Course Outline: The Spanish Civil War

Instructor: Michael Petrou

Recommended Texts:


Schedule:

Class 1: Introduction to the class; roots of the Spanish Civil War; and the Second Republic

We will discuss the long and deep roots of the Spanish Civil War before focusing on the Second Republic, which lasted from 1931 to 1936 and was Spain’s last chance to hold on to democracy before sliding into civil conflict.

Readings: excerpts from Thomas

Class 2: The Outbreak of War, Early Battles, and the Fight for Madrid

We will explore the outbreak of war and early battles that centred around the fight for Madrid, ending our class around May 1937.

Readings: excerpts from Thomas

Class 3: International Dimensions

Spain’s war was both a civil war and an international one. Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union, and thousands of volunteers from all over the world fought in it. And many other countries believed they had a stake in its outcome.

Readings: excerpts from Thomas

Class 4: The Republican and Nationalist Zones

What was life like for ordinary people living in both the Republican and Nationalist zones in Spain? In this class we will put ourselves in their shoes and try to understand how they lived.

Readings: excerpts from Thomas
Class 5: Los Canadienses

More Canadians, per-capita, fought in Spain than did volunteers from almost any other country. They were workers, mostly immigrants, mostly members of the Communist Party. All broke Canadian law to fight in Spain. More than 400 never returned home.

Readings: excerpts from Petrou

Class 6: The end of the war, and its legacy, in Spain and Canada

In this class, we will explore the war from May 1937 until its end two years later. We will then examine its aftermath, and how the war’s impact has persisted even to the present day.

Readings: excerpts from Thomas and Petrou