6. "In Polish culture, the poet is the acknowledged legislator of the world." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE poets.
7. "Polish poets in the decades after the Second World War used simple language to ask fundamental questions about human existence." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE poets.
8. "Polish poets between 1945 and 1989 found diverse ways to deal with political questions." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE poets.
9. "Postwar Polish poetry is more concerned with ethics than aesthetics." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE poets.
10. "'Postwar Polish poetry' is a very broad term covering a range of poets who are, in fact, very different in their styles and interests." Discuss with reference to TWO OR MORE poets.

Topic 7: Post-1989 Poland

1. "Olga Tokarczuk's *Prawiek i inne czasy* fundamentally explores the nature of time." Discuss.
2. "Olga Tokarczuk's *Prawiek i inne czasy* presents the relationship between human beings and nature in various different ways." Discuss.
3. "History, family history, and myth are interwoven in Olga Tokarczuk's *Prawiek i inne czasy*." Discuss.

4. Discuss the various representations of women and femininity in Olga Tokarczuk's *Prawiek i inne czasy*.
 5. Discuss the religious or metaphysical themes of Olga Tokarczuk's *Prawiek i inne czasy*.
 6. "Olga Tokarczuk's novel *Prawiek i inne czasy* focuses on marginal people, places and events." Discuss.
-

Topic 8: Jews in Poland

1. "The film *Ida* captures the complexities and later consequences of Polish-Jewish relations during the Second World War." Discuss.
2. "The film *Ida* fundamentally deals with the constructed nature of human identities." Discuss.
3. "Paweł Pawlikowski's film *Ida* uses individual characters to illustrate broader historical events and processes." Discuss.
4. "Paweł Pawlikowski's *Ida* presents significant challenges to contemporary Poles in how they remember the period of the Second World War." Discuss.
5. "The shadow of the Jedwabne massacre looms behind Paweł Pawlikowski's film *Ida*." Discuss.
6. "Paweł Pawlikowski's film *Ida* tells its story through the use of meticulously-composed images and silence." Discuss.

SECTION 4: READING

The following list provides a general guide to available resources. **Students are by no means expected to read everything on the topic lists.** The “Key Readings” are strongly recommended.

Mazur, Bolesław W., *Colloquial Polish: The Complete Course for Beginners*, 3rd Edition. London: Routledge, 2011.

[The accompanying audio files may be downloaded for free here:

<http://www.routledge textbooks.com/textbooks/colloquial/polish.php>]

Czesław Miłosz’s *The History of Polish Literature* and Anna Nasilowska’s *A History of Polish Literature* are the course “textbooks,” and you will be expected to read the relevant chapters from at least one of them week by week.

Many of the works on the topic lists are available electronically via the SL13 Moodle site.

GENERAL WORKS

Beauvois, Daniel. “The Polish National Idea.” *The International History Review* 7.1 (1985), pp. 146-158.

Bilczewski, Tomasz, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (eds.). *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*. London: Routledge, 2021.

Bill, Stanley, and Simon Lewis (eds.). *Multicultural Commonwealth: Poland-Lithuania and Its Afterlives*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2023.

Carpenter, Bogdana, ed. *Monumenta Polonica: The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Slavic Publications, 1989.

Trojanowska, Tamara, Joanna Niżyńska, and Przemysław Czapliński (eds.). *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

Davies, Norman. *God’s Playground: A History of Poland* (two volumes). New York: Columbia University Press, 2005.

---. *Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland’s Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Frost, Robert. *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania. Volume 1: The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Hertz, Aleksander. *The Jews in Polish Culture*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1988.

Lukowski, Jerzy, and Hubert Zawadzki. *A Concise History of Poland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Miłosz, Czesław. *The History of Polish Literature*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.

Nasilowska, Anna. *A History of Polish Literature*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2024.

Porter, Brian. “The Catholic Nation: Religion, Identity, and the Narratives of Polish History.” *The Slavic and East European Journal* 45.2 (2001), pp. 289-299.

Snyder, Timothy. *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

Zamoyski, Adam. *Poland: A History*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 2012.

