

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLISH STUDIES



2025-2026 spring semester

SYLLABUS

Course lecturer: Dr. Mariusz Antonowicz, email: mariusz.antonovic@tspmi.vu.lt

Course aim:

- provide students with the essential knowledge necessary to comprehend Poland's domestic politics, foreign policy, economic and societal developments;
- help students better understand Poland's role and actions in the global and regional arenas, its interactions with neighbours;
- Give students an understanding of the main debates and discussions taking place among Polish elites and society about Poland's history, foreign policy, economic transformation, memory, identity and the ability to critically engage them;

- present the theoretical, methodological and conceptual tools necessary to analyse Poland's foreign policy and domestic politics.

Course requirements:

- Attendance at course lectures and seminars. Missing more than 3 lectures or seminars without a substantial reason will lead to a reduction in the student's grade. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the seminars and lectures, provide constructive comments and critique, reflect their own and their colleagues' thoughts, relate the course material to the wider context. Reading seminar literature is compulsory, it is expected that students will read the lectures' literature as much as they can and later on in April, May, June.
- Complete an assignment on Poland's Nordic foreign policy.
- End of course reaction paper on an issue given by the course lecturer and its presentation in the final seminar.

Assignment

You will be given to read texts, listen to podcasts or watch videos on Poland's Nordic foreign policy, answer questions related to that material and provide your own reflections on the topic. The assignment will take place in the Virtual Learning Environment (VMA), on **9-12th of March**.

Reaction Paper

At the end of the course students will have to prepare an up-to 2000 word (-/+ 10%) length "reaction paper" to a recent event, news, trend in or around Poland. The student will receive a web link containing information on a specific event concerning Poland and a question that needs to be discussed in the reaction paper. The student will then have 24 h to discuss the issue based on the literature, seminars and lectures of the course. This will be an open-book assessment. The reaction paper assessment will take place on **31st of March**. The word count includes references, graphs, tables, but does not include the bibliography. Additional references besides the course syllabus are encouraged, but not necessary. Later, students will gather for the final seminar, where they will present and discuss their reaction papers.

Course evaluation

Seminars: 30%

Assignment: 40%

Reaction paper: 30%

What is happening in Poland?

You may pick-up information on current events in Poland on several places:

- Notes from Poland: <https://notesfrompoland.com/>
- Biznesalert.pl: <https://biznesalert.com/>

- Wszystko co najważniejsze, more cultural commentary: <https://wszystkoconajwazniejsze.pl/multilanguage/po-angielsku/>
- TVN24: <https://tvn24.pl/tvn24-news-in-english>
- Polish radio: <https://www.polskieradio.pl/395>
- And Twitter (also known as X). Most of online Polish political life takes place there.
- Not focuses on Polish foreign policy or internal politics, but the OSW English channel gives an insight into a Polish perspective on international events: <https://www.youtube.com/@centreforeasternstudies/featured>
- Not focused solely on Poland, but you may some stuff in Visegrad Insight: <https://visegradinsight.eu/>
- The same applies to New Eastern Europe: <https://neweasterneurope.eu/>
- You watch polish movies here: <https://easterneuropeanmovies.com/> and here <https://35mm.online/>

Seminars and lectures

Classes take place each Thursday, 16:45-18:15, at VU TSPMI, 104 lecture room.

1. Course Introduction and Poland's history to 1700 – Lecture

Reading:

- Norman Davies, *God's Playground: a history of Poland*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Additional reading and material:

- Adam Zamoyski. *Poland. A History*. Harper Press. 2009.
- Glenn Dyner, „Early Jews of Modern Ukraine.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp495Uz_Cq4&list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz_1Mx1MaO6sw_&index=8
- Timothy Snyder, “Polish Power and Cossack Revolution.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IBll--m7qI&list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz_1Mx1MaO6sw_&index=9

2. Poland's history 1700 to 2022 – Lecture

Reading:

- Norman Davies, *God's Playground: a history of Poland*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Additional reading and material:

- Adam Zamoyski. *Poland. A History*. Harper Press. 2009.

- Vitalii Borymskyi; The Polish-Ukrainian Alliance of 1920 and “White” Russia. *The Polish Review* 1 July 2022; 67 (2): 64–85. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5406/23300841.67.2.04>
- Timothy Snyder, “Interwar Poland’s Ukrainians.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JUzxdeYRZc&list=PLh9mgdi4rNewfxO7LhBoz_1Mx1MaO6sw_&index=14
- Dudek, Antoni, 'The Communist Rule (1945–1989) and Its Influence on Contemporary Political Life', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0002>
- Jasiewicz, Krzysztof, 'The Round Table Accord and Elections of 1989: The Foundation Myth That Faded Away', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0003>

3. Poland’s security policy, Seminar

Reading:

- Nowak, Bartłomiej E., 'Security and Geostrategy', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0052>
- Osica, Olaf, 'Poland’s Uneasy Relations with Its Defence Policy', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0053>
- Kamiński, Mariusz Antoni, and Zdzisław Śliwa. “Poland’s Threat Assessment: Deepened, Not Changed.” *PRISM* 10, no. 2 (2023): 130–47. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48718177>.

Additional reading:

- Justyna Zając, Poland’s Security Policy: the West, Russia and the Changing International Order, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4733243>.
- Lakomy Miron. (2020). Foreign Policy of Poland in the Post -Cold War Era Between the West and the East. W: T. Kubin, J. Łapaj-Kucharska, T. Okrasa (red.), "Wokół teoretycznych i praktycznych aspektów stosunków międzynarodowych : księga jubileuszowa dedykowana Profesorowi Mieczysławowi Stolarczykowi" (S. 315-335). Katowice : Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego.
- Szeptycki, A. (2022). Populist Foreign Policy and its Consequences: The Case of Poland Under the Rule of The Law and Justice Party. *SIYASAL: Journal of Political Sciences*, 31(Suppl. 1), S45–S59. <http://doi.org/10.26650/siyasal.2022.31.915894>

- Kupiecki, R. (2022). Poland's Security Policy after the Cold War. *SIYASAL: Journal of Political Sciences*, 31(Suppl. 1), S27–S43. <http://doi.org/10.26650/siyasal.2022.31.945221>
- Jakub Bornio, "Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine: A Gamechanger For Poland's Position In The Region?" in Ninna Möerner (ed.), *A World Order in Transformation? A Comparative Study of Consequences of the War and Reactions to these Changes in the Region*. Stockholm: Centre for Baltic and East European Studies and Södertörn University, 2024, 192-197

4. Poland's Eastern policy – Seminar

Reading:

- Timothy Snyder, *Reconstruction of Nations. Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2003, chapters 11 & 12.
- Wojciech Konończuk, "Why Poland needs a post-Giedroyc doctrine towards Ukraine," *New Eastern Europe*, 2018-03-22. <https://neweasterneurope.eu/2018/03/22/poland-needs-post-giedroyc-doctrine-towards-ukraine/>
- Pospieszna, Paulina, and Tsveta Petrova, 'Poland and Democracy Promotion', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0056>

Additional reading:

- Andrzej Turkowski (2023) A Return to Prometheanism: The Space of Opinion on Polish–Russian Relations in Postcommunist Poland, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 75:4, 675-699, DOI: [10.1080/09668136.2022.2047158](https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2022.2047158)
- Szynol, M. (2023). Poland as a Democracy Exporter to the East? The Effectiveness of the International Role in the Example of Development Cooperation. *Studia Polityczne*, 51(2), 89–126. <https://doi.org/10.35757/STP.2023.51.2.05>
- REEVES, Christopher. "THE JAGIELLONIAN IDEA AND POLAND'S EASTERN POLICY: HISTORICAL ECHOES IN TODAY'S APPROACH." *Politeja*, no. 51/6 (2017): 141–64. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26564307>.
- Halavach, D. (2023). Unsettling Borderlands: The Population Exchange and the Polish Minority in Soviet Belarus, 1944–1947. *East European Politics and Societies*, 37(2), 473-492. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254221079799>
- Andrzej Pieczewski, Aliaksandra Sidarava; The Polish Diaspora in Belarus: Functioning under the Lukashenko Regime. *The Polish Review* 1 October 2024; 69 (3): 52–71. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5406/23300841.69.3.04>
- Tsveta Petrova & Paulina Pospieszna (2021) Democracy promotion in times of autocratization: the case of Poland, 1989–2019, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 37:6, 526-54
- "How the Russian-Ukrainian War Broke Out – On the Backstage of International Politics From Jacob Kumoch Perspective. Source material edited by Łukasz Adamski." *AREI*, nr. 1, 2023, 160-191. <http://www.arei-journal.pl/articles/display/57>

- Natorski, Michał, 'Polish Eastern Foreign Policy from a Post-Colonial Perspective', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0055>
- Paulina Pospieszna, Patrice C. McMahon; Forging Democracy in the Flames: Strategies of Polish NGOs during the Full-Scale War in Ukraine. *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 1 June 2025; 58 (2): 103–126. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1525/cpcs.2024.2122433>
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5. Poland's relations with Western Europe and the USA – Seminar

Reading:

- Sus, Monika, 'Poland and the European Union's Foreign Policy', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0050>
- Sojka, Aleksandra, 'Political Elites and the European Union', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0045>

Additional reading:

- Tadeusz Wallas, "Poland's Road to Membership in the European Union from the Perspective of the 20th Anniversary of the Accession Treaty." *Przegląd Politologiczny*, 2023, 2, s. 143-154 DOI: [10.14746/pp.2023.28.2.10](https://doi.org/10.14746/pp.2023.28.2.10)
- Ławniczak, K. (2023). Consensus-Seeking and Reversed Representation among Polish Officials in the Council of the European Union. *East European Politics and Societies*, 37(2), 678–697. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254221101465>
- Agnieszka K. Cianciara (2023) De facto differentiated disintegration in the European Union. The case of Poland, *Journal of European Integration*, DOI: [10.1080/07036337.2023.2212122](https://doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2023.2212122)
- Marcin Kleinowski, "Poland's Ability To Build Blocking Coalitions After Brexit." *Politeja*, 63, 2019, 43-64
- Tosiek, Piotr. 2024. "Illiberal Concept of EU Reform: Polish Conservative Ideologists in the Debate on Differentiated Integration". *Politeja* 21 (1(88/1):41-55. <https://doi.org/10.12797/Politeja.20.2024.88.1.03>.
- Didem Buhari Gulmez & Seckin Baris Gulmez, "Towards an autonomous European defense? A comparative analysis of French, Polish and German perspectives in the post-Brexit era." *Global Affairs*, 2020, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2020.1776628
- Łukasz Jureńczyk, "Changing the Importance of Poland in the Security Policy of the United States in the Context of the war in Ukraine", *Przegląd Polityczny*, nr. 1, 2023, 53-64, DOI:10.14746/pp.2022.28.1.4

- Szwed, Stefan, 'The Awkward Middle Power: Poland's Foreign Policy after 1989', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0051>
- Zheltovskyy, Vadym. 2024. "Poland's Raison d'état in the European Union: Enlargement Policy As a Case Study". *Politeja* 21 (1(88/1):89-101. <https://doi.org/10.12797/Politeja.20.2024.88.1.06>.
- Marek Cichocki; The West Becoming "Westless" and the Polish Experience of Totalitarianism and Modernity. *The Polish Review* 1 December 2023; 68 (4): 99–106. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5406/23300841.68.4.06>
- Alexander Lanoszka, "Poland in a time of geopolitical flux." *Contemporary Politics*, 26(4), 2020 458-4
- Krzysztof Zuba "From the poster boy of Europeanization to the sick man of Europe: thirty years (1990–2019) of Poland's European policy." *European Politics and Society*, 22(3), 2021, 394-409, DOI: 10.1080/23745118.2020.1786273

6. Polish – German relations, Lecture + Seminar

Reading:

- Kinga Gajda, "A Gap in Polish-German relations," *New Eastern Europe*, nr. 5, 2022.
- Matthew Boyse, "Breaking the German-Polish deadlock," *Hudson Institute*, 2023 May 5, <https://www.hudson.org/foreign-policy/breaking-german-polish-deadlock>
- "Why Poland loves to hate Germany," *the Economist*, 2023-01-05, <https://www.economist.com/europe/2023/01/05/why-poland-loves-to-hate-germany>
- *Poland and Germany in the European Union: The Multidimensional Dynamics of Bilateral Relations*, edited by Elżbieta Opiłowska, and Monika Sus, Taylor & Francis Group, 2023. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=7169207>
- <https://warontherocks.com/converting-history-into-hard-power-a-polish-german-reckoning/>

