This is an advanced 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 featured the last of the revolutions in the sequence begun by the Russian Revolution of 1917-- the Spanish variant becoming the most intense and explosive worker revolution in modern European history-- 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 World War II. It polarized political groups of left and right like no other event of its generation, and the myth of the Spanish Republic has been the only political myth of the early twentieth century to survive until the present time.

Requirements:

1) A reading assignment for each of the first six seminars, weekly attendance and participation in seminar discussion.

2) Preparation of a 20-page research paper, for which a one-page research proposal, with brief bibliography, must be submitted by February 15. The first polished draft of at least 10 pages is due March 29. The full and final draft is due May 3.

3) 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.

February 1  Revolutionary Insurrection and Disintegration
   Payne, 189-384
   Thomas, 118-86

February 8  Military Revolt and Civil War
   Thomas, 187-277

February 15  The Revolution and Foreign Intervention
   Thomas, 278-482

February 22  Individual consultations

March 1    The Nationalist Regime and the Military Struggle
   Thomas, 483-812

March 8    The Final Phase: Historical Significance of the Spanish Civil War
   Thomas, 813-946

March 15   No meeting; individual research

March 29 to May 3  Oral Presentations

May 3    Final draft of paper due

Office: 5217 Humanities
Hours:  MWF 11-12; T 10:30-11:00
Email: <sgpayne@wisc.edu>