

**FRES 1020, First-year Seminar
The Spanish Civil War
Spring 2003**

Course no. 58-731
Monday, 12:20-1:10
LeConte 102

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LeConte Hall 315
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Office hours: TR 2-3 and by appointment

This first-year seminar will examine the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), a conflict that continues to inspire fresh debate sixty years after its conclusion. Through memoirs, film, photographs, and histories, we will analyze a war that has been understood as a heroic struggle for democracy, a failed social revolution, and a horrific precursor to World War II. We will begin with Paul Preston, *A Concise History of the Spanish Civil War*; requirements will include brief writing assignments and an in-class presentation.

Required Text

Preston, Paul. *A Concise History of the Spanish Civil War*. Fontana Press, 1996.
Available at Bel-Jean, 163 E. Broad St.

Course Readings

18 Aug. Introduction

Spain in the Modern Era

25 Aug. Preston, Introduction and ch. 1

1 Sept. Labor Day

The Second Republic

8 Sept. Preston, ch. 2-3

The Onset of War

15 Sept. Preston, ch. 4-5

The Battle for Madrid

22 Sept. Preston, ch. 6

Politics Behind the Lines

29 Sept. Preston, ch. 7-8

Defeat

6 Oct. Preston, ch. 9

Victory

13 Oct. Preston, Epilogue

[14 Oct. Midterm withdrawal deadline]

In-class presentations

20 Oct.

27 Oct.

3 Nov.

10 Nov.

17 Nov.

1 Dec.

8 Dec.

Grading

Students will be assigned a letter grade based on their performance in the class. Final grades will be determined as follows:

Seven in-class writing assignments	35% (5% each)
Discussion	35%
In-class presentation	30%

At the beginning of each class from 25 Aug. to 13 Oct., students will dedicate about 5 minutes to a brief writing assignment. Questions for these assignments will be based upon the readings indicated in the syllabus, and will provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of course materials and your ability to read and write critically.

Your discussion grade will depend upon your active and constructive participation in our open discussions of the reading, and of your fellow students' in-class presentations. Bring your copy of Preston, *A Concise History*, with you to class.

The latter half of the course will be dedicated to in-class student presentations. You are welcome to find a partner for your presentation if you like. The object of these 25-minute presentations will be to explore a dimension of the Spanish Civil War in more depth, bringing in outside materials to support your claims. I encourage you to use slides, recordings, projected images, and videos, although these should not replace your own analysis and conclusions.

Attendance in this course is required. If through absence or lateness you miss an in-class assignment, you will receive a grade of 0/5 for that week. Any absence after 13 Oct. will affect your discussion grade. If you miss a total of three classes during the semester, you will be dropped from the course. If this occurs after the midpoint withdrawal deadline (14 Oct.), you will be assigned a grade of WF. I do not assign final grades of Incomplete.

I will be holding office hours each week, TR 2-3, and I can make appointments for other times as well. I encourage you to meet with me outside of class at least once during the semester to discuss any questions you might have about the course, the assignments, or the source materials.