Additional reading:

- Barcz, Jan. "Confirmation of the Polish-German Border on the Odra and Nysa Łużycka Rivers in the Process of German Reunification". *Stosunki Międzynarodowe – International Relations* 56 no. 3 (2020).
- Patryk Czulno (2022) German–Polish Transfers on Eastern Policy? Research Deficits, Europeanisation Inputs, Empirical Testing, German Politics, DOI: [10.1080/09644008.2021.2020252](https://doi.org/10.1080/09644008.2021.2020252)

7. Poland in global politics – Seminar

Reading:

- Yan, G. (2025). A corpus-based analysis on Poland's perception of the belt and road initiative. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2025.2506724>
- Czornik, K. (2023). Poland as a Player in the Middle East in the First Two Decades of the 20th Century. Selected Military and Non-Military Dilemmas. *Studia Polityczne*, 51(2), 151–178. <https://doi.org/10.35757/STP.2023.51.2.02>
- <https://ceias.eu/prime-minister-modi-in-poland-and-ukraine-a-new-beginning-for-india-in-central-and-eastern-europe/>

Additional reading:

- Andrzej POLUS, POLISH-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS AFTER 1989, *Politeja*, No. 42, AFRICAN STUDIES (2016), pp. 93-110
- Szczudlik, J. Poland's stance on CAI: no need for haste. *Asia Eur J* 20, 31–38 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-021-00635-1>
- Rafał Ożarowski, "Contemporary Dilemmas of Polish Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East. The case of Iraq and Qatar," *YASAL: Journal of Political Sciences*, 31, Special Issue on Polish Foreign Policy in 21st Century (2022):165–174, [DOI :10.26650/siyasal.2022.31.1028061](https://doi.org/10.26650/siyasal.2022.31.1028061)
- Kalhousová, Irena (2019) *Our Jews, our Israel! Origins of the foreign policy of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary towards Israel*. PhD thesis, London School of Economics and Political Science. <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/3954/>
- Joanna Dyduch & Patrick Müller (2021) Populism meets EU Foreign policy: the de-Europeanization of Poland's Foreign policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, *Journal of European Integration*, 43:5, 569-586
- Patrycja Pendrakowska (2018) Poland's perspective on the Belt and Road Initiative, *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*, 7:2, 190-206

8. Poland's dealings with climate change – Seminar

Reading:

- Forum energii - Energy Transition in Poland, 2025 edition. <https://www.forum-energii.eu/en/transformacja-energetyczna-polski-edycja-2025>
- Hebda, Wiktor. 2022. "Energy Policy of Poland until 2040: The Challenges and Threats to Energy Security in the Next Two Decades". *Politeja* 19 (4 (79)):167-86. <https://doi.org/10.12797/Politeja.19.2022.79.10>
- Kardaś S. Poland's strategic energy partnerships: key to success long-term energy security. *Stosunki Międzynarodowe – International Relations*. 2025; 61:29–62. doi:10.12688/stomiedintrelat.17933.2.

Additional reading:

- Andrzej WĘGRZYN, Agnieszka SPIRYDOWICZ, Wes GREBSKI, "Dilemmas of the energy transformation in Poland 2021/2022." *Mining Machines*, 2022, Vol. 40 Issue 1, pp. 32-42
- Lis, Aleksandra. *Climate and Energy Politics in Poland : Debating Carbon Dioxide and Shale Gas*, Taylor & Francis Group, 2020. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6133882>.
- Herudziński Tomasz, Swacha Piotr, Poles Towards Energy Transformation and Energy Sources– Sociological Perspective, *Przegląd Politologiczny*, 2022, nr 3, s.81-93. DOI:10.14746/pp.2022.27.3.7
- Dulak, Michał and Kułakowska, Małgorzata. "Poland's Governmental Response to the European Green Deal: Discursive Strategies prior to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in February 2022" *Politics in Central Europe*, vol.20, no.1, 2024, pp.169-191. <https://doi.org/10.2478/pce-2024-0007>
- Brzozowska, Anna, et al. *Management of Civic Energy and the Green Transformation : A Case Study of Poland*, Taylor & Francis Group, 2023. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=7216512>.
- Elżbieta Kawecka-Wyrzykowska, Financing Energy Transition in Poland: Possible Contribution of EU Funds. *European Integration Studies* No. 16 / 2022, pp. 65-77
- Aleksandra Lis, "Energopolitics in Times of Climate Change: Productive and Unproductive Politics of Energy Infrastructures in Poland." In: Tristan Loloum et al. *ETHNOGRAPHIES OF POWER: A Political Anthropology of Energy*.

