This course will focus on memory making as an identity building agent. We will study literary texts, films and other cultural artifacts to commemorate the silenced voices of the past. The work of several Spanish authors, film directors and intellectuals of the last decades, who try to recover the silenced voices of the past in an effort to contest the “rhetoric of amnesia”, so persistent in the early transition to democracy in Spain, will be studied through close readings and a theoretical component. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of memory in literary, film and cultural narratives to build national identity. The enduring debate and conflict about the Civil War in Spanish society will be analyzed through its narrative as it emerges in multiple settings: museums, art, memorials, etc.

The course offers a 0.5 credit attachment during the last two weeks of May, with an on-site component in Spain that will complement the course material with excursions to memorialized locations such as Belchite, the Jarama battlefield or Valencia, capital of the Republic during the Civil War.

ELIGIBLE FOR SPANISH & PEAC 1/0.5 credits