

Español 440

Prof. Margot Versteeg

Barcelona-2018

12:00-1:30 pm.

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The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)

The Spanish Civil War (1936-39) was a national conflict with international significance. For Spaniards it was a traumatic event that shaped their experience of modernity. For many women and men from outside Spain it was an important moment in the fight against fascism. During the war years and since, the Spanish Civil War has inspired a great number of cultural representations (narrative, poems, theatre, propaganda posters, comics, photographs, film, documentaries, songs...). In this course we explore how the war is depicted in these different cultural representations, and also how memory is shaped, and how violent and traumatic events are remembered or not.

Objectives

In this course students are expected to obtain:

- Historical information about the civil war and the early Franco dictatorship
- Knowledge of a series of cultural representations (novels, poems, short stories, films, etc.) dealing with these traumatic events
- Students are introduced to the concepts of memory and trauma and introduced to the political uses of memory and forgetting.
- Student will visit several sites of memory.
- Students will improve their language and writing skills as well as their general knowledge of Spanish culture.

Evaluación:

2 Ensayos: 40%

Tarea y participación: 20%

Portfolio: 40%

Course Materials

Texts

We will read two novels (one short, one longer), a short story and a book chapter. All materials are posted on BB, but I recommend buying both Sender's and Rodoreda's text.

Ramon J. Sender - *Réquiem por un campesino español* (BB)

Mercedes Rodoreda - *La plaza del Diamante* (BB)

María Teresa León - "Infancia quemada" (BB)

Alberto Méndez, *Los girasoles ciegos* (1 chapter, BB)

Recommended Reading Historical context

This is a super short but very good introduction to the Spanish Civil War.

Helen Graham, *The Spanish Civil War. A Very Short Introduction* (BB).

Movies:

We will watch a series of movies that will familiarize us with the historical context.

Belle Epoque (in class)

La lengua de las mariposas (afternoon, during SPAN 471)

Land and Freedom (in class)

Las 13 Rosas (in class)

Disclaimer on the content of the films: please notice that some films may contain scenes with graphic violence and/or sex.

Site Visits (tentatively)

You will also visit (during class time, after class, on your own or with your classmates, during our excursions...) a series of “sites of memory” that are of importance in relation to the Spanish Civil War. You will be asked to write short response papers about your impressions of these sites. These response papers will be part of your portfolio.

Museo de la Historia de Cataluña (outside of class time, TBA)

Refugi 307 (class June 21)

Montjuich (outside of class time, TBA)

Iglesia Felipe Neri (on your own)

Cerveceria La Llibertaria (lunch time, June 27)

Museo del Exilio (weekend excursion)

Tumba de Machado, Collioure (weekend excursion)

Pabellón de la República (outside of class time, TBA)

La Plaza del Diamante (on your own)

Carmel Bunker (at night, June 18)

Grade Breakdown:

92-100%: A.

90-91%: A-

88-89%: B+

82-87%: B

80-81%: B-

78-79%: C+

72-77%: C

70-71%: C-

68-69%: D+

62-67%: D

60-61%: D-

59% and below: F

Attendance: Students are required to attend all classes.

Class Schedule

Monday June 11

Introduction to the course – Spanish Civil War BBC documentary

Réquiem por un campesino español (primeros capítulos, in class)

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 1

Tuesday June 12

Read: *Réquiem por un campesino español* (cont.)

Buñuel, *Tierra sin pan* (documentary) + worksheet

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 2

Wednesday June 13

Read: *Réquiem por un campesino español* (cont.)

Belle Epoque (movie) + worksheet

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 3

Thursday June 14

Read: *Réquiem por un campesino español* (cont.)

Belle Epoque (movie) + worksheet

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 4

Monday June 18

Tierra y Libertad (movie) + worksheet

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 5

ESSAY 1 DUE

At night, VISIT to Carmel Bunker

Tuesday June 19

Read: María Teresa León – “Infancia quemada” (on BB)

Miguel Hernández, “A un soldado español”; “Rosario Dinamitera” (in class)

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 6

On your own: VISIT Iglesia Felipe Neri

[In the afternoon, during the SPAN 471 class, screening of *La lengua de las mariposas* (movie).]

Wednesday June 20

Read: *La plaza del Diamante* (I-XIII).

Discussion *La lengua de las mariposas* (movie)

Postguerra (in class)

RECOMMENDED READING: *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*, chapter 7

On your own: VISIT Plaza del Diamante

Thursday June 21

Read: *La Plaza del Diamante* (cont. XIV-XXVI)

VISIT Refugi 307 (starts at 12 pm).

Monday, June 25

Read: *La Plaza del Diamante XV-XLIX*

Start working on Essay (in class)

Tuesday June 26

Las 13 rosas (movie) + worksheet

ESSAY 2 DUE

Wednesday June 27

Read: Alberto Méndez, *Los girasoles ciegos* (book chapter 2);

+ Francisco Ferrándiz, “From Tear to Pixel”

Lunchtime VISIT: Tapas at Cerveceria La Ilibertaria.

Thursday June 28

Evaluations, extra credit presentations, work on portfolios.

[e]-Portfolio

What to include?

- Paper Requiem [+ related pictures]
- Paper Plaza del Diamante [+ related pictures]
- Short responses to the different poems, stories and movies read during the course
- Pictures and responses related to the site visits
- Anything else related to the course