

## SYLLABUS – A COURSE DESCRIPTION

### I. General information

1. Course name: **Poles and Poland over the Centuries (966-2009)**
2. Course code: 18-PaPoC-PIE
3. Course type (compulsory or optional): optional – lecture
4. Study programme name: history
5. Cycle of studies (1st or 2nd cycle of studies or full master's programme): 1<sup>st</sup> cycle
6. Educational profile (general academic profile or practical profile): general academic
7. Year of studies (if relevant): I-III
8. Type of classes and number of contact hours (e.g. lectures: 15 hours; practical classes: 30 hours):  
**lectures 30 hours**
9. Number of ECTS credits: 2
10. Name, surname, academic degree/title of the course lecturer/other teaching staff:  
prof. UAM dr hab. Rafał Witkowski – [rwitkows@amu.edu.pl](mailto:rwitkows@amu.edu.pl)
11. Language of classes: English
12. Online learning – yes (partly – online / fully – online) / no: no

### II. Detailed information

1. Course aim (aims):

The course examines the history of Poles and their state, culture and language over the centuries. The course provides a very general introduction to the complex past of Poland. Special attention will be paid to the development of Polish culture in the European context. The introduction of Christianity at the end of the 10th century meant also the beginning of long-lasting and multisided culture changes. The medieval kingdom of Poland and later to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth formed a unique political system with its religious and civic tolerance. The course will also cover the formation of modern Polish nation in comparison to similar processes affecting other European nations. The rebirth of the independent Polish state after WWI was followed by enormous development of modern Polish culture. The tragedy of WW II and time of Communist regime marked very deep transformation of Poles and Poland. The fall of Communism and victory of the Solidarity movement began an absolutely new period with all its complex effects. Course-packet, maps and other materials will be provided.

Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three meetings (except for illness or others serious matters) will not be graded. Students are expected to read assigned readings carefully and participate in discussions. A short presentation given after the last seminar is required. Its topic will be chosen by the student himself/herself and it is supposed to draw upon the projects undertaken in other courses the student is taking along with the course materials. I expect each participant in the course to meet with me to discuss his/her project

2. Pre-requisites in terms of knowledge, skills and social competences (if relevant): no
3. Course learning outcomes (EU) in terms of knowledge, skills and social competences and their reference to study programme learning outcomes (EK):

| Course learning outcome symbol (EU) | On successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:  | Reference to study programme learning outcomes (EK) |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| EU_01                               | better understand the history of Poland;   | K_W07; K_W08;<br>K_W10; K_U01;<br>K_U03; K_U08      |
| EU_02                               | know main types of historical output and the scope of the national trends in understanding of history;                 | K_W03; K_W04;<br>K_W05; K_U01;<br>K_U03             |
| EU_03                               | understand the function of historical processes in the course of history of Poland and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; | K_U07; K_W02;<br>K_U08; K_U09                       |

|       |   |              |
|-------|---|--------------|
| EU_04 | be able to list the most important events in the history of Poland and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth;  | K_W03; K_W01 |
| EU_05 | be able to list the most important figures in the history of Poland and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; | K_W03; K_W05 |
| EU_06 | be able to list the most important places in the history of Poland and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.  | K_W01; K_K03 |

4. Learning content with reference to course learning outcomes (EU):

| Course learning content:  | Course learning outcome symbol (EU) |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Introduction: Overview of the course. Turning Points in the History of Poles, their State, Culture and Language.                          | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Formation of Early Polish state (10th-11 <sup>th</sup> Century).  | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Piast Poland (11th - 1370). Medieval Society and Medieval Monarchy.   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Polish-Lithuanian Unions (1385-1572).   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| The „Golden Age” of Parliamentary Republic - a unique state in early modern Europe.   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Sarmatian World: Melting pot of Polish, Lithuanian, Bielarussian, Ukrainian, Jewish, Scottish, German, Armenian and Muslim Cultures.      | EU_01 – 06                          |
| The Fall of First Republic (1772-1795): Magnates, Politicians and „conservative Enlightenment”.   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Poles without Their Own State – Polish Lands under the Occupation (1795-1918) and the Roots of Modern Polish Society (1864-1914). Part 1. | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Poles without Their Own State – Polish Lands under the Occupation (1795-1918) and the Roots of Modern Polish Society (1864-1914). Part 2. | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Difficult Years of WW I (1914-1921). Pilsudski, Dmowski and „Miracle on the Vistula”.   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| The Glorious Years of Independent Republic (1921-1939).   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| The Tragedy of WW II (1939-1945).   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Poles in the Time of Communist Regime (1945-1981). Workers, Peasants and Soldiers.  | EU_01 – 06                          |
| The Fall of Communism (1981-1989). Walesa, Solidarity, Emigrants.   | EU_01 – 06                          |
| Poland as a member of NATO, EU and World's Community.   | EU_01 – 06                          |

