

EUS 3937 European Applied Language (Class #24075, section 1PF2)

How to pass Polish high school exit exam of Polish?

(Polish title – Jak zdać maturę z polskiego w Polsce?)

Fall 2025

1 credit

Course Description

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland states that every resident of the country has the right to education. In addition, there are two compulsory requirements, compulsory schooling and compulsory education. Compulsory schooling includes all 7-year-old children (beginning of the primary school) and lasts until the completion of the primary school (8 years). The compulsory education covers young people after primary school until they are 18 years old.

Most schools of the 3rd (III) stage (the equivalent of high schools) prepare students to take the exit exam (*matura*), allowing them entry to institutions of higher education e.g., university, polytechnic. That exit exam is a mixture of exams in several subjects, but not all subjects are included for all students. The differentiation is determined by the current and future focus of a student's studies. However, the written and oral examinations in Polish are mandatory for all who take the exit exam.

In the course, we will experience several segments of very broadly understood Polish language education that may be part of the examination. Several topics from categories of knowledge about the language (grammar, literary styles, language communication, etc.), knowledge about literature (structure of a literary work, journalistic genres, etc.), knowledge about culture (painting, graphics, architecture, music, etc.), and history of literature (antiquity, middle ages, renaissance, etc.) will be picked for closer examination. Students in the course will make the final selection at the beginning of the semester.

The course is a combination of individual assignments and small project-based learning. Students will work individually to complete homework assignments (e.g., to find prominent Polish writers of the Renaissance) and as a group during in-class activities.

Throughout the semester, students will develop knowledge about specific segments of the language. They will have to perform tasks to complete the assignments. Examples of the tasks, while using Polish language resources, include reading high school textbooks, reading articles from different news outlets, and dictionaries. Homework assignments will be checked for the accuracy of the information and evaluated as useful/appropriate background for the in-class conversations. They will be checked for language, but the language skills will not be part of the grade. At the end of the semester, students will participate in mock "matura" on topics covered in the course.

The course and the course materials will be in Polish.

Course Objectives

After completing the course, students will be able to

- describe the structure of the Polish public education system.
- Explain what "matura" is and when a person is eligible to take the exam.
- Define the categories of the Polish language included in the written and oral examinations.
- Provide examples of specific questions and answers in each category (grammar, language communication, language culture, knowledge of literature, etc.)

Meetings Time and Place

Wednesdays, period 10th

Classroom: TBD

Instructor

Agata Kowalewska, PhD, RDN

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Office Hours and Communication

Office hours are for you. It is a time to bring any concerns, problems, or anything you want me to know about. This is not a time for me to test you or quiz you. If you would like to talk about your career, fellowships, or methods to study, office hours are the perfect time to do so.

You are always welcome to send me an email.

Office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EST and by appt.

If you would like to call me, the best time to do so is during my office hours.

Course Required Textbooks

There are no materials required for the course. All resources will be posted on Canvas or provided by the instructor.

Grading

- Class attendance (1 pts each)
- Class participation (2 pts each)
- Homework

Attendance:

- 100% attendance on that day – came to class on time.
- 50% attendance on that day – came to class after 5 minutes
- 0% attendance on that day - was absent from class with no excuse
- Everybody is allowed one unexcused absence all others need to follow UF policy.

Participation (for any assigned work):

- 2pts - prepared for class activity by having assigned homework done.
- 1pt - participate but not well prepared.
- 0pt - forgot to do the assigned homework.

Homework: posted on Canvas

Grade Distribution

Grade	Max	Min
A	100%	to 90.0%
A-	< 90.0%	to 86.0%
B+	< 86.0%	to 83.0%

B	< 83.0%	to 80.0%
B-	< 80.0%	to 76.0%
C+	< 76.0%	to 73.0%
C	< 73.0%	to 70.0%
C-	< 70.0%	to 66.0%
D+	< 66.0%	to 63.0%
D	< 63.0%	to 60.0%
D-	< 60.0%	to 56.0%
F	< 56.0%	to 0.0%

Absence Policy: Whether excused or unexcused, after 3 absences (other than that one allowed), your final grade will be docked 5%. After 5 absences, you will be given a failing grade for the class. No excuses, no exceptions. In a language class, you must be present and participate in the class. Of course, this policy will be amended to accommodate religious holidays. Please speak with me if this concerns you.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

A note on any language learning and AI use: Most of the learning will actually be accomplished on your own at home. Even everyday meetings in a classroom can do only so much. You are expected to study and review what has been introduced during class time.