Virtual Library of Polish Literature: <http://literat.ug.edu.pl/books.htm>

Staropolska Online: <http://www.staropolska.pl/>

TOPIC 1: PAGAN PRE-HISTORY TO THE MIDDLE AGES

Key Readings

“Bogurodzica,” “Lament of Our Lady at the Foot of the Cross,” “A Satire on Lazy Peasants,” “Conversation of a Master with Death, “Lament of a Dying Man” – in: Carpenter, Bogdana, ed. *Monumenta Polonica: The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology*.

Selections from the “Annals or Chronicles” of Jan Długosz – in: Mikoś, Michael J. *Medieval Literature of Poland: An Anthology*, pp. 33-61.

Primary Sources

Carpenter, Bogdana, ed. *Monumenta Polonica: The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Slavic Publications, 1989.

Mikoś, Michael J. *Medieval Literature of Poland: An Anthology*. New York: Garland, 1992.

---. *Polish Renaissance Literature: An Anthology*. Columbus: Slavica Publishers, 1995.

Staropolska Online: <http://www.staropolska.pl/>

Secondary Sources

Górecki, Piotr. *Economy, Society and Lordship in Medieval Poland, 1100-1250*. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1992.

Kłoczowski, Jerzy, ed. *The Christian Community of Medieval Poland: Anthologies*, trans. Krystyna Cenkalska. Wrocław: Ossolineum, 1981.

Ranocchi, Emiliano. “In Search of Origins: *Bogurodzica*,” in Bilczewski, Tomasz, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (eds.), *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*. London: Routledge, 2021.

Miłosz, Czesław. *The History of Polish Literature*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.

Nasiłowska, Anna. *A History of Polish Literature*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2024.

TOPIC 2: THE GOLDEN AGE AND SARMATIAN CULTURE

Key Readings

Golden Age/Renaissance

Selected poems by Jan Kochanowski – from *Monumenta Polonica*, pp. 135-158.

Laments, by Jan Kochanowski (translated by Stanisław Barańczak and Seamus Heaney).

Sarmatian Culture/Baroque

Selections from *Memoirs of the Baroque*, by Jan Chryzostom Pasek, pp. 51-92, 249-257, 261-280, 283-286.

Primary Sources

Carpenter, Bogdana, ed. *Monumenta Polonica: The First Four Centuries of Polish Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Slavic Publications, 1989.

Kochanowski, Jan. *Dzieła polskie*. Warszawa: Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 1989.

---. *Laments*. Trans. Stanisław Barańczak and Seamus Heaney. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995.

Mikoś, Michael J. *Polish Renaissance Literature: An Anthology*. Columbus: Slavica Publishers, 1995.

Pasek, Jan Chryzostom. *Memoirs of the Polish Baroque: The Writings of Jan Chryzostom Pasek, A Squire of the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania*. Trans. Catherine S. Leach. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976.

Staropolska Online: <http://www.staropolska.pl/>

Secondary Sources

Golden Age/Renaissance

Bill, Stanley, and Simon Lewis. "Introduction: Diverse Histories and Contested Memories," in Bill, Stanley, and Simon Lewis (eds.), *Multicultural Commonwealth: Poland-Lithuania and Its Afterlives*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2023.

Ceccherelli, Andrea. "World Order in a Harmonious Hymn: Jan Kochanowski's 'What dost Thou of us require, Lord, for Thy plenteous graces?'," in Bilczewski, Tomasz, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (eds.), *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*. London: Routledge, 2021.

Fizsman, Samuel. *The Polish Renaissance in its European Context*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Frost, Robert. *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania. Volume 1: The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Parrott, Ray J. Jr. "Mythological Allusions in Kochanowski's Laments." *The Polish Review* 14.1 (1969), pp. 3-19.

Rosslyn, Felicity. "Review: Kochanowski's Humanist Laments." *The Cambridge Quarterly* 26.4 (1997), pp. 369-75.

Segel, Harold B. *Renaissance Culture in Poland: The Rise of Humanism, 1470-1543*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989.

Stone, Daniel. *The Polish-Lithuanian State, 1386-1795*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001.

Weintraub, Wiktor. "Kochanowski's Renaissance Manifesto." *The Slavonic and East European Review* 30.75 (Jun., 1952), pp. 412-424.

