

Spanish 650: Senior Seminar

The Spanish Civil War in Art, Literature and Film

Autumn, 2006
Monday, Wednesday, 9:30-11:18

Stephen Summerhill
062 Hagerty Hall

I. Objectives of the Course:

The Civil War of 1936-39 was one of the most important and tragic events in Spanish history. When the army rose up against the government of the Republic in July, 1936, all the historical tensions between the so called A"two Spains" exploded with it. Tensions between tradition and modernity, central government and regionalism, religion and secularization, totalitarianism and democracy, privilege and equality, wealth and poverty all became inflamed. In the war, one of Europe=s most backward nations suddenly leaped to the forefront of the great ideological movements of the time while becoming the site of contest between anarchism, socialism, communism, liberalism, fascism and other tendencies. The Civil War came to be seen as a defense of Republican freedom against Nationalist, military repression and quickly turned international as volunteers from every corner of the globe came to Spain to fight for their ideals. This was also a time of social revolution that overwhelmed not only the goals of liberal democracy but also those of traditional collectivism (i.e., the Soviet Union) while threatening to create a situation dominated by anarchism. And finally, the Civil War set the stage for World War II except in its outcome, where "the good guys lost." The consequence was nearly 40 years of a difficult dictatorship that destroyed the hope for a new order and left the nation in its traditional backwardness.

In this course, we propose to study the Spanish War with emphasis on the cultural production of the period. We begin with a review of the history of the Second Republic from 1931-36, a consideration of the historical problems of the country, and a look at the military revolt that started the war. Then we will concentrate on a large variety of cultural works produced during and after the war. These include fiction, memoirs, poetry, music, theatre, painting, propaganda posters, photography and film. All these works offer a great variety of registers that run the gamut from the fervor of political commitment to the existential anguish of failure and death. By the end of the course, students should understand the meaning of the Civil War in Spanish history and they should appreciate its rich cultural legacy.

The course is taught in Spanish but several readings are in English. If appropriate, we may occasionally speak about these in English.

II. Texts (required reading)

Beevor, Antony. The Battle for Spain: The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2006.

Orwell, George. Homage to Catalonia. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, ed. reciente.

Hernández, Miguel. Viento del pueblo. Ed. Juan Cano Ballesta. Madrid: Cátedra (Colección

Letras Hispánicas #308).

Fernán-Gómez, Fernando. Las bicicletas son para el verano. Espasa-Calpe (Austral)

Cercas, Javier. Soldados de Salamina. Barcelona: Tusquets, 2001.

Photocopied materials distributed by the professor.

III. Timetable

Week 0

20 de Sept. Introduction; objectives of course, obligations of students, etc.
Brief review of Spanish history in the early years of the XX century.

Week 1

25 Spanish society, 1916-1931: the military, Primo de Rivera, the agrarian problem, etc.

Reading: Beevor, The Battle for Spain Chs. 2, 3, 4, 5 (11-52).

Film: Fraser, The Spanish Civil War, Part I, Prelude to Tragedy

27

The uprising and first days of the war

Reading: Beevor, chs. 6, 7 (55-80).

Arturo Barea, La llama (chs. 7 y 9) (documento pdf)

FILM: Fraser, et al: The Spanish Civil War, Part II: Revolution & Counter-Revolution

Week 2

2 de Oct. The early months of the war

Reading: Beevor, chs. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (89-128)

FILM: Fraser, et al: The Spanish Civil War, Part IV: Franco & the Nationalists

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The internationalization of the war

Reading: Beevor, chs. 13, 14, 15, 16 (131-165)

FILM: The Good Fight, (1984)

Week 3

9

The war of poets:

Selected poems of Neruda, Vallejo, Alberti (photocopies from professor)

The poetry of Miguel Hernández: Viento del pueblo

Oral presentations on M. Hernández

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The war of poets (cont.)

Reading: Miguel Hernández, Viento del pueblo

Complete oral presentations

Week 4

- 16 The progress of the war; visual culture
 Presentation: Photography of Robert Capa (powerpoint)
 War painting: "Guernica" of Pablo Picasso.
 Reading: Beevor, chs. 17 (166-185) and 20 (223-238)
 FILM: Fraser et al, The Spanish Civil War: Part III, Battleground for Idealists
- 18 Forms of propaganda and art during the war:
 War posters: Socialist realism and popular art (powerpoint)
 War music: Cantos de la Guerra de España (cd, lyrics on photocopies)
 FILM: Ernest Hemingway, The Spanish Earth

Week 5

- 23 The Social Revolution in Cataluña, 1936-37
 Reading: George Orwell, Homage to Catalonia
 Beevor: Ch. 23 (263-273)
 FILM: Fraser, et al: Spanish Civil War, Part V: Inside the Revolution

HAND IN WRITTEN VERSION OF ORAL PRESENTATION

- 25 The Social Revolution (cont.)
 Film: Ken Loach, Land and Freedom (1995)
 Reading: Finish Orwell, Homage to Catalonia.

Week 6

- 30 de Oct. Mid-Term exam
- 1 de Nov. Film: Ay Carmela of Carlos Saura (1989)

Week 7

- 6 Theatre: Fernando Fernán Gómez, Las bicicletas son para el verano (1982)
8. Film: Las bicicletas son para el verano

Week 8

- 13 Final stages of the war, 1938-39:
 Reading: Beevor: Ch. 27 (301-09), 33 (371-83)
 FILM: Fraser, et al: The Spanish Civil War, Part VI, Victory and Defeat

The war today: revisionism and historical memory:

Reading: Javier Cercas, Soldados de Salamina, Parte I

15 Soldados de Salamina, Parte II

Week 9

20 Soldados de Salamina, Parte III

22 Presentation of final project

Week 10

27 Presentation of final project

29 Presentation of final project
Summary of course

6 de Dic., 7:30 a.m., Final Exam

IV. Student Tasks and final grade

- a. Attend all classes and participate actively in discussions. It is not sufficient to come to class but not participate. Each absence must have a legitimate justification such as a medical note. (10% of final grade)
- b. Prepare an oral presentation on an assigned poem of Miguel Hernández, for the 9th to the 11th of October (Week 3). The presentation should be about 10 minutes long, in Spanish, and should focus on the themes, ideas and concerns of the poem. A degree of attention on a few formal aspects is also positive (metaphors, meter, rhetorical tendencies, etc.) Students will hand in a written version of the oral presentation (3-4 pages) on Oct. 23. (20% of final grade)
- c. Undertake a major research project on a problem or aspect of the war, preferably drawing from the following list of suggestions. The project will be presented orally in an abbreviated version (approximately 20 minutes) during the final two weeks of class. Then a full written version will be handed in on December 6 (the day of the final exam). **This project may be done in English or Spanish**, which means to say that a high intellectual level is demanded.

It is important to select a topic for this project relatively early and not leave things until the end. In order to help ensure this, each student must consult with me within the first two weeks and then hand in a provisional bibliography of primary and secondary sources

before Oct. 23 (5th week).

Then, the oral presentation of the project during the period 22, 27 and 29 of Nov. (9th and 10th weeks)

And finally, December 6, submit final work.

(Total value of this project: 40% of the grade)

- e. Two exams, mid-term on Oct. 30 and final on Dec. 6. (15% each exam, or a total of 30%)

V. Office Hours

Office: 247 Hagerty Hall. Tel: 292-9527

Department of Spanish & Portuguese: 298 Hagerty Hall.

Monday, 11:30-12:30, Wednesday, 12:30-1:30, in my office,

Or by appointment.

Usually, the easiest way to contact me is e-mail: summerhill.2@osu.edu

VI. Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

VII Students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

VIII. Possible Research Projects

It is said that there are 28,000 books on the Spanish Civil War, together covering a huge number of themes and topics. The following list contains a few research areas but with the permission of the instructor, each student is free to choose something else if he or she prefers something else. The first step in developing the project is to prepare a basic (i.e. non-annotated) bibliography. This bibliography will almost certainly change as you get into the project, but it constitutes a guide toward a well-researched project. .

Each student MUST consult with the professor outside of class in order to choose a topic and develop a methodology for the research.

1. **History.** It is possible to study a historical situation or process such as, for example, a political, military or social dimension of the war. A few possibilities: study one or more of the major military battles (el Jarama, el siege of the alcázar of Toledo, the defense of Madrid, the blanket bombing of Guernica, la battle of the Ebro, etc.). Or study a political group (communists, anarchists, liberals, the POUM, the Falange, etc.). Or study the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, or the international brigades generally, or some other aspect of the international dimension, such as the non-intervention pact, the role of the United States, the commitment of international artists, etc. There are also many interesting additional problems, for example, the economy of the Republican and/or Nationalist zones, the delivery of Spanish gold to the Soviet Union and its economic consequences, the educational policy of the Republican government, etc.
2. **Important Individuals.** Study the role of a public figure in the war, such as a politician (Manuel Azaña, Julián Besteiro, Juan Negrín, Andreu Nin, José Antonio Primo de Rivera, Francisco Franco, etc.). Or a combattant (the anarchist leader Buenaventura Durruti; the communist general Enrique Lister, one or more of the rightist generals such as Queipo de Llano, Mola, Sanjurjo, etc.).
3. **Novel.** Analyze any one of the many novels on the war. Among the most important, one can mention: Ramón Sender, Réquiem por un campesino español, El rey y la reina; Max Aub, Campo cerrado, Campo de los almendros. One could also choose a work written in English or another language, such as For Whom the Bell Tolls of Ernest Hemingway or André Malraux, L=Espoir, (Engl. Trans.: Man=s Hope).
4. **Memoirs and Autobiographies.** Study one of the many autobiographies or collections of essays, for example, among the best: La llama of Arturo Barea (Part 3 of La forja de un rebelde); Arthur Koestler, Dialogue with Death; John Sommerfield, Volunteer in Spain; Gustav Regler, The Owl of Minerva.
5. **Women in the war.** A very important contemporary topic. One could study one or more important women in the war: La Pasionaria (communist leader), Federica Montseny (anarquist), María Teresa León (communist, wife of the poet Rafael Alberti), etc. Or study the general role of women in the war, including the many polemics about their service on the frontlines, etc. Read, for example, Defying Male Civilization of Mary Nash, or Women=s Voices from the Spanish Civil War de J. Fyrth and Sally Alexander.
6. **Poetry.** Study the pertinent part of the poetry of any of the numerous poets of the war. For example, Pablo Neruda, César Vallejo, Rafael Alberti, Pedro Garfias, León Felipe, etc. Or poets from other countries such as John Cornford, Louis MacNeice, Stephen Spender, etc.

7. **They Still Draw Pictures.** Drawings by children who witnessed the war, available on the web. Study the drawings and study the original purpose of the collection.
8. **Historical Revisionism.** Study any of a number of highly charged current debates in Spanish society concerning the war. For example, several years ago, when a conservative government controlled Spain, conservative commentators such as Pío Moa suggested changes in the understanding of the war. Atrocities were re-interpreted and even denied (e.g., Guernica), and an overall understanding sympathetic to Franco and the right was offered. This revisionist trend would be an interesting and important topic for study because it has raised important questions about the role of the left in the war.
9. **The Law of Historical Memory.** After the change back to a socialist government in 2004, the Spanish government moved to offer assistance to the families of victims of the war, mainly descendants of (left-wing) victims of atrocities. Uncovering mass graves, compensating for the loss of life and property, arranging memorials: all these are part of the Law of Historical Memory and have unleashed polemics in today=s Spain, especially from the revisionists. Studying the law and its effects would be useful and interesting.

IX. Basic Bibliography

a. History:

- Alpert, Michael. A New International History of the Spanish Civil War. New York: St. Martin=s Pr.,1994.
- Brenan, Gerald. The Spanish Labyrinth; An Account of the Social and Political Background of the Spanish Civil War. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1943.
- Bolloten, Burnett. The Spanish Revolution. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Pr., 1979. (Un clásico; existe edición nueva con otro título: The Spanish Civil War: Revolution and Counterrevolution, 1991).
- Browne, Harry. Spain=s Civil War. Second Edition. Addison Wesley Longman Ltd.
- Cabezas, Octavio. Indalecio Prieto, socialista y español. Madrid: Algaba, 2005.
- Carr, Raymond. Spain; 1808-1975. Oxford: Clarendon Pr., 1982. (La mejor historia general sobre el período moderno en España. No se limita a la Guerra Civil).
- Carroll, Peter N. The Odyssey of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; Americans in the Spanish Civil War. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Pr., 1994.
- Carroll, Peter N. & James D. Fernandez, eds. Facing Fascism; New York and the Spanish Civil War. New York: Museum of the City of New York & NYU Press, nd [2007].

