

POLISH 0040 - Intermediate Polish II - Spring 2009 – “W labiryncie”

Course meets: MWF, 10:00-10:50, 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 Prerequisites and Description:

This course presumes you have finished Polish 0030 (Intermediate Polish I) or the equivalent. It is a traditional four-skills course (speaking, reading, writing, listening), with emphasis on speaking and learning how to recognize and produce correct grammatical forms, especially, this semester, verb forms. There will be an increased emphasis on vocabulary building, discursive writing, and on visual and listening comprehension.

Course content consists of viewing, analyzing, and discussing instructor-edited installments of an edited Polish television “soap opera”, **W labiryncie** (Labyrinth of Life), concerning the life and times of a certain young woman, Ewa Glinicka. **W labiryncie** was the first successful Polish soap opera made in the so-called Brazilian style, even if it is not nearly as steamy as its prototypes. For the purposes of this course, it is exceptionally valuable for its tightly knit plot and culturally representative language and social situations.

As **W labiryncie** begins, Ewa has just finished her degree in pharmacy and is about to get married to Wojtek, when an accident on a slippery road takes Wojtek’s life and leaves Ewa dependent on the good will of her were-to-have-been parents-in-law. Ewa finds work in a pharmacological research institute only to discover that her new boss is her former professor, with whom she had had a torrid affair several years previously. The plot thickens as the attractive young bachelor Paweł arrives on the scene, back from a fellowship in Switzerland.

Required Materials:

- **W labiryncie** 1-20 by Oscar Swan and Wiesław Oleksy, texts only, downloadable from the folder: <http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/other/labirynt/>.
- Videos to **W labiryncie** 1-20, downloadable from, or viewable online at, the same location as just above. If you would like to make your own CD copies from the instructor’s masters, you may.
- **Pytania** to **W labiryncie** 1-20, sent to you in an e-mail attachment.
- *Polish Grammar in a Nutshell*, downloadable from: <http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/nutshell.pdf>.
- *Five Hundred Polish Verbs*, sent to you in an email attachment.
- Computer drills to *Polish Grammar in a Nutshell*, downloadable from: <http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/firstyear/drills/Polish30-40.dbk.zip>
- *A Student’s Dictionary of Polish*, downloadable from, or viewable online at: <http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/dictionary.pdf>

Order of Presentation of Material:

We will complete systematically installments 1- 18 of **W labiryncie**, and view the remaining installments toward the end of the term. Along the way we will study certain grammatical topics raised by our work on **W labiryncie** in greater depth by using both *Polish Grammar in a Nutshell* and the computer drills that accompany it. We will also be looking at *Five Hundred Polish Verbs* and developing a systematic approach to Polish conjugation.

Assignments: Assignments will be given on assignment sheets covering more or less two weeks at a time. Assignments are due on or before the date listed. Written homework assignments should be done on a computer and printed out. PLEASE DOUBLE SPACE ALL ASSIGNMENTS, and SUBMIT THEM IN BOTH HARD AND ELECTRONIC COPY.

Class Attendance and Language Policy: 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 three unexcused absences will affect the grade. More than seven unexcused absences will be considered grounds for course failure. Class discussions will be conducted in Polish. Grammatical questions may be asked in English.

Evaluation:

- Homework (mainly, the answers to the questions) is required, but not normally graded. Do the computer homework, as assigned, over and over until you are scoring close to 100 percent on it. Unless otherwise mentioned, homework includes reading at least for content all scenes in **W labiryncie**, whether or not they are specifically mentioned in the assignment sheet.
- Examinations: Quizzes will normally be held on Friday. Makeups only by prior arrangement, with legitimate excuse. In addition, there will be a Midterm and a Final.
- Quizzes on **W labiryncie** will generally be of the "picture" variety. That is, you will be required to comment (sometimes orally, sometimes in writing) on the people, situations, and relationships depicted in the stills taken from the videos.

The Course Grade will be determined as follows:

Cumulative quiz grade and class performance before Midterm:	25%
Cumulative quiz grade and class performance after Midterm:	25%
Midterm:	20%
Final:	30%
Total:	100%

- Your work must be your own. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RESULT IN COURSE FAILURE.

FIRST ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE SUBMIT IN BOTH PRINTED-OUT AND ELECTRONIC VERSIONS, DOUBLE-SPACED.

Monday, January 5

- Go over course outline.
- View first two installments of **W labiryncie**

Wednesday, January 7

- Condense **Labirynt 1**, Scene 1 to a memorable conversation and memorize it.
- Write answers to **Labirynt 2**, scenes 1 and 2.

Friday, January 9

- Answer questions to **Labirynt 3**, scenes 1 and 2.
- Review formation of the imperative of the verb (*Nutshell*, section 9.5).
- Picture quiz on **Labirynt 1-3**.