This is an undergraduate seminar on a major topic in modern European history. The Spanish Republic was the only new democratic regime in depression-era Europe, and the Civil War to which it led became the most important conflict in Europe during the years prior to World War II. It features the first new forms of revolutionary collectivism in western Europe and the first armed conflict with new counterrevolutionary forces analogous to fascism, as well as the intervention of the major dictatorships and the introduction of new weapons systems later used in the world war. It polarized political groups of left and right like no other event since the Russian Revolution.

Requirements:

1) At least one reading assignment each week, attending each meeting and participating in seminar discussion.

2) Writing a 20-page research paper. The topic for this paper must be selected and defined by September 30.

During the second half of the semester each student will make a brief (20 minute) oral presentation of the main points of his/her paper.

The first draft of at least 10 pages is due November 10. The full and final draft is due December 13.

Texts:  
S. G. Payne, Spain’s First Democracy: The Second Republic, 1931-1936  
Hugh Thomas, The Spanish Civil War.

September 6  Introduction

September 13  The Ordeal of Modernization and Spain’s Nineteenth-Century Civil Wars.  
Payne, 3-22  
Thomas, 3-32

September 20  The Reforms of the Republic and the Politics of Polarization, 1931-1934.  
Payne, 23-188  
Thomas, 33-124

September 27  Revolutionary Insurrection and Disintegration.  
Payne, 189-384  
Thomas, 125-214

October 4  Military Revolt and Civil War.  
Thomas, 215-89, 313-33

October 11  Anarchists and Communists.  
Thomas, 290-312, 428-38, 521-65, 646-74, 769-87

October 18  Foreign Intervention and Military Struggle.  
Thomas, 334-427, 439-520, 566-645, 675-768, 788-957

October 25 to December 6  Oral Presentations.

December 13  Final paper due.