Zaremba, Charles. "A Child's Death, the Poet's Immortality: Jan Kochanowski's *Laments*," in

Bilczewski, Tomasz, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (eds.), *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*. London: Routledge, 2021.

Sarmatian Culture/Baroque

- Bill, Stanley, and Simon Lewis. "Introduction: Diverse Histories and Contested Memories," in Bill, Stanley, and Simon Lewis (eds.), *Multicultural Commonwealth: Poland-Lithuania and Its Afterlives*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2023.
- Frost, Robert. *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania. Volume 1: The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Grusiecki, Tomasz. "Sarmatia Revisited: Maps and the Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth," in Bill, Stanley, and Simon Lewis (eds.), *Multicultural Commonwealth: Poland-Lithuania and Its Afterlives*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2023.
- Leach, Catherine. "About Pasek's 'Memoirs'." *The Polish Review* 16.4 (1971), pp. 37-42.
- Święcicka, Maria. "Jan Pasek: A Man of Baroque Contrasts." *The Polish Review* 18.3 (1973), pp. 65-72.
- . "The 'Memoirs' of Jan Pasek and the 'Golden Freedom'." *The Polish Review* 20.4 (1975), pp. 139-144.
- Stone, Daniel. *The Polish-Lithuanian State, 1386–1795*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001.

TOPIC 3: ROMANTICISM

Key Readings

- "Book One" of *Pan Tadeusz*, by Adam Mickiewicz
([https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Pan_Tadeusz_\(wyd._1834\)](https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Pan_Tadeusz_(wyd._1834))) – available here in Polish and English translation).
- Forefather's Eve, Part III (Dziady)*, by Adam Mickiewicz – in: *Polish Romantic Drama*, edited by Harold B. Segel.
(https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Dziady/Poema/Cz%C4%99%C5%9B%C4%87_III) – in Polish).
- The Books of the Polish Nation (Księgi narodu polskiego)*, by Adam Mickiewicz
(https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=98RgAAAACAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=bs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false) – in English;
(https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Ksi%C4%99gi_narodu_polskiego_i_pielgrzymstwa_polskiego) – in Polish).
- Crimean Sonnets (Sonety krymskie)*, by Adam Mickiewicz
(https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Sonety_krymskie) - available here in Polish and English translation).

Primary Sources

- Mickiewicz, Adam. *Poems by Adam Mickiewicz*. Trans. George Rapall Noyes. New York: Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, 1944.
- . *Księgi narodu polskiego i pielgrzymstwa polskiego*. Wrocław : Zakład im. Ossolińskich,

- 1956.
- . *Pan Tadeusz*. Bilingual Edition. Trans. Kenneth R. Mackenzie. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1992.
- . *Pan Tadeusz: The Last Foray in Lithuania*. Trans. Bill Johnston (New York: Archipelago Books, 2018).
- Mikoś, Michael J. *Polish Romantic Literature: An Anthology*. Columbus: Slavic Publishers, 2002.
- Segel, Harold B., ed, *Polish Romantic Drama: Three Plays in English Translation*. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1997.
- Virtual Library of Polish Literature*: <http://literat.ug.edu.pl/books.htm>

Secondary Sources

- Bilenky, Serhiy. *Romantic Nationalism in Eastern Europe: Russian, Polish, and Ukrainian Political Imaginations*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012.
- Eile, Stanisław. *Literature and Nationalism in Partitioned Poland, 1795-1918*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2000.
- Kalinowska, Izabela. "The Sonnet, the Sequence, the Qasidah: East-West Dialogue in Adam Mickiewicz's Sonnets." *The Slavic and East European Journal* 45.3 (2001), pp. 641-659.
- Koropeckyj, Roman. "Orientalism in Adam Mickiewicz's Crimean Sonnets." *The Slavic and East European Journal* 45.4 (2001), pp. 660-678.
- . *Adam Mickiewicz: The Life of Romantic*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008.
- Kridl, Manfred. "Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855)." *The American Slavic and East European Review* 7.4 (1948), pp. 340-360.
- Krzyżanowski, Julian. *Polish Romantic Literature*. Freeport: Books for Libraries Press, 1968.
- Lednicki, Waław. *Russia, Poland, and the West: Essays in Literary and Cultural History*.
- Looby, Robert. "Adam Mickiewicz: Poland's National Poet." *Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review* 87. 346 (1998), pp. 135-141.
- Miłosz, Czesław. "Adam Mickiewicz." *The Russian Review* 14.4 (1955), pp. 322-331.
- Walicki, Andrzej. *Philosophy and Romantic Nationalism: The Case of Poland*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1982.