5. Reading list:

Brożek A., Reed J., *The History of Poland. A guide for English-speaking Students*, Kraków, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, 1985;  
Davies N., *Heart of Europe. A Short History of Poland*, Oxford UP 1984;  
Davies N., *God's Playground. A History of Poland*, 2 vols., Oxford, Clarendon Press 1981;  
D. Beauvois, *Histoire de la Pologne*, Paris 1995;  
Halecki O., *La Pologne de 963 à 1914*, Paris 1933;  
Knab S.H., *Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore*, NY, Hippocrene, 1999;  
Hoensch J.K., *Geschichte Polens*, Stuttgart 1990;  
Kłoczowski J., *A History of Polish Christianity*, Cambridge UP, 2000;  
Lukowski J., Zawadzki H., *A Concise History of Poland*, Cambridge UP, 2002  
Rhode G., *Geschichte Polens*, Darmstadt 1960;  
Sanford G., Gozdecka-Sanford A., *Historical Dictionary of Poland*, Metuchen NJ 1994 (European Historical Dictionaries, no. 3);  
*The Cambridge History of Poland from the Origins to Sobieski (to 1696)*, edited by the late W.F. Reddaway, J.H. Penson, O. Halecki, the late R. Dyboski, Cambridge at the University Press 1950;  
Zamoyski A., *The Polish Way. A Thousand Years; History of the Poles and their Culture*, London, Murray 1989.

### III. Additional information

1. Teaching and learning methods and activities to enable students to achieve the intended course learning outcomes (please indicate the appropriate methods and activities with a tick and/or suggest different methods):

| Teaching and learning methods and activities  | X |
|---|---|
| Lecture with a multimedia presentation  | X |
| Interactive lecture   | X |
| Problem – based lecture   | X |
| Discussions   | X |
| Text-based work   | X |
| Case study work   | X |
| Problem-based learning  | X |
| Educational simulation/game   |   |
| Task – solving learning (eg. calculation, artistic, practical tasks)  |   |
| Experiential work   |   |
| Laboratory work   |   |
| Scientific inquiry method   |   |
| Workshop method   | X |
| Project work  | X |
| Demonstration and observation   |   |
| Sound and/or video demonstration  | X |
| Creative methods (eg. brainstorming, SWOT analysis, decision tree method, snowball technique, concept maps) |   |
| Group work  |   |
| Other (please specify) -  |   |
| ...   |   |

2. Assessment methods to test if learning outcomes have been achieved (please indicate with a tick the appropriate methods for each LO and/or suggest different methods):

| Assessment methods                       | Course learning outcome symbol |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | EU_01                          | EU_02 | EU_03 | EU_04 | EU_05 | EU_06 |
| Written exam                             |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Oral exam                                | X                              | X     | X     | X     | X     | X     |
| Open book exam                           |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Written test                             |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Oral test                                |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Multiple choice test                     |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Project                                  |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Essay                                    |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Report                                   |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Individual presentation                  | X                              | X     | X     | X     | X     | X     |
| Practical exam (performance observation) |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Portfolio                                |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Other (please specify) -                 |                                |       |       |       |       |       |
| ...                                      |                                |       |       |       |       |       |

3. Student workload and ECTS credits:

| Activity types   | Mean number of hours spent on each activity type |
|--|--|
| Contact hours with the teacher as specified in the study programme | 30   |

|                                   |   |    |
|-----------------------------------|---|----|
| Independent study*                | Preparation for classes   |    |
|                                   | Reading for classes   | 10 |
|                                   | Essay / report / presentation / demonstration preparation, etc. | 10 |
|                                   | Project preparation   | 10 |
|                                   | Term paper preparation  |    |
|                                   | Exam preparation  |    |
|                                   | Other (please specify) -  |    |
|                                   | ...   |    |
| Total hours                       |   | 60 |
| Total ECTS credits for the course |   | 2  |

\* please indicate the appropriate activity types and/or suggest different activities

4. Assessment criteria in accordance with AMU in Poznan's grading system:

**Very good (bdb; 5,0):** very good knowledge of the issues discussed confirmed by the project; excellent knowledge of the subject literature;

**Good plus (+db; 4,5):** as above, with slight weaknesses in the knowledge checked during evaluation of the presentation;

**Good (db; 4,0):** good knowledge of the issues discussed confirmed by the project;

**Satisfactory plus (+dst; 3,5):** satisfactory knowledge of the issues discussed;

**Satisfactory (dst; 3,0):** selective knowledge of the main issues discussed during classes;

**Unsatisfactory (ndst; 2,0):** unsatisfactory knowledge of issues implemented during classes.