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:
• Film script to Nóż w wodzie by Roman Polański, available in Public Library
section of internet dictionary (see below).
• Questions to Nóż w wodze, similarly available in Public Library section of
internet dictionary.
• Opowieści mojej Żony by Mirosław 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:
• 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.

2. Topka soli* 10. Korek
3. Zbieg okoliczności 11. Porzeczki
4. Świnibicie* 12. Oblężenie*
5. Starosta z Leska 13. Plecak
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Instructor’s grammatical critique of last week’s synopsis.</td>
<td>1. Oral presentation of synopsis by selected student. Submit synopsis by e-mail as Word document.</td>
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<td>2. View movie of story 2nd time.</td>
<td>2. Submit (in your dictionary folder) answers to questions on story. This applies to everyone.</td>
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<td>3. Read aloud and translate into English assigned passages, without looking at a written translation.</td>
<td>3. Discussion of story, based on questions.</td>
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<td>4. View movie of story for next week for the 1st time.</td>
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