

# Poland: Political, Social & Cultural Geographies since 1939

## ENVS313

This course focuses on geographical developments in Poland since 1939. The course will be structured around three key time periods - second world war, socialism, post-socialism - and will concentrate on different aspects of the changing geographies of everyday life in Poland during these eras. The second world war theme will consider the impact of war on population and territory in Poland, and the subsequent contestations surrounding wartime memory within the country. A key focus will be on museums and memorial sites as contested sites of memory.

The second part of the course will consider the spatial dimensions of everyday life under socialism, including: political uses of public and private space, queuing and the shortage economy, imagined geographies of the west and political and cultural resistances.

The final section will investigate changes in Poland since 1989 - to what extent the country has 'returned to Europe', the impact of shock therapy on social geographies, and how Poland is still working through socialist legacies. Special attention will also be given to Polish migration, before and after EU accession. Ultimately this module will enable an in-depth empirical knowledge of a key site of change in contemporary Europe, while encouraging deep engagement with a range of historical, political, social, cultural and post-socialist geographical readings.

The module will be taught through a mixture of lectures, seminars and film showings. Assessment consists of a WW2 'memory project' (2500 words, 40%) and an exam (2 questions, 60%).