9. Democracy in Poland – Seminar

Reading:

- Köker, Philipp, 'Presidential Politics', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0010>
- Flis, Jarosław, and Marek M. Kamiński, 'The Electoral System: Genesis, Evolution, and Functioning', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0008>

Additional reading:

- Patrycja Rozbicka & Paweł Kamiński (2022) Have They Already Emerged? Mapping the Population of National Interest Organisations in Post-Communist Poland, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 74:5, 789-808, DOI: [10.1080/09668136.2021.1900075](https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2021.1900075)
- Kropiwnicki, Robert, "Between the Politicisation and Juridisation of Constitutional Accountability in Poland" *Przegląd Politologiczny*, 2023, 2, s. 39-49.
- Gagatsek, Wojciech, 'Party Organizational Development in Poland, 2001–2021: The Cases of Law and Justice (PiS) and Civic Platform (PO)', in Thomas Poguntke, and Wilhelm

Hofmeister (eds), *Political Parties and the Crisis of Democracy: Organization, Resilience, and Reform* (Oxford, 2024; online edn, Oxford Academic, 22 Aug. 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198888734.003.0012>

- Siwińska-Gorzela, J., & Bukowska, G. (2023). Intragovernmental Grant Distribution and Party Alignment Bias under Democratic and Authoritarian Governments: The Case of Poland. *East European Politics and Societies*, 37(3), 927-949. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254221116787>
- Nalepa, Monika, and Ipek Cinar, 'Transitional Justice and Elite Polarization', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0006>
- Grabowska-Moroz, Barbara, 'Rule of Law and Democratic Backsliding in Poland: Stages, Methods, Outcomes', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0007>
- Bodnar, Adam, and Adam Ploszka, 'the Struggle for the Independence of the Judiciary: From Communism to the Rule of Law Crisis', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0012>
- Michał Jacuński et al., *Party Organization and Communication in Poland*, Springer International Publishing AG, 2021, chapters 2 & 3

10. Poland's domestic politics – Seminar

Reading:

- Orenstein, Mitchell A., 'Democratization and Marketization', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0005>
- Marcinkiewicz, Kamil, 'Parliamentary Transformation: Unstable Parties, Stable Party Families', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0009>

Additional reading:

- Sabrina P. Ramet et al. (eds.). *Civic and Uncivic Values in Poland : Value Transformation, Education, and Culture*. Central European University Press, 2019, chapter 3: Party System and Voting Behaviour in Poland, pp.

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2316985&site=ehost-live>

- Ben Stanley & Mikołaj Cześnik (2022) Uninformed or informed populists? The relationship between political knowledge, socio-economic status and populist attitudes in Poland, *East European Politics*, 38:1, 43-60, DOI: [10.1080/21599165.2021.1876676](https://doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2021.1876676)
- Guzek, D., & Grzesiok-Horosz, A. (2022). Political Will and Media Law: A Poland Case Analysis. *East European Politics and Societies*, 36(4), 1245–1262. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254211049514>
- Smolik, Josef, and Ewelina Kancik-Koltun. *New Political Parties in the Party System of Poland*, Peter Lang GmbH, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften, 2023. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=30393737>
- Agnieszka K. Cianciara (2022) Between EU's aspiring saint and disillusioned rebel: hegemonic narrative and counter-narrative production in Poland, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 30:1, 84-96
- Dulak, Michał and Kułakowska, Małgorzata. "Poland's Governmental Response to the European Green Deal: Discursive Strategies prior to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in February 2022" *Politics in Central Europe*, vol.20, no.1, 2024, pp.169-191. <https://doi.org/10.2478/pce-2024-0007>
- *Politics and the Media in Poland from the 19th to the 21st Centuries : Selected Issues*, edited by Evelina Kristanova, et al., BRILL, 2024. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=31216814>.
- Borowiec, Piotr. *The Politicization of Social Divisions in Post-War Poland*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=7207026>.
- *Poland : Thirty Years of Radical Social Change*, BRILL, 2023. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=31216850>.
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11. Poland's Nordic policy (assignment) plus what is Poland's plan B? guest lecturer dr. Jakub Bornio, online

