

Polish History at Loyola Marymount University in LA

By Edmund Lewandowski

It is a great pleasure to inform the Polonia in the Los Angeles area about an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in Polish affairs. During the summer semester of 2003 Loyola Marymount University is planning to offer two courses in history devoted to Polish issues. In particular, the first specifically concerns Polish history and the other one the history of Europe where Poland has its fair exposure. The latter course covers European history from the 16th century till the present.

The courses will be taught by Dr. Marek Jan Chodakiewicz, who is delighted to cooperate with Loyola Marymount to spread the knowledge of Poland's culture and civilization. Dr. Chodakiewicz is deeply involved in research and studies of the Polish past and is a very vocal critic of superficial historical work the results of which we can see are being used for political purposes. He is one of the signatories of series of letters demanding a thorough investigation and historical review of all matters surrounding the Jedwabne killing of several hundreds Polish citizens of Jewish extraction. He is the Assistant Professor of History, Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.

He has been asked to teach a couple of summer school classes at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. This is a Catholic school.

There are plans for him to teach two classes from June 30 through August 8, 2003:

- a) HIST 498, Section 01: History of Poland 7:10-10:10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday
- b) HIST 101, Section 01: Western Tradition 1500-Present 12:50-3:50 p.m., Monday and Wednesday

This is a unique opportunity to bring Poland's History to the West Coast. As far as I know, no one teaches Polish History per se in California. There are a few places that offer classes that somewhat concern Poland's history. Usually, however, they focus on the neighboring powers, the national minorities, or leftist movements.

Dr. Chodakiewicz says that his course is a comprehensive survey course in Poland's history. He is proud to include Polish matters in his survey class on Western Civilization. As Dr. Chodakiewicz puts it: "That means I shall bring in 'The Other Europe' into the classroom". Now, if the enrollment is satisfactory, there is a great chance that this class will be made a permanent feature in California at Loyola Marymount University.

Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz already made a commitment, that means he will come and teach every summer. It also means that we can actually develop a curriculum to be used by other universities nationwide (he's been working on that at the University of Virginia, where he's teaching Polish history for the Kosciuszko Chair in Polish Studies). As far as Loyola's summer school is concerned, the most important thing there is to secure the initial enrollment. There is a requirement to have a minimum of 9 students for the "History of Poland" class, so that it would not be canceled. I think that with the help of Polonia the class will be full with students on the waiting list.

Dr. Chodakiewicz says: "Please note that my Western Tradition class will fill up without any assistance from the Polonia. Simply, this is a required course and, thus, quite popular. The content will be different, however, as I'll include Poland."

The "Polish History" class can be attended by any full time or part time student. Polonia in Southern California is cordially asked for help in spreading information about this to anyone who

might be interested to enroll.

This is a rare opportunity to get people interested in Polish history and what's important the history taught by a very respected Polish scholar.