

POLISH 0040 – Advanced Polish - Fall 2009
“Nóż w wodzie”, “Opowieści mojej żony”

Course meets: TH, 2:30-3:45, 1432 Cathedral of Learning.

Instructor: Oscar Swan, 1417 Cathedral of Learning (Slavic Languages Department), 624-5707. Office hours MTW 4:00 or by appointment.

You are encouraged to communicate with the instructor by e-mail: swan@pitt.edu.

Course Description: This course is a reading, translation, and conversation course.

Required Materials:

- Filmscript to **Nóż w wodzie** by Roman Polański, available in Public Library section of internet dictionary (see below).
- Questions to **Nóż w wodzie**, similarly available in Public Library section of internet dictionary.
- **Opowieści mojej Żony** by Miroslaw Żuławski, available in Book Center . The texts are also available in the internet dictionary's Public Library.
- Questions to **Opowieści mojej Żony**, available in the internet dictionary's Public Library.
- Polish Grammar in a Nutshell by Oscar Swan, downloadable from the web: <http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/nutshell.pdf>.
- The website dictionary should be sufficient for your dictionary needs. If you need a more complete dictionary, ask to borrow (on site) the department's Polish-English or English-Polish dictionary.

Order of Presentation of Material:

We will begin by viewing, discussing, and answering questions to (the Oscar-award-winning Polish director) Roman Polański's debut film, “**Nóż w wodzie** (Knife in the Water)”. Following that, we will read, translate, and answer questions to stories taken from **Opowieści mojej Żony**, in the order given further below; view the accompanying videos; answer the provided questions on them; and discuss them in class. One student per week will have the task of writing and presenting a synopsis of the week's story. One page at least, double-spaced. The work should be handed in both hard copy and electronically, as a Word file, using Polish characters. The work will be presented on a Thursday and critiqued from a grammatical point of view (by the whole class) on the following Tuesday.

Assignments: Assignments will be of three types: 1) sections to be read aloud and orally translated into English, without looking at a written translation; 2) answers to the provided set of questions on each story; 3) written, but orally delivered, synopses of each story. One student per week will be assigned a synopsis. Written homework assignments should be done on a computer, using Polish characters. **DOUBLE SPACE ALL ASSIGNMENTS.** See further below for the usual Tuesday-Thursday routine.

Class Attendance:

- You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements about course procedures. Remember that in a language class, all students benefit from and depend on the attendance of others. More than two unexcused absences will affect the grade by a half grade-point. More than four unexcused absences will be considered grounds for course failure.

Use of Polish in Class:

- In general, Tuesdays are for translation and discussion of grammar, and English may be used, although Polish is preferred. Thursdays are for class presentations and discussion and are "Polish-only days."

Evaluation:

- All assignments (oral translations, questions, and synopses) must be completed, without exception. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a substantial grade-affecting penalty.
- Synopses are graded, usually on a scale of 1 (good), 2 (acceptable), 3 (in major need of improvement). Percentiles may be added, e.g. 1.2 means 'very good, but a couple of things wrong'. These grades will be converted to letter grades on a class-based curve.
- Examinations: There will be no examinations. The final examination week will be treated as a class week.
- Grades: 60% of the grade will be based on the cumulative average of the grades on the synopses, translated into the regular university letter-grade scale. 40% of the grade will be based on written answers to the questions, class preparedness and participation.
- Your work must be your own. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RESULT IN COURSE FAILURE.**

Order of stories. Most stories have a "film" version of them, which we will view in class. Starred stories do not. We may not have time to read all stories.

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| 1. Bilet | 9. Mantylka |
| 2. Topka soli* | 10. Korek |
| 3. Zbieg okoliczności | 11. Porzeczeki |
| 4. Świniobicie* | 12. Oblężenie* |
| 5. Starosta z Leska | 13. Plecak |
| 6. Przeczucie | 14. Orchidea |
| 7. Kluski z makiem | 15. Deszcz (if there is time) |
| 8. Babie lato | |

Here is the model for the Tuesday and Thursday Schedule, once we begin “**Opowieści mojej żony**”:

In general, Tuesdays, which are used for grammatical critiques and translation into English, Polish is preferred but English may be used. Thursdays are Polish-only days.

Written work should be submitted to your personal folder in the dictionary. Make a folder entitled Polish 0040, and make folders for each of the stories.

Tuesday	Thursday
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instructor’s grammatical critique of last week’s synopsis. 2. View movie of story 2nd time. 3. Read aloud and translate into English assigned passages, without looking at a written translation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oral presentation of synopsis by selected student. Submit synopsis by e-mail as Word document. 2. Submit (in your dictionary folder) answers to questions on story. This applies to everyone. 3. Discussion of story, based on questions. 4. View movie of story for next week for the 1st time.