To enhance learning outside of the classroom, the AI technology can be employed productively and legitimately. You can use AI to rehearse learned material, practice before recording audio assignments, or experiment with language. These uses are acceptable and encouraged. However, submitting work completed by AI as your own is against UF's Honesty policy. If it is detected that your submission is not your own work, it will receive zero points with no opportunity to resubmit.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

The UF AI Ethics states “UF is committed to an ethical and equitable approach to artificial intelligence in its teaching, research and business practices.” (<https://ai.ufl.edu/about/ai-ethics/>)

In the course, we will recognize two categories of AI tools: Assistive AI (AAI) and Generative AI (GAI) tools. The AAI tools may suggest, correct, or improve student-created content. Examples of such tools are Google's Gmail, Microsoft's Outlook, Word, and Grammarly. The GAI tools produce content that may be represented as text, image, translation, sound, or code. Examples of such tools are ChatGPT, Dall-e, Copilot, and Gemini.

In the course, the AAI tools are allowed and do not have to be cited or listed. The GAI tools may be permitted in specific situations (as described in assignments and assessments). If GAI tools are used to create content that is described as something that students should produce by themselves it will be treated as a violation of the UF Honesty Policy (“A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another person or Entity”).

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#). (The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)

Comportment Policy

While you should feel free to express your ideas, slurs and epithets based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and preference, religious practice, etc. will not be tolerated. Any disruptive, obnoxious, or disrespectful behavior may result in dismissal from the classroom and other disciplinary actions. I trust that we can all avoid such situations and create a safe classroom environment. This can be easily achieved through mutual respect for one another.

Other Information

Lecture material and information are the property of the University of Florida and the course instructor and may not be used for any commercial purpose. Students found in violation may be subject to disciplinary action under the University's Student Conduct Code. Only students formally registered for the course are permitted to attend and participate in class.

Disclaimer

Any part of this syllabus is subject to change according to the needs and/or progression of the class. This syllabus is not exhaustive; I reserve the right to implement any reasonable methods not included in the syllabus if they serve the pedagogical purpose of the class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Topic and activity	Materials
2 Aug. 27	Course Introduction Structure of the Polish education system	All course materials are in Polish. Ministry on National Education. <i>The education system in Poland</i> (Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowe „System szkolnictwa w Polsce”) available at https://zpe.gov.pl/a/system-szkolnictwa-w-polsce/D151GFlaw
3 Spt. 3	What is “matura” and what do you must know before you take it?	Podraza, K. “Jak wygląda matura?” RFM24. May, 2024 available at https://www.rmf24.pl/raporty/raport-matura-2024/news-jak-wyglada-matura-trzy-obowiazkowe-pisemne-egzaminy,nld,7488587#crp_state=1 Central Examination Board. <i>Matura exam</i> . (Centralna Komisja Egzaminacyjna “Egzamin maturalny”) available at https://cke.gov.pl/egzamin-maturalny/egzamin-maturalny-w-formule-2023/
4 Sep. 10	The topic chosen by the students	
5 Sp. 17	The topic chosen by the students	

6 Sep. 24	The topic chosen by the students	
7 Oct. 1	The topic chosen by the students	
8 Oct. 8	The topic chosen by the students	
9 Oct. 15	The topic chosen by the students	
10 Oct. 22	The topic chosen by the students	
11 Oct. 29	The topic chosen by the students	
12 Nov. 5	The topic chosen by the students	
13 Nov. 12	The topic chosen by the students	
14 Nov. 19	The topic chosen by the students	
15 Dec. 3	Mini "matura"	Examination patterned after written and oral exit exam.