Reading:

- Musiał, K. & Szacawa, D. (2024). Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region at the Critical Juncture. In: Mörner, N. (ed.) *A World Order in Transformation? : A Comparative Study of Consequences of the War and Reactions to These Changes in the Region*. Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, pp. 44–50. <https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:sh:diva-53714>
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12. Polish civil society, Seminar.

Reading:

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- Chimiak, G., McMahon, P.C. Polish society's humanitarian uprising: ad-hoc, needs-based partnerships supporting Ukraine. *J Int Relat Dev* **28**, 214–235 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41268-025-00343-y>

Additional reading:

- Marcin Ślarzyński; Transformation of Civil Society in Poland under the United Right Government: From Compartmentalization to Political Division. *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 1 March 2022; 55 (1): 131–154. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1525/j.postcomstud.2022.55.1.131>
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13. Poland's economic transformation – Seminar

Reading:

- Piatkowski, Marcin, *Europe's Growth Champion: Insights from the Economic Rise of Poland*, Oxford, 2018. Chapter 5: Drivers of Poland's successful transition, pp. 159-204. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5313268>.
- Naczyk, Marek, 'Dependency and Developmentalism in Poland's FDI-Led Growth Model', in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *Governance and Public Policies*, in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics*, Oxford Handbooks (2026; online edn, Oxford Academic, 18 Dec. 2025), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192873149.013.0038>

Additional reading:

- Szarzec, K., Totleben, B., & Piątek, D. (2022). How Do Politicians Capture a State? Evidence from State-Owned Enterprises. *East European Politics and Societies*, 36(1), 141–172. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0888325420953485>
- Bilewicz, A., Mamonova, N., & Burdyka, K. (2022). “Paradoxical” Dissatisfaction among Post-Socialist Farmers with the EU's Common Agricultural Policy: A Study of Farmers' Subjectivities in Rural Poland. *East European Politics and Societies*, 36(3), 892–912. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254211036717>
- Necel, R. (2024). War refugees from Ukraine in Poland: the welfare system in the face of New social challenges. *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*, 32(1), 75–94. <https://doi.org/10.1080/25739638.2024.2320475>
- *Modeling Economic Growth in Contemporary Poland*, edited by Elżbieta Bukalska, et al., Emerald Publishing Limited, 2023. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=30578003>.
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14. Religion in Poland's politics – Seminar

Reading:

- Potz, M. (2024). Symbolic Conflict in the Public Sphere: The Catholic Church against the State in Post-Communist Poland. *East European Politics and Societies*, 38(1), 178-196. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254231177387>
- Zubrzycki G. Nationalism, “Philosemitism,” and Symbolic Boundary-Making in Contemporary Poland. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 2016;58(1):66-98. doi:10.1017/S0010417515000572

Additional reading:

- Anna M. Grzymała-Busse, *Nations under God: How Churches Use Moral Authority to Influence Policy*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2015, chapter 2
- Geneviève Zubrzycki, *The Crosses of Auschwitz Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland*, Chicago & London, University of Chicago Press, 2006, chapter 2
- *Religion and Law in Poland*, Wolters Kluwer Law International, 2023. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/viluniv-ebooks/detail.action?docID=30796403>.
- Zuba, K. (2022). Not So Much Societal: The Catholic Church in Poland as a Veto Player. *East European Politics and Societies*, 36(4), 1204–1223.
- Meyer Resende, M.; Hennig, A. Polish Catholic Bishops, Nationalism and Liberal Democracy. *Religions* **2021**, 12, 94. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12020094>

15. Presentation and discussion of reaction papers