

SYLLABUS

Name: **Religion, History and Identity in Poland (MISH-IPHSS-RHI)**

Name in Polish:

Name in English: **Religion, History and Identity in Poland**

Information on course:

Course offered by department: Centre for Interdisciplinary Individual Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Course for department: Centre for Interdisciplinary Individual Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Term: 2024/2025 winter semester

Cordinator of course edition: mgr Scott Simpson

Default type of course examination report:

Grading

Language:

English

Information on course edition:

Default type of course examination report:

Grading

Bibliography:

missing bibliography in English

Goals of education

Registration for this course is via USOSweb. Registration begins at 8:00 on 24 September 2024.

This is an undergraduate course on the role of religion in Polish history and society, designed for international exchange students.

The goal of the course is to familiarise the students with the rich landscape of religion in Poland. We will examine the historical roots of the sociological phenomena that we see in Poland today. In particular, we will look at how religion has been an important ingredient in creating Polish identity (and identities).

Learning outcomes of a component

Students will understand and apply that knowledge in discussion and writing.

Students will be encouraged to to select an area of focus to follow throughout the course, leading to original thought and analysis.

Conditions of gaining credit

In order to successfully gain credit for the course, each student must complete all of the following components:

1. Active class attendance. Students are expected to read the assigned reading before class and be prepared to actively participate in discussion. (10% of the final mark)
2. A short classroom presentation on a subject selected by the student in consultation with the instructor (20% of the final mark)
3. A written term paper on a subject selected by the student in consultation with the instructor (usually the same subject as the classroom presentation) - roughly 3,500 words or 10 pages at 1.5 spacing, not counting references. The paper must include appropriate academic citation. Students must declare any use of AI or machine translation. (50% of final mark)
4. A written exam (20% of the final)

Syllabus of the course for students commencing study programme from 19/20 academic year or later

1. Introduction - 3 October 2024

An overview of the main objectives and problems of the course

Discussion of the course mechanics

Some general observations about 'Polish religion' which will be explored over the course of the semester. Sociological questions and historical answers.

Discussion: What is 'religion'? How does your definition of 'religion' affect what you see?

2. Slavic Paganism & the arrival of Christianity - 10 October 2024

Lecture: The Slavs and their tribes. Dimensions of Slavic Paganism. Cyril & Methodius. Mieszko's conversion and the creation of the Polish state. Church structure and institutions. Early Saints: Wojciech and Stanisław.

3. Eastern Rite Christianity: Orthodoxy and Uniates in Poland - 17 October 2024

Lecture: Geography of 'Eastern' and 'Western' Christianity. The Great Schism. Structure, ritual and ideology. The Union of Brest.

4. Study Trip to the Greek Catholic Uniate Church on ul. Wiślna - 24 October 2024

(This study trip will take place during normal classroom hours and will not involve significant travel time.)

5. Hussites and Protestants in Poland - 7 November 2024

Lecture: Proto-Protestants: Jan Huss & the Hussites. Lutheranism. Calvinism. Radical departures: Anti-Trinitarianism. Why was Protestantism such a success in Poland? (in the short term) Cieszyn Silesia.

6. The Counterreformation and the Cult of Mary - 14 November 2024

Lecture: The 'Counter' Reformation and the 'Catholic' Reformation. Poland's unusual Counterreformation. The Jesuits, allegorical images & popular preaching. Why was the Counter-Reformation such a success in Poland? Mary and Mariology.

7. Study trip to the Sanctuary of God's Mercy and the Sanctuary of Saint John Paul II at Łagiewniki - **SATURDAY 16 November 2024**

8. Judaism in Poland - 21 November 2024

Reading:

Lecture: Arrival of Jews in Poland. Sephardi, Ashkenazi, Knaanic. Communities in Poland: Kazimierz as an illustration. Co-operation and assimilation. Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Post-war survival and March 1968. Post-communist revival.

9. Muslims and Islam in Poland - 28 November 2024

Lecture: The Tartars and Islam in the Commonwealth Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania. Developments in post-communist Islam in Poland.

10. Romanticism, Roman Catholicism and Polish National Identity - 5 December 2024

Lecture: 'Polak to Katolik'. The Vatican hierarchy as an enemy of Polish statehood. The Roman Catholic parish as the saviour of the Polish nation. Religious and national symbols. Polish literature: messianism and heresy.

11. Religious Nationalisms between the Wars & during the Second World War - 12 December 2024

Lecture: Sanacja vs. Endecja. Roman Dmowski. Bolesław Piasecki. Sister Faustyna. Nazi policy towards the Church. Maxmilian Kolbe.

12. Religion under Communism - 19 December 2024

Lecture: Marx, Engels & Communist notions of religion. Stalinism and religion. Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. Post-Stalinist thaw 1956-1974. "Group D" and religious spy games. Jerzy Popiełuszko. Solidarity & Wałęsa.

13. John Paul II - 9 January 2025

Lecture: Life and education. Philosopher and theologian. John Paul II and the Jews. Building the Arka church. Polish Pope. John Paul II's death and funeral.

14. Secularisation & New Religious Movements - 16 January 2025

Lecture: Return to diversity and secular challenges to Roman Catholicism. New Religious Movements (NRM). Anti-Cult Movement in Poland. Polish contemporary Paganism (Rodzimowierstwo).

15. Religion and Society in Contemporary Poland - 23 January 2025

Lecture: Radio Marija. Religious (and anti-clerical) politics. Moral Panics about gender and LGBTI+. Religion in schools. School textbooks for Religion. Summing up the course.

Paper due: 23 January 2025 (Note that the paper should be submitted electronically in pdf format and it will be run through the Jagiellonian University's anti-plagiarism software. **Papers that do not include proper academic citation of sources will not be accepted. Inappropriate and uncited use of AI will not be accepted.**)

Students who need to leave Krakow before the scheduled end of the semester should inform the instructor on the first day of classes and we will negotiate alternate time that will work for everyone who is affected.

Optional early written exam (zerówka) : TBA, if necessary

Regular written exam time: 30 January 2025 - to be confirmed

Learning activities and teaching methods - thesaurus

Demonstrating methods - exposition

Expository methods - talk

Expository methods – multimedia presentation

Expository methods – formal lecture

Learning activities and teaching methods - thesaurus			
Practical methods – practical classes			
Practical methods - seminar			
Problem-solving methods – participatory methods - discussion			
Learning activities and teaching methods			
All reading materials are available on the Pegaz page for this course. (Students who are registered for the course in USOSweb will find a link to the Pegaz page at the bottom of this page, or will find it listed in their 'dashboard' when logged into pegaz.uj.edu.pl)			
Exam date			
Term paper due: 23 January 2025			
Written exam: 30 January 2025			
(Additional examination times may be negotiated with the instructor on condition of having reasonable expectation of completing all components of the course.)			
Requirements			
This course assumes that the students read and write English at a minimum of a B2 level. Prior knowledge of the Polish language is not required.			
As an interdisciplinary course, this course does not assume prior academic study of Religious Studies.			
Details of classes and study groups			
Discussion class (45 hours)			
Study groups details			
Group number 1			
Class instructors:			
mgr Scott Simpson			

Course credits in various terms:			
<without a specific program>			
	Type of credits	Number	First term
			Last term
ECTS (ECTS)		6	22/23