The Literary Impact of the Spanish Civil War: Writers Take Sides

6 creds.,
1st semester

Dr. Antonio R. Celada
Dr. Daniel Pastor García

Universidad de Salamanca
celada@usal.es
dpastor@usal.es

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to examine the political, social and cultural climate of the 30’s in the English-speaking countries and to reflect on the impact of the Spanish Civil War, one of the most significant episodes that had a profound mark on intellectuals, artists, and writers from English speaking countries. Furthermore, the course will help students to gain insights into the nature of what is known as “committed literature” and to explore their literary manifestations: memoirs, first person accounts, poems, novels, and journalistic dispatches.

When students have successfully completed this course, they should be able to:

• Identify and analyse the diverse manifestations: memoirs, personal narratives, journals, autofictional texts, etc.
• use essential terms like war poetry, committed literature, trans-nationalism, mito-biography,
• Identify the cultural, literary and political contexts within which the Spanish Civil War took place.
• Discuss the problem of the self and its representation in literature.
• Distinguish the roles given to the writer and its literary production.

Course Program

1. “Spain, that great noble cause”: The Spanish Civil War as a literary phenomenon.
2. The change in the hero’s concept after First World War.
3. The writers’ engagement with politics.
4. The aesthetics of reportage and the exploration of reality.
5. The Civil War in fiction: Hemingway, William Herrick, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Upton Sinclair, T. C. Worsley, etc.
7. The Spanish Civil War in images: films, videos, documentaries and posters.
8. The power of memory. No more noble causes to fight for?

Required Readings. Students are required to read at least two of the following books, one for a public presentation and the other for a paper/essay.

* Claud Cockburn (Frank Pitcairn), *Report in Spain* (1936)
* Esmond Romilly, *Boadilla* (1937)
* Geoffrey Cox, *The Defence of Madrid* (1937)
* George L. Steer, *The Tree of Gernika* (1937)
* John Sommerfield, *Volunteer in Spain* (1937)
* Keith Scott Watson, *Single to Spain* (1938)
* Sylvia Townsend Warner, *After the Death of Don Juan* (1938)
* T.C. Worsley, *Behind the Battle* (1939)
* Tom Wintringham, *English Captain* (1939)
* Alvah Bessie, *Men in Battle* (1939)
* Edwin Rolfe, *The Lincoln Battalion* (1939)
* Ernest Hemingway, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940)
* Virginia Cowles, *Looking for Trouble* (1941)
* Ralph Bates, *The Olive Field* (1952)

Methodology

Class meetings will consist of lectures, group discussions, and oral presentations. Strong emphasis will be put on oral presentations and class discussion so students are strongly advised to have read the material carefully before attendance.

Assessment

The students will be evaluated on a combination of their participation in class, their oral presentations and their written assignments. A brief final paper will be required for the course and should the student be interested in selecting any of the topics for his/her final paper or project (TFM), either of the lecturers will be willing to supervise and assess this work.

Assessment:
Students will have to read a number of required readings which will be given on the first day of class and will be assigned a specific calendar for oral presentations. It is highly recommended for students to read all the assigned tasks before class. The final distribution of grades will most likely be as follows:

- Class attendance 10%

Departamento de Filología Inglesa. Universidad de Salamanca
Telf.: 923294500, ext. 1758, E-mail: dpastor@usal.es, celada@usal.es
http://masterenglishstudies.eu
Bibliography and Resources

 BENSON, FREDERICK R. Writers in Arms (1967).
 BINNS, NIALLS. La llamada de España de España: Escritores extranjeros en la guerra civil (2004)
 Voluntarios con gafas (2009)
 CELADA, ANTONIO R., M. GONZÁLEZ & DANIEL PASTOR. Los Internacionales. English-speaking Volunteers in the
 Spanish Civil War (2009)
 CELADA, ANTONIO R., DANIEL PASTOR & ROSA López. Las Brigadas Internacionales: 70 años de memoria
 histórica (2007)
 COCKBURN, CLAUD, en España. (Edición crítica) de Luis Alberto Lázaro que consta de 74 pp. de Introducción y aparato
 DIETZ, BERND (ed.). Un país donde lucía el sol: Poesía inglesa de la guerra civil española. Madrid: Ediciones
 Hiperión, 1981.
 INSAUSTI GABRIEL (comp.) Escritores Británicos en la guerra civil española. Sevilla, Renacimiento: Colección
 Espuela de Plata, 2010.
 JUMP, JIM (ed.). Poems from Spain: British and Irish International Brigaders on the Spanish Civil War, London:
 Lawrence & Wishart, 2006.
 SOMMERFIELD, JOHN, Voluntario en España. (Edición crítica) de Daniel Pastor García que consta de 74 pp. de
 Introducción y aparato crítico y 190 páginas de texto en traducción al español. Amarú Ediciones, Salamanca,
 2012.
 ROMILLY, ESMOND, Boadilla. (Edición crítica) de Antonio R. Celada que consta de 74 pp. de Introducción y aparato
 WEINTRAUB, STANLEY. The Last Great Cause. (1968).
 WORSLEY T. C. Los ecos de la batalla. (Edición crítica) de Manuel González de la Aleja que consta de 74 pp. de
 Introducción y aparato crítico y 190 páginas de texto en traducción al español. Amarú Ediciones, Salamanca,
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