Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

IDS 3932: HONORS THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR IN RETROSPECT: LOSS, MEMORY AND THE PAST (3 CREDITS)
SUMMER ABROAD, UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

Prof: Dr. Carmen Cañete Quesada
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Description of the course: This interdisciplinary course focuses on the legacy of the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) in an European setting, and the implications of this event in Spain’s contemporary society. The course starts with the outbreak of the civil war in July of 1936, and examines the roots of the conflict and the ideological differences between the Republican and National sides that took part in the war. The exhumation of mass graves in recent years has revived a general interest in rescuing the historical memory of those who lost the war so as to complement the official account of Francoist historiography, and arrive at a more reliable polyphonic version of Spain’s history. Analyzing the war long-term effects, the program also includes a general overview of Francisco Franco’s regime (1939-75); the politics of silence with the Pact of Forgetting [Pacto del olvido] in the late 1970s; and the controversial Law of Historical Memory [Ley de la Memoria Histórica] which was passed in 2007 in favor of all victims of the civil war and the dictatorship. National and foreign perceptions of the war by Lorca, Hemingway, Orwell, among others, will be combined with films and documentaries, local guest speakers, tours and visits to centers, monuments, and sites related to the topic.

Guernica (1937), Pablo Ruiz Picasso
Objectives: Through the materials and activities of the course students will

- become familiar with the causes leading to the Spanish Civil War and the effects of the war within and beyond Spain.
- understand the consequences of the civil war for the Franco dictatorship and to the contemporary Spanish society.
- reflect on formation of political identity through the memory of historical events.
- strengthen his or her ability to analyze and be critical of assigned readings and viewings.

*Required readings*

- Noël Valis, ed.: *Teaching Representations of the Spanish Civil War*. [Selection]
- Miguel de Unamuno, Antonio Machado, Miguel Hernández. [Selection]
- Federico García Lorca: *The House of Bernarda Alba*.
- George Orwell: *Homage to Catalonia*. [Selection]
- Ernest Hemingway. [Selection of articles from *New York Times*, 1937-38]
- Salaria Kea: “A Negro Nurse in Republican Spain.”

* [These and other readings and visual material specified in the calendar are located in Blackboard]

Course prerequisites: There are no pre-requisites for this course. However, it is recommended that students have completed at least two semesters of Spanish in the past. Note that although the course is taught entirely in English some audiovisual material and other additional readings that are included in the bibliography have been published originally in Spanish and there is no translation of it.

Grading scale

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Grading Components

1. Class Participation 20% (2 grading periods; first 5%, second 10%)
2. Discussion Forum (5 in total) 25%
3. Quizzes (5 in total) 20%
4. Oral Presentation 15%
5. Final Exam 20%

Total: 100%
Description of Components

1. **Class Participation** (20%). Class participation will be evaluated according to the student’s preparation of readings and assignments, his/her involvement in class discussions, the quality of his/her comments, and other important factors like punctuality and attendance.

2. **Discussion Forum** (25%). Forums will consist of two questions related to the assigned readings for each week. Each forum will be posted on Blackboard at least one week before it is due. Students will have to send their responses through Blackboard no later than 5:00pm on Sundays before each class.

3. **Quizzes** (20%). A total of five short quizzes will be given to assure the students’ understanding of the new concepts and general information about the Spanish Civil War. The majority of the questions for the quizzes are related to the readings, the visual material and the cultural activities.

4. **Oral Presentations** (15%). Each student will prepare an individual presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes on a book/film related to the Spanish Civil War included in the syllabus that has not been covered in class. If the student has a special interest in a book/film that is not included on the list he/she can use it for his/her presentation after obtaining the professor’s approval.

5. **Final Exam** (20%). At the end of the summer abroad period the student will complete a final exam based on the identification and analysis of two excerpts selected from the material covered in class.

**Bibliography:**


Kea (Kee), Salaria. *A Negro Nurse in Republican Spain*. New York: Negro Committee to Aid Spain, 1938.


