Course Description:
Reading Polish Cities seeks to accomplish two goals. The first is to encourage and train students to examine their academic and cultural experiences in Poland through a conceptual lens that focuses on both the historically determined and creatively imagined nature of national and regional identities and behaviors. The second is to develop in students an awareness of the space and architecture of Kraków as a rich, multi-layered city, with a diverse, patchwork history formed by multiple ethnic, religious and national allegiances. To accomplish this, students will both read and experience the history and culture of Kraków. We will visit various places important to Kraków, noting the ways different layers its culture and history mark the space of the city. While learning about the past of the city, we will also consider the place of these particular histories in the making of the contemporary Kraków.

Course Materials:
All materials will be available in e-versions through email or the e-learning website. If you would like hard copies you will be responsible for the cost of printouts.

Course Requirements:
Class participation: 20%  
E-Learning Postings: 50%  
Exam 1: 15%  
Exam 2: 15%

E-Learning Responses: You will be responsible for posting 3 paragraphs a week on the E-Learning website as short responses to other students’ posts. A paragraph is equal to 1/3 of a type-written page. Each paragraph is worth 10 points and will be graded as follows:
-10pts: Your posting shows effort and thought. The posting is clearly written with minimal errors.  
-9pts: Your posting shows effort and thought, but needs better proofreading.  
-8pts: Your posting is acceptable. You read the materials and observed life around you, but you did not spend much time reflecting on things.  
-7pts: Your posting is on-line and on time, but it is clear you have skimmed the materials at best and have not been leaving your room.  
-0pts: You missed the deadline.

Posting A: Personal reflection/blog (15%): Discuss your impressions based on day-to-day observations in Krakow. This posting is basically a “good response” to anything you find fascinating, exciting, annoying,
endearing, etc. Did you experience something you didn’t understand? Did you see or experience something your classmates might find interesting?

Posting B: Products/Practices/Perspectives (15%): This posting allows you to formalize your observations of Poland and Polish culture, and may or may not be related to Posting A and/or C. It moves from your first response to your experience toward a more organized and thoughtful analysis of that experience. Basically, the “PPP” format provides you with an analytical tool to transform your “reactions” into “hypotheses” and to help you organize your thoughts. It encourages you to engage the world around you “anthropologically” through observation and analysis. Organize your paragraph according to the three categories “products,” “practices,” and “perspectives.” Your response can be written like a lab report using bullet points or in paragraph form.

Posting C: Academic Response (15%): The last posting of each week will be a formal response paragraph related to assigned readings. In this paragraph you can analyze one or two points we have been discussing in class, pose further questions for consideration, analyze cultural artefacts or historical sites as it relates to class discussion, etc. You may write about any aspect of the material we have discussed or read for class. Maybe we didn’t have time in class to discuss a topic you find particularly interesting? This is your chance to share formally your thoughts and analyses on that topic.

Peer Responses (5%): You should take some time to respond to your colleagues’ posts. No more than 3 to 5 sentences will be necessary, but they should be thoughtful.

Exams: There will be two exams during the course of the class. The first will be in week 3 and the second in week 6. It will be over your readings and our class discussions.

CHEATING: Don’t do it. You’re college students after all. If any student is discovered cheating it will result in an automatic failing grade.

ABSENCE POLICY: Your attendance in this course is mandatory. Whether excused or unexcused, after 2 absences your final grade will be docked 5%. After 4 absences you will be given a failing grade for the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability, you may qualify for special accommodations and auxiliary aids. In order for any needed accommodations to be implemented in a timely fashion, you need to contact the Disability Resource Center – 352-392-8565 – or talk to me as soon as possible. Any communication between students, DRC, and the instructor will be strictly confidential.

COMPORTEMENT POLICY: While you should feel free to express your ideas, slurs and epithets based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and preference, religious practice, etc. will not be tolerated. Any disruptive, obnoxious, or disrespectful behavior may result in dismissal from the classroom and other disciplinary action. I trust that we can all avoid such situations and create a safe classroom environment. This can be easily achieved through mutual respect for one another.

DISCLAIMER
Any part of this syllabus is subject to change, according to the needs and/or progression of the class. This syllabus is not exhaustive; I reserve the right to implement any reasonable methods not included in the syllabus if they serve the pedagogical purpose of the class.
Week 1: Beginnings
-Readings: Chapters 1 – 3 *Poland: A History*
  *Myths and Legends of Krakow*
  Selections from *Polish Folklore*
Suggested trips and walks: Wawel Castle, The Dragon’s Lair, St. Wojciech’s Church

Week 2: Medieval Krakow
-Readings: Chapters 4 – 7 *Poland: A History*
  Selected poems from Kochanowski
  *Medieval Polish Literature* from Milosz
  Selections from Piotr Skarga’s *Sermons*
Suggested trips and walks: Old Town, Planty

Week 3: The Partitions
-Readings: Chapters 7 – 10 *Poland: A History*
  The Polish “Third of May Constitution”
  Kosciuszko’s *Memoirs*
  Selected readings from *Polish Romanticism* by Milosz
  “Pan Tadeusz” by Mickiewicz
Suggested Trips and walks: Kosciusko’s way, the funeral route of Joseph Conrad’s father

Week 4: Fin-de-siècle: WWI and Poland Reborn
-Readings: Chapters 11 – 13 *Poland: A History*
  Wood, “Cracow around 1900”
  “Big-City Muck: Images of the Great City in the Gutter Press”
  Selections from *Avante Garde Polish Theater*
  “The Lady and the Literary Establishment” by Norseng
  *Cultural Politics in Pilsudski’s Poland*
Suggested Trips and Walks: Young Poland walk, Franciscan church, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Slowacki Theater

Week 5: WWII and the PRL
-Readings: Chapters 14 – 17 *Poland: A History*
  Crowe: “Schindler and Emalia Controversy”
  “Schindler in Krakow”
  “Origins of the Schindler Myth”
  Konwicki: “The Polish Complex”
Suggested Trips and Walks: Kazimierz Jewish district, Schindler’s Factory, Plaszow,

Week 6: The Third Republic
-Readings: Chapter 18 – 19 *Poland: A History*
  Selections from *Contemporary Polish Literature*
  “What was Socialism and why did it Fail?” by Katherine Verdery
Suggested Trips and Walks: Nowa Huta, Boy-Zelenski walk that ends at the Green Balloon Café