

Polish Language and Culture (Beginners)

TEU00591 / TEU00592

AY 2025/2026

Lecturer: Dr Adam Nowakowski,
a.nowakowski@tcd.ie

Office hours: Mondays, 3–4pm (upon prior appointment), 4114 Arts Building

Module Coordinators	Dr Adam Nowakowski, Dr James Hadley
Why Should You Take This Trinity Elective?	<p>Polish is the language of around 50 million people worldwide. In Ireland, it is the language of the country's largest minority; in fact, more people speak Polish at home than Irish. This Trinity Elective will offer you an insight into the language, culture, and identity of one of the largest countries in the EU.</p> <p>Taking this elective will give you a roadmap for further exploration of Poland's rich film and literary production, as well as the basics of Polish language, the largest Slavonic language in the EU. Learning about Polish language and culture will give you a world of information about an important region of Europe and a key minority culture in Ireland.</p> <p>Please note that this is <u>not</u> a traditional language module and language study will be combined with discussions of cultural materials.</p>

<p>What Will You Learn from This Elective?</p>	<p>You will acquire linguistic and cultural knowledge in Polish language and culture.</p> <p>You will explore the different and diverse meanings of “Polishness” in culture and society.</p> <p>You will learn about the Polish diaspora, including in Ireland, and its contributions to Polish culture.</p>
<p>Student Workload</p>	<p>11 hours of in-class language instruction</p> <p>11 hours of in-class discussion of Polish culture</p> <p>~77 hours of self-directed learning (interacting with online resources, forum discussion, reading, preparation for quiz)</p>
<p>Assessment Components</p>	<p>25% – Language quiz, administered during the final class.</p> <p>25% – Final closed-ended test, administered during the penultimate class.</p> <p>20% – Active participation in online discussion boards on selected topics in Polish language and culture.</p> <p>10% – Active participation in in-class sessions.</p> <p>20% – Preparing a 10-minute presentation on a previously agreed topic.</p>
<p>Indicative Reading List</p>	<p>The following two texts will be useful as general reference materials for the module.</p>

	<p>Tomasz Bilczewski, Stanley Bill, Magdalena Popiel, eds., <i>The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature</i> (Routledge, 2021).</p> <p>Tamara Trojanowska, Joanna Niżyńska, Przemysław Czapliński, eds., <i>Being Poland: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918</i> (University of Toronto Press, 2018).</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</p> <p>Use conversational Polish in a variety of contexts.</p> <p>Recognise and analyse key aspects of Polish culture and cultural, political and ethical debates surrounding Polishness and its cultural representations.</p> <p>Place key tendencies in Polish culture in an international context and present them to fellow students.</p> <p>Communicate their thoughts about a larger topic in Polish culture in a synthesised manner in the class and for a larger audience.</p>

* Please note that assessment methods, assessment weightings and amount of contact hours are subject to change by the module coordinator. You can confirm all assessment details and expected contact hours with the module coordinator upon starting the elective.