**DOCUMENTARIES**


Carvajal, Pedro, dir. *Exilio.* 2002


Martín, José Manuel y Fidel Cordero. *Imágenes contra el olvido: Lo que nunca se contó del franquismo.* 2006.


**FILMS**


Calendar

*Important note:* The first week of classes for this course will take place at the Honors College before departing for Madrid on June 30th. There will be a pre-departure orientation at the Honors College on Week#1 as well. The rest of the courses will start on Friday, July 3rd, following the summer calendar of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Week #1
(June 23-30)

Introduction to the course
Republicans and the “left” in Spain
Readings: “The Spanish Civil War as a national conflict,” by Enric Ucelay-Da Cal
*Homage to Catalonia*, by George Orwell [selection]
Film: *Land and Freedom* (1995), by Ken Loach

Spanish Representations of the Spanish Civil War
Miguel de Unamuno, Antonio Machado, Miguel Hernández [selection]

*Wednesday, July 1st. Students arrive in Madrid

Week #2
(July 1-3)

Spanish Representations of the Spanish Civil War
*The House of Bernarda Alba*, by Federico García Lorca
Film: *Death in Granada* (1997), by Marcos Zurinaga

Fascist and Republican War propaganda
Reading: “Between documentary and propaganda: teaching The Spanish Earth,” by Adrian Shubert
Analysis of propaganda posters and songs
Documentaries: *The Spanish Earth* (1937), script by Ernest Hemingway
*Defenders of the Faith* (1939), by Russell Palmer

*Walking tour of Republic and Civil War sites

Week #3
(July 6-10)

Second International Writers Congress in Defense of Culture
Langston Hughes: “Negroes in Spain,” Too much of Race,” “October 16th”
Nicolás Guillén, Pablo Neruda and César Vallejo [selection]
“Selected letters of Martha Gellhorn,” ed. By Caroline Moorehead

*Visit to the AABI (Asociación de Amigos de las Brigadas Internacionales)*
Guest speaker: Almudena Cros, President of the AABI and Professor at Suffolk University on Madrid. Title: “The Spanish Civil War in Madrid and the International Brigades”

African-American Volunteers of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
Readings: Salaria Kea: “A Negro Nurse in Republican Spain”, 1938
Michael Ugarte: “The question of Race in the Spanish Civil War”

Week #4
(July 13-17)

*Visit to the BAAM (Biblioteca Afroamericana Madrid)*
Guest speaker: Mireia Sentís, Director of the BAAM
Women during the War
Reading: *Prison of Women: Testimonies of War and Resistance in Spain, 1939-1975*, by Tomasa Cuevas, ed. [selection]
Film: *Las trece rosas* (2007), by Emilio Martínez Lázaro

**Exhuming Franco’s Spain**
Reading: *The Spanish Holocaust*, by Paul Preston  [selection]
Documentary: *The End of Silence* (2011), by Mari Carmen España
The “Pact of Forgetting” in 1970 (“Pacto del olvido”)

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**Week # 5**
(July 20-24)
ARHM (Association of the Recuperation of Historical Memory)
Historical Memory Law in 2007 (“Ley de la Memoria Histórica”)
Film: *Pan’s Labyrinth* (2007) by Guillermo del Toro
*Guest speaker: Oscar Rodríguez, sociologist and photographer*
“Mass Graves and the Recovery of Historical Memory”

**The (Anti)Heroes of the War**
Reading: “Civil War ghosts entombed: lessons of the Valley of the Fallen,”
by Joan Ramon Resina.

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**Week #6**
(July 27-July 31)
The Spanish Civil War in Retrospect: Conclusion
Documentary: *Death in El Valle* (2009), by C.M. Hardt.

*Visit to the mausoleum Valle de los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen)*

Final Exam

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**Monday, August 3rd**: Departing from Madrid. End of summer abroad.