- Eby, Cecil. Between the Bullet and the Lie; American Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. New York; Reinhart & Winston, 1969. (Libro clásico sobre las brigadas internacionales)
- Ellwood, Sheelagh. Franco. London: Longman, 1994.
- Esenwein, George & Adrian Shubert. Spain at War; The Spanish Civil War in Context, 1931-1939. London: Longman, 1995.
- Esenwein, George. The Spanish Civil War; A Modern Tragedy. New York: Routledge, 2005
- Fraser, Ronald. Blood of Spain, An Oral History of the Spanish Civil War. New York: Pantheon, 1979. (Un libro clásico, la guerra a través de entrevistas de participantes. Muy recomendado)
- Ginard I Fèron, David. Matilde Landa; de la Institución Libre de Enseñanza a las prisiones franquistas. Barcelona: Flor del viento, 2005
- Jackson, Gabriel. The Spanish Republic and the Civil War, 1931-1939. Princeton, NJ: Princeton U.P., 1965. (Historia general, muy completa y competente; buena referencia)
- Juliá, Santos, ed. República y guerra en España, 1931-1939. Madrid: Espasa, 2006.
- Landis, Arthur H. Abraham Lincoln Brigade. New York: Citadel Pr., 1967.
- Moa, Pío. Los mitos de la guerra civil. Madrid: Encuentro, 2003.
- Payne, Stanley. The Collapse of the Spanish Republic, 1933-1936; Origins of the Civil War. New Haven: Yale U. P., 2006
- Preston, Paul. Doves of War; Four Women of Spain. London: HarperCollins, 2002.
- Franco. New York: Harper & Collins, 1993.
- The Spanish Civil War; Reaction, Revolution, and Revenge. Revd. Ed. New York: Norton, 2007.
- Radosh, Ronald, Mary R. Habeck, y Grigory Sevostianov, eds. Spain Betrayed; The Soviet Union in the Spanish Civil War. New Haven: Yale U.P., 2001.
- Romero Salvadó, Francisco J. The Spanish Civil War; Origins, Course and Outcomes. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- Thomas, Hugh. The Spanish Civil War. New York: Harper & Row, 1961.
- Tremlett, Giles. Ghosts of Spain; Travels Through Spain and its Silent Past. New York: Walker

and Company, 2006.

b. Literature and Culture:

Cunningham, Valentine, ed. Spanish Front: Writers on the Civil War. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1986. (Antología de escritores extranjeros)

Escolar, Hipólito. La cultura durante la guerra civil. Madrid: Alhambra, 1987.

Holguín, Sandie. Creating Spaniards: Culture and National Identity in Republican Spain. Madison: U. of Wisconsin Pr., 2002.

Monteath, Peter. The Spanish Civil War in Literature, Film and Art: An International Bibliography of Secondary Literature. Wstport, CT: Greenwood, 1994.

Nelson, Cary. Shouts from the Wall: Posters and Photographs Brought Home from the Spanish Civil War by American Volunteers. Waltham, Mass: Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, 1996.

Rosenthal, Marilyn. Poetry of the Spanish Civil War. New York: NYU Univ. Pr., 1975,

Sperber, Murray A., ed. And I Remember Spain: A Spanish Civil War Anthology. New York: Macmillan, 1974.

Tisa, John. Palette and the Flame: Posters of the Spanish Civil War. New York: International Pub., 1979.

Thomas, Gareth. The Novel of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1975). Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1990.

Vernon, Kathleen, ed. The Spanish Civil War and the Visual Arts. Ithaca, NY: Ctr for Intnat=l Stds, Cornell Univ., 1990.

c. Resources on the Web

www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/9820

Site of Eugene Plawiuk, a Canadian who wants to provide access to all internet materials on the war. Links to dozens of other sites. Use with care! Some sites are the follies of individuals or organizations who peddle incorrect information. Mr. Plawiuk is always adding new sites.

www.alba-valb.org

Site of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Bascially commercial, but does have useful

references.

flag.blackened.net/revolt/spaindx.html

Site of international anarchism, on the Civil War, with dozens of links.

www.fut.es/~msanroma/GUERRACIVIL/guerracivil.html

Site in Spanish constructed for the 60th anniversary of the war in 1996.

library.brandeis.edu/spcoll/spcvwr/

Access to the special collection of Brandeis University on the Civil War. Contains bibliography, posters and other information.

dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/spancivwar/spancivwarhis.html

Anarchist site

orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/visfront/index.html

War posters at the University of San Diego.