TOPIC 4: POSITIVISM AND YOUNG POLAND

Key Readings

Positivism

- "The Lighthouse Keeper of Aspinwall," by Henryk Sienkiewicz (<https://monadnock.net/sienkiewicz/lighthouse-keeper.html>).
- "The Waistcoat" (*The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 9, No. 26 (Dec., 1930), pp. 283-291), "Mold of the Earth" (." http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Mold_of_the_Earth), "Shades" ([http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Shades_\(Prus,_tr._Kasperek\)](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Shades_(Prus,_tr._Kasperek))) and "A Curious Story" (*The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 26, No. 67 (Apr., 1948), pp. 534-542) by Bolesław Prus.

Young Poland

Wesele (*The Wedding*), by Stanisław Wyspiański

([https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Wesele_\(Wyspia%C5%84ski\)](https://pl.wikisource.org/wiki/Wesele_(Wyspia%C5%84ski)) – in Polish only).

Primary Sources

Mikoś, Michael J. *Polish Literature from 1864 to 1918: An Anthology*. Bloomington: Slavica Publishers, 2006.

Prus, Bolesław. *The Doll*. Trans. David Welsh. Budapest: Central European University Press, 1996.

---. "Mold of the Earth." http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Mold_of_the_Earth (open source).

---. "Shades." [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Shades_\(Prus,_tr._Kasperek\)](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Shades_(Prus,_tr._Kasperek)) (open source).

---. "The Waistcoat," *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 9, No. 26 (Dec., 1930), pp. 283-291.

---. "A Curious Story," *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 26, No. 67 (Apr., 1948), pp. 534-542.

Sienkiewicz, Henryk. "The Lighthouse Keeper of Aspinwall."

<https://monadnock.net/sienkiewicz/lighthouse-keeper.html> (open source).

Wyspiański, Stanisław. *Wesele*. Kraków : Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 1950.

---. *The Wedding*. Trans. Noel Clark. London: Oberon Books, 1998.

Secondary Sources

Positivism

Berend, Ivan T. *History Derailed: Central and Eastern Europe in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Blejwas, Stanislaus. "Warsaw Positivism: Patriotism Misunderstood." *The Polish Review* 27.1/2 (1982), pp. 47-54.

---. *Realism in Polish Politics: Warsaw Positivism and National Survival in Nineteenth-Century Poland*. New Haven: Yale Concilium on International and Area Studies, 1984.

Janowski, Maciej. "The Rise of Positivism," in *Polish Liberal Thought Before 1918*. Budapest: Central European University Press, 2004.

Young Poland

Kapolka, Gerard T. "The Three Major Transformations of Wyspiański's *Wesele*." *The Polish Review* 28.1 (1983), pp. 17-31.

Komaromi, Ann. "Wyspiański's "Wesele:" Poised on the Border." *Theatre Journal* 54.2 (May 2002), pp. 187-202.

Krzyżanowski, Julian. "Stanisław Wyspiański (1869-1907)." *The Polish Review* 2.4 (Autumn 1957), pp. 23-32.

TOPIC 5: INDEPENDENT POLAND AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Key Readings

Independent Poland

Bruno Schulz, “Birds,” “Cinnamon Shops,” “The Street of Crocodiles,” “The Night of the Great Season,” “The Book,” “The Genial Epoch,” “A July Night,” “The Dead Season” and “Sanatorium at the Sign of the Hourglass,” in Bruno Schulz, *Collected Stories*.

Second World War

Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentleman* – “This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen”, “The People who Walked on”, “A World of Stone”.

Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, *A World Apart: Imprisonment in a Soviet Labor Camp during World War II*, pp. 65-85, 131-42.

Primary Sources

Borowski, Tadeusz. *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*. Trans. Barbara Vedder. London: Penguin, 1976.

Herling-Grudziński, Gustaw. *A World Apart: Imprisonment in a Soviet Labor Camp during World War II*. Trans. Andrzej Ciolkosz. London: Penguin, 1996.

Miłosz, Czesław. *New and Collected Poems 1931-2001*. London: Penguin, 2005

Schulz, Bruno. *Collected Stories*. Trans. Madeline Levine. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2018.

Secondary Sources

Independent Poland

Anders, Jarosław. “Bruno Schulz: The Prisoner of Myth,” in *Between Fire and Sleep: Essays on Modern Polish Poetry and Prose*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.

Czapliński, Przemysław, Joanna Niżyńska, and Tamara Trojanowska (eds.), *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

De Bruyn, Dieter, and Kris van Heuckelom. *(Un)masking Bruno Schulz: New Combinations, Further Fragmentations, Ultimate Reintegrations*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009.

Kuprel, Diana. “Errant Events on the Branch Tracks of Time: Bruno Schulz and Mythical Consciousness.” *The Slavic and East European Journal* 40.1 (1996), pp. 100-117.

Stachura, Peter. *Poland, 1918-1945: An Interpretive and Documentary History of the Second Republic*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Second World War

Bolecki, Włodzimierz. *A World Apart, by Gustaw Herling*. New York: Peter Lang, 2015.

Trojanowska, Tamara, Joanna Niżyńska, and Przemysław Czapliński (eds.), *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

- Delaperrière, Maria. "Gustaw Herling-Grudziński's *A World Apart*," in Bilczewski, Tomasz, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (eds.), *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*. London: Routledge, 2021.
- Karwowska, Bożena. "Witness and Form: Tadeusz Borowski's *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*," in Bilczewski, Tomasz, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (eds.), *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*. London: Routledge, 2021.
- Nikopoulos, James. "Beauty, Justice, and Victory in Absentia: Tadeusz Borowski's Auschwitz Stories." *Style* 50.2 (2016), pp. 121-138.
- Snyder, Timothy. *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin*. New York: Basic Books, 2010.

TOPIC 6: COMMUNIST POLAND

Key Readings

Poetry

- Zbigniew Herbert, *Poezje wybrane – Selected Poems*, pp. 14-21, 26-41, 44-67, 102-07, 126-31.
- Czesław Miłosz, *New and Collected Poems – "A Treatise on Poetry", "What Once Was Great", "Throughout Our Lands", "Rivers Grow Small", "Ars poetica?", "My Faithful Mother Tongue", "Esse"*.
- Tadeusz Różewicz, *Poezje wybrane – Selected Poems*, pp. 6-29, 42-59, 139-55.
- Wisława Szymborska, *Nic dwa razy: wybór wierszy – Nothing Twice: Selected Poems*, 14-15, 54-57, 60-63, 70-73, 102-105, 110-113.

Films

- A Generation (Pokolenie, 1955)*, *Kanał (1956)*, and *Ashes and Diamonds (Popiół i diament, 1958)*, directed by Andrzej Wajda.

Primary Sources

- Barańczak, Stanisław, and Clare Cavanagh. eds. *Spoiling Cannibals' Fun: Polish Poetry of the Last Two Decades of Communist Rule*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1991.
- Herbert, Zbigniew. *Poezje wybrane – Selected Poems*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 2000.
- Miłosz, Czesław, ed. *Post-war Polish Poetry*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.
- Miłosz, Czesław. *New and Collected Poems 1931-2001*. London: Penguin, 2005.
- Różewicz, Tadeusz. *Poezje wybrane – Selected Poems*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 1995.
- Szymborska, Wisława. *Nic dwa razy: wybór wierszy – Nothing Twice: Selected Poems*. Trans. Stanisław Barańczak and Clare Cavanagh. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 1997.

Secondary Sources

Poetry

- Bojanowska, Edyta. "Wisława Szymborska: Naturalist and Humanist." *The Slavic and East European Journal* 41.2 (1997), pp. 199-223.

