

# HP210-15 Memory and the Spanish Civil War: Virtual Approaches to a Contested Past

**20/21**

**Department**

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Alison Ribeiro de Menezes

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

11 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

HP210-15 Memory and the Spanish Civil War: Virtual Approaches to a Contested Past

### Module aims

The aim of this module is to examine memory debates in relation to the Spanish Civil War through: a) the production of digital exhibition entries explaining objects, documents or visual and written texts relating to the conflict; b) the analysis of certain key works which engage with the memory of the war through cultural practices; c) a reflection of the role of public history and digital platforms in the wider dissemination of questions arising from contested pasts. Materials studied include: online documentary and material objects, monuments and memorial places, film, fiction and photography.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

## Week

Introduction: Public History and Memory

Online documents and digital communication

War as Propaganda and Media Event: Visual sources

How Should We Remember Atrocities? Arguments about numbers and language

What to do About Monuments and Memorials?

Reading Week

How to Analyse War Memories on Screen: *La vaquilla* (Berlangua)

How to Analyse War Memories in Narrative: *El lápiz del carpintero* (Rivas)

How to Analyse Exhumation Photography: *The After-Lives of the Dead*

Conclusion and essay consultation

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Discuss the key memory debates that relate to the Spanish Civil War
- Gain experience working with and evaluating primary sources, and assess existing digital resources
- Engage in independent research with a range of primary sources and communicate effectively in digital form the results of their research
- Understand the relevance of the past for the present and the role of public history in providing guidance for action in the present
- Evaluate literary and film texts (both individually and in a group) and be able to present in either oral or written form an essay that examines the context, content, and significance of a narrative work
- Understand and explain the relation between late twentieth- and twenty-first-century fiction and film and their historical and political contexts, evaluate contemporary theories of memory and identify the problematic issues they raise with respect to commemoration

## Research element

The premise is the construction of a Virtual Museum of the Spanish Civil War, and students will work on the memory section. They will identify, research, and write an exhibition entry for an object/document/image or film clip that reveals significant elements of the memory debates surrounding the Spanish Civil War today. Students will have to engage with the possibilities of digital and virtual presentation.

## Interdisciplinary

Students will engage with the possibilities of digital and virtual presentation formats as a means of foregrounding contentious historical debates and reaching a wider public than academic writing.

## International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

## Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of Hispanic culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of contemporary Spain will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field. Students will also gain an understanding of the potential of digital resources in memory work, and in interpreting and explaining primary sources.

## Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

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## Study

### Study time

| Type          | Required                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Seminars      | 9 sessions of 2 hours (12%) |
| Private study | 132 hours (88%)             |
| Total         | 150 hours                   |

### Private study description

Reading week will involve substantial guided reading preparation

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Assessment component                                                                                                                                                                                                        |           |            |                                 |
| Essay<br>Analytical essay of set text                                                                                                                                                                                       | 60%       |            | No                              |
| Reassessment component is the same                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |            |                                 |
| Assessment component                                                                                                                                                                                                        |           |            |                                 |
| Exhibit analysis and written presentation<br>Analysis of a primary source, document, image or agreed other source presented as an online exhibition entry 1000 words                                                        | 20%       |            | Yes (extension)                 |
| Reassessment component is the same                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |            |                                 |
| Assessment component                                                                                                                                                                                                        |           |            |                                 |
| Referenced analytical reflection on the public role of culture<br>Analytical reflection on a) the role of public history b) the potential of digital platforms in managing the presentation of contested pasts - 1000 words | 20%       |            | Yes (extension)                 |
| Reassessment component is the same                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |            |                                 |

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be

understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion. Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focused on key transferable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

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## **Availability**

### **Courses**

This module is Option list B for:

- UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
  - Year 2 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
  - Year 3 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies