CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS OF
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR
SPW 4930-RVBB (56073) - Special Topics
SPN 5515-RVBB (56008) - Spanish Civil War Culture

Summer B – Fully online
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DESCRIPTION

The Spanish Civil War (1936-39), a national conflict with international significance, inspired responses from artists and writers on both sides of the Atlantic. This course explores those representations as the foundational trauma on which Spanish modernity is based. We will analyze texts written during or after the war and consider how Spaniards represent in writing or on the screen a reality marked by trauma and radicalism, both of which work toward defining, at times in extreme ways, national identity.

PREREQUISITES

Advanced knowledge of Spanish is required to all students (regardless of the section in which they are registered). The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish.

OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce the students to the cultural representations of the Spanish Civil War.
2. To survey the complex relation between art and history in depictions of the war and its aftermath
3. To explore literature, cinema, and the other arts as an expression of the most dramatic event in the history of modern Spain.
4. To gain an understanding of Spanish culture’s relationship to the social, economic, and political context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will achieve a greater understanding of the processes by which the past is remembered, presented and interpreted.
2. They will critically evaluate the ways in which the Spanish Civil War has been presented and consider the validity of these forms of memory.
3. The course will lead students to consider the relationships between the past and the present along with exploring some aspects of the way historical fiction and film operates as a discourses.
4. Key skills used and developed by the course will be critical reading and thinking; analysis and argument; participation in and leadership of class discussions; oral presentation of critical reactions to key cultural sources – whether texts, films or monuments; independently planning, researching and writing a specific topical study.
5. Developing an individual analysis, justifying it with appropriate arguments and citations, and effectively communicating these ideas whether orally or in writing, are the central requirements of the course.
6. Students will also develop their skills in preparing and delivering a presentation through the web (PPT).

MAJOR TOPICS

1. Art and propaganda
2. The construction of memory in fiction and film
3. Falangista literature and its vision of the nation
4. The role of women during the war
5. The social, cultural, and national consequences of the war
6. Realism, representation, testimonialism, and existentialism

JUSTIFICATION

The Spanish Civil War as a historical event has given rise to a great number of cultural works (narrative, theater, poetry, film, propaganda, posters, comics) whose principal interest lies both in portraying daily life in Spain during the period and in discursively constructing the ideologies that dominated those writers and intellectuals who participated in the war or who experienced it in less immediate but always real terms.

REQUIREMENTS

Final research paper or final (take home) exam, 40%
Short commentaries on readings and films, 40%
Class participation (participation in the web site through the Discussion Boards), 20%

READINGS, FILMS AND OTHER MATERIALS

REQUIRED BOOKS

Paul Preston (Author) La Guerra Civil Española


READING AND VIEWING MATERIALS

(All available through the course’s web site and through the Professor’s Dropbox account)
Alberti, Rafael, ed. Romancero general de la Guerra española.
¡Ay, Carmela! Dir. Carlos Saura.
Ayala, Francisco. La cabeza del cordero.
Caudillo. Dir. Basilio Martín Patino.
Cercas, Javier. Soldados de Salamina.
Girasoles ciegos, Los. Dir. José Luis Cuerda
Libertarias. Dir. Vicente Aranda.
Machado, Antonio. “El crimen fue en Granada”
Mainer, José-Carlos, ed. Falange y literatura (R. García Serrano, V. de la Serna, D. Ridruejo)
Martín Abril, Francisco J. Antología poética del Alzamiento (selección)
Mujeres y la guerra civil española, Las. TV. TVE.
Neruda, Pablo. “Explico algunas cosas”
Preston, Paul. The Spanish Civil War, 1936-39
There Be Dragons. Dir. Ronald Joffé
Raza. Dir. José Luis Sáenz de Heredia.
Sanchez Albornoz, Claudio. “Las dos Españas”
Soldados de Salamina. Dir. David Trueba.
Songs of the Spanish Civil War. Perf. Ramón López Quartet. Audio CD.
Spanish Civil War, The. TV. Granada Television (UK)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1. Introduction to the course. Origins of the war. Preston 19-32
2. The war: Nationalists and Republicans. Preston 33-76
5. Cercas (novel). Preston 117-142
6. Soldados de Salamina (film). Preston 143-162
7. ¡Ay, Carmela! (play). Preston 163-184
8. ¡Ay, Carmela! (film). Preston 185-184
11. Women in the war: the Nationalists
12. Women in the war: the Anarchists. Libertarias (film)
13. “Los topos”: Los girasoles ciegos (film)
14. The revisionist views: Pa negre (film) and There Be Dragons (film)