- Carpenter, Bogdana. "Wisława Szymborska and the Importance of the Unimportant." *World Literature Today* 71.1 (1997), pp. 8-12.
- Carpenter, Bogdana, and John Carpenter. "Zbigniew Herbert: The Poet as Conscience." *The Slavic and East European Journal* 24.1 (1980), pp. 37-51.
- Cavanagh, Clare. *Lyric Poetry and Modern Politics: Russia, Poland, and the West*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009.
- Czapliński, Przemysław, Joanna Niżyńska, and Tamara Trojanowska (eds.), *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).
- Kemp-Welch, A. *Poland under Communism: A Cold War History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Fiut, Aleksander. "Czesław Miłosz's Search for 'Humanness'." *The Slavic and East European Journal* 31.1 (1987), pp. 65-75.
- Leach, Catherine. "Remarks on the Poetry of Tadeusz Różewicz." *The Polish Review* 12.2 (1967), pp. 105-126.
- Skrendo, Andrzej. "Depth of Doubt (Tadeusz Różewicz)," in Trojanowska, Tamara, Joanna Niżyńska, and Przemysław Czapliński (eds.), *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

Films

- Kemp-Welch, A. *Poland under Communism: A Cold War History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Falkowska, Janina. "History and Grand Narratives (Andrzej Wajda)," in Trojanowska, Tamara, Joanna Niżyńska, and Przemysław Czapliński (eds.), *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).
- Liebman, Stuart. "The Art of Memory: Andrzej Wajda's War Trilogy." *Cinéaste* 32.1 (2006), pp. 42-47.
- Michalek, Bolesław, and Frank Turaj. *Modern Cinema of Poland*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.
- Orr, John, and Elżbieta Ostrowska, *The Cinema of Andrzej Wajda: The Art of Irony and Defiance*. London: Wallflower, 2003.
- Paul, David. "Andrzej Wajda's War Trilogy." *Cinéaste* 20.4 (1994), pp. 52-54.

TOPIC 7: CULTURE WARS: POST-1989 POLAND

Key Readings

- Tokarczuk, Olga. *Primeval and Other Times*. Trans. Antonia Lloyd-Jones. Prague: Twisted Spoon Press, 2010.
- . *Prawiek i inne czasy*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 2015.

Secondary Sources

- Karwowska, Bożena. "Mythical Subversions (Olga Tokarczuk)," in Trojanowska, Tamara,

- Joanna Niżyńska, and Przemysław Czapliński (eds.), *Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).
- Kay, Magdalena. "Review of Primeval and Other Times," *The Polish Review* 56.3 (2011).
- Wampuszyc, Ewa V. "Magical Realism in Olga Tokarczuk's Primeval and Other Times and House of Day, House of Night," *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures* 27.2 (2014).

TOPIC 8: JEWS IN POLAND

Film

Ida (2013) directed by Paweł Pawlikowski

Secondary Sources

- Bill, Stanley. "Review of *Ida*: Identity and Freedom." *Notes from Poland* (January 2015).
- Mroz, Matilda. "Framing Loss and Figuring Grief in Paweł Pawlikowski's *Ida*." *Screening the Past* (2016).
- Quart, Leonard, and Paweł Pawlikowski. "Film as Meditation: An Interview with Paweł Pawlikowski," *Cineaste* 39.3 (Summer 2014), pp. 40-44.
- Hundert, Gershon David. "Some Basic Characteristics of the Jewish Experience in Poland." *Polin. Studies in Polish Jewry*, 1. Portland: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2000: 28-34.
- Hertz, Aleksander. "In the Service of Polish Culture." *The Jews in Polish Culture*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1988, 223-250.
- Kaczynski, Andrzej. "Burnt Offering," in Polonsky, Antony, and Joanna B. Michlic, *The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004, 50-59.
- Levine, Madeline. "Julian Tuwim: 'We, The Polish Jews ...'." *The Polish Review* 17.4 (1972): 82-89.
- Rudnicki, Szymon. "Jews in Poland Between the Two World Wars." *Shofar Polish Jewry* 29.3 (Spring 2011): 4-23.