

Department of Language & Culture Studies  
Spring 2019

**LLIT: 0310 – Myth & Nation Building: The Spanish Civil War**



**Instructor Information**

**Christina Beaubien**

Visiting Lecturer

[cbeaubien@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:cbeaubien@westfield.ma.edu)

Office: Mod Hall 104-G

**Course Information**

**LLIT 0310 001:** Seminar in  
Hispanic Studies  
(asynchronous ONLINE)

**CORE  
REQUIREMENTS**  
**-Literary/Philosophical  
Analysis**  
**-Global Diversity**

**Course Description:**

*Myth Making and Nation Building: the Spanish Civil War* would **analyze cultural productions of the Spanish Civil War (in English)** in order to explain the circumstances surrounding the civil war. Students will also learn to contextualize the event within the scope of the political and cultural climate of Spain; both recent and past. The course would draw from various academic theories based on memory and violence in order to **question the way nations can be/are being built through myth making/breaking and the construction/reconstruction of collective memory.** Furthermore, the class will question how said construction can be both harmful as well as potentially beneficial. The cultural productions will include prose, films, and non-traditional media (posters and photography) and will span both the twentieth as well as the twenty-first centuries. Students will also be asked to juxtapose weekly theoretical and interdisciplinary readings in order to contextualize the cultural productions they are analyzing within the scope of Spanish history and politics. **Although the course will focus on the Spanish Civil war, students will be encouraged through an online blog to reflect on the nature of *nation building* as a whole and, concurrently, the ways in which the collective memory of the US has been/is perceived and constructed.** In addition, through this form of reflective journaling, students will begin to question the roles they themselves play in said construction.

**Course Objectives/Goals:**

Although this is a content-based course, **the ultimate goal of the course is to learn to critically analyze a variety of cultural productions through the lens of academic theories pertaining to memory, violence, and myth-making.** Students will also learn to define the ways in which the Spanish identity/nation has been constructed/mythologized and, in turn, question how US national and historical events aid in the construction of myths and identities in contemporary US culture; thus redefining their personal role in said constructions. And of course, students will analyze cultural productions of the Spanish Civil War in order to explain the circumstances surrounding the civil war and learn to contextualize the event within the scope of the political and cultural climate of Spain; both recent and past.