

Course Syllabus:  
**National Historical Myths about the World War II in Poland<sup>1</sup>**

*Course description*

The course is made to draw attention of undergraduate students whose research interest is the history of Eastern Europe to the role of the national historical myths in creating nations and communities. The national historical myths and their usage in the contemporary society are shown on the example of the World War II in Poland.

This course consists of 2 lectures as the introduction to the course (an introduction into the major methodological developments in the myth-making and the history of World War II in Poland) and 7 seminars on the topics below. At the end of the course students take a test.

The main objectives of this course are 1) to increase students' knowledge about myth-making, usage of myths by the different groups of society and society in whole; 2) to provoke the students' interest in historical myth-making, 3) to foster students' critical reading skills and comparative thinking.

By the end of this course students should be able to 1) identify and compare national historical myths, derive their origin and name them, 2) evaluate the arguments of academic articles and prepare assignment that defend their own opinions.

The work on the seminars will be organized as a discussion on some general topics, presentations on the individual cases and discussion on them. Attendance, participation in discussions and written work will all count toward "satisfactory completion" on the qualifying test.

## **Topics and Readings**

### **1. Historical writing and myth-making.**

- Strath Bo. Introduction. Myth, Memory and History in the Construction of Community [in] *Myth and Memory in the Construction of Community. Historical Patterns in Europe and Beyond*, Bo Strath (ed.). New York, Wien, 2000. P. 19-46.
- Hobsbaum Eric. The Invention of Tradition [in] *The Invention of Tradition*, E. Hobsbaum and T. Ranger (eds.). Cambridge, 2004. P. 1-14.
- Domańska Ewa. (Re)creative Myths and Constructed History: The Case of Poland [in] *Myth and Memory in the Construction of Community. Historical Patterns in Europe and Beyond*, Bo Strath (ed.). New York, Wien, 2000. P. 249-262.
- Kean Hilda. People, Historians, and Public History: Demystifying the Process of History Making [in] *The Public Historian*. 2010. Vol. 32(3). P. 25-38.

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<sup>1</sup> The course will be taught in Belarusian.

- Wapinski Roman. Old and New Myths in 20<sup>th</sup> century Poland [in] *Acta Poloniae Historica*. Vol. 91. 2005. P. 109-131.
- Wierzbicki Andrzej. From Historiography to Mythography? [in] *Acta Poloniae Historica*. Vol. 91. 2005. P. 133-151.
- Connelly John. Mity i kontrmity, przyczynek do dyskusji o polskiej tożsamości historycznej [in] *Pamięć i Sprawiedliwość*. 2005. Nr 2(8). S. 377-386.

## II. The Second World War

### *a. General Questions:*

- Madajczyk Piotr. Experience and Memory: The Second World War in Poland [in] *Experience and Memory: The Second World War in Europe*. New York, 2010. P. 70-85.
- Judt Tony. The past is another country: myth and memory in post-war Europe [in] *Memory and Power in Post-War Europe Studies in the Presence of the Past*, J.-W. Müller (ed.), Oxford, 2002. P. 157-183.
- Gross Jan. Polish Society under German Occupation: The Generalgouvernement, 1939-1944. Princeton, 1979.

### *Collaboration:*

- Connelly John. Why the Poles Collaborated So Little – And Why That Is No Reason for Nationalist Hubris [in] *Slavic Review*. 2005. Vol. 64. Nr 4. P. 771-781.
- Gross Jan T. Themes for a Social History of War Experience and Collaboration [in] *The Politics of Retribution in Europe: World War II and Its Aftermath*, Istvan Deak and Tony Judt (eds.). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000. P. 15-36.

### *Resistance:*

- Waśkiewicz Andrzej. The Polish Home Army and the Politics of Memory [in] *East European Politics and Societies*. 2010. Vol. 24(1). P. 44-58.
- Носкова А. Ф. Сталин и Армия Крайова (К формированию позиции советского руководства) [in] *Российские и славянские исследования*. Выпуск 3. Минск, 2008. С. 315-328.

### *Warsaw Uprising 1944:*

- Gawin Tadeusz. Warszawa 1944: oślepiający blask wolności [in] *Teologia Polityczna*. 2004-2005. Nr 2. S. 19-31.
- Ukielski Włodzimierz. Spór o Powstanie Warszawskie [in] *Biuletyn Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej*. 2009. Nr 8/9. S. 116-125.
- Walka o pamięć. Władze i społeczeństwo wobec Powstania Warszawskiego 1944–1989. Warszawa, 2008.
- Spór o Powstanie. Powstanie Warszawskie w powojennej publicystyce

polskiej 1945–1981, pod red. D. Gawina. Warszawa, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego, 2004.

- Connelly John. Those Streets Over There [review of the Norman Davies' book "Rising'44. The Battle for Warsaw"] [in] *London Review of Books*. 2004. Vol. 26. No 12-24 June. P. 19-20.

#### *Poland and the Holocaust*

- Gross Jan T. Neighbours. 2001.
- Gross Jan Tomasz. A Tangled Web: Confronting Stereotypes Concerning Relations between Poles, Germans, Jews, and Communists [in] *The Politics of Retribution in Europe: World War II and Its Aftermath*, I. Deak and T. Judt (eds.). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000. P. 74-130.
- Wokół złotych zniw: Debata o książce Jana Tomasza Grossa i Ireny Grudzinskiej-Gross. Krakow, 2011.
- Connelly John. The Noble and the Base [in] *The Nation*. December 3, 2012.

### **III. Parallel Mythology: Czechoslovakia**

- Mastny Vojtek. The Czechs under Nazi Rule: The Failure of National Resistance, 1939-1942. New York, 1971.
- Rothkirchen Livia. The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia: Facing the Holocaust. Lincoln, 2005.
- Bryant Chad. Prague in Black. Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism. Cambridge, 2007.
- Orzoff Andrea. Battle for the Castle. The Myth of Czechoslovakia in Europe, 1914-1948. Oxford, 2009.
- Rychlík Jan. The Slovak Question and the Resistance Movement during the Second World War [in] *Slovakia in History*, M. Teich 9ed.). Cambridge, 2011. P. 193-205.
- Heitlinger A. Politicizing Jewish Memory in Postwar Czechoslovakia [in] *East European Jewish Affairs*. Vol. 35. No 2. December 2005. P. 135-153.

#### ***Recommended Bibliography***

1. Renan Ernest. What is a Nation? (1882) [in] *Becoming National: A Reader*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
2. Zarycki Tomasz. Uses of Russia: The Role of Russia in the Modern Polish National Identity [in] *East European Politics and Societies*. 2004 No 4. P. 595-627.
3. Wislicz Tomasz. Historiografia polska 1989-2009. Bardzo subiektywne podsumowanie [in] *Przegląd Humanistyczny*. Rok LIV. 2010. Nr 5/6. S. 37-48.
4. Jeszke Aromir. Między historiografią nauki a kulturą środowisk badaczy. Rzecz o formach dialogu z przeszłością w środowiskach naukowych [in] *Sensus Historiae. Studia Interdyscyplinarne*. 2011/1. Vol. II. S. 81-96.

5. Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. 1991.
6. Gellner Ernest. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca, 1983.
7. Hobsbawm Eric J. *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
8. Snyder Timothy. *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*. Yale University Press, 2003. Part 3. (In Belarusian: Снайдэр Т. Рэканструкцыя нацый: Польшча, Украіна, Літва, Беларусь, 1569-1999. Мінск, 2010. Частка 3).
9. Tazbir Janusz. *Przedmurze chrześcijańskiej Europy: mity a rzeczywistość historyczna*. Warszawa, 2004.
10. *Independence Day: Myth, Symbolism, and the Creation of Modern Poland* / by M.B.B. Biskupski. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2012.
11. Machcewicz Paweł. *Spory o historie 2000-2011*. Krakow, 2012.
12. *Mity i stereotypy w dziejach Polski*. Warszawa, 1991.
13. Strenski Ivan. *Four Theories of Myth in Twentieth-century History: Cassirer, Eliade, Lévi-Strausse and Malinowski*. Iowa City, 1987.
14. *Mity historyczno-polityczne, wyobrażenia zbiorowe, polityka historyczna: studia i materiały / pod red. E. Ponczka, A. Sepkowskiego*. T.1-2. Toruń, 2010.
15. Сагановіч Генадзь. Гістарычны міф у гістарычнай памяці і гісторыяпісанні [in] *Беларускі гістарычны агляд*. Снежань 2012. Сшыткі 1-2 (36-37). С. 213-236.
16. Kean Hilda. *People, historians, and public history: demystifying the process of history making* [in] *The Public Historian*. 2010. Vol. 32(3). P. 25-38.
17. Sulek Antony. *Ordinary Poles Look at the Jews* [in] *East European Politics and Societies*. 2012. Vol. 26 (2). P.425-444.
18. Флад К. *Политический миф. Теоретическое исследование / пер. с англ. А. Георгиева*. Москва, 2004.
19. Mali Joseph. *Mythistory: The Making of a Modern Historiography*. Chicago University Press, 2003.
20. Paul Mark. *A Tangled Web. Polish-Jewish Relations on Wartime Northeastern Poland and the Aftermath (Part Three)*. Toronto, 2012.
21. Davies Norman. *Heart of Europe: A Short History of Poland*. Oxford, 1984. [in Russian] Дэвис Н. *Сердце Европы*. Москва – Вроцлав, 2010.
22. *A Concise History of Slovakia*. Bratislava, 2000. [in Russian] *История Словакии*. Москва, 2003.
23. *Чехия и Словакия в XX веке. Очерки истории*. В двух книгах. Книга 1. Москва, 2005.
24. Зашкільняк Леонід, Крикун Микола. *Історія Польщі. Від найдавніших часів до наших днів*. Львів, 2002.
25. *Польша в XX веке. Очерки политической истории*. Москва, 2012.
26. Soukupová V. *Česka společnost před sto lety. Identita, stereotyp, mýtus*. Praha, 2000.

27. Smith A. Ethnic Myths and Ethnic Revivals [in] *Journal of European Sociology*. 1984. Vol.25. p. 283-305.
28. *Myth and Nationhood*, G. Hosking and G. Schopflin (eds.). London, 1997.