



SYLLABUS

CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND MUSLIMS IN SPAIN

1. Introduction

This course employs a historical approach to the study of the three Abrahamic faiths -Judaism, Christianity and Islam- and their coexistence in al-Andalus and the rest of Medieval Iberia. This period has been paramount in the formation of not only of modern Andalusia but also of the modern Spain. Throughout the course students will analyze the evolution of the complex relationship between these three religions in Iberia with respect to political, economic, religious, cultural and artistic parameters. The course will also focus on how what happened in Iberia in the Middle Ages can be used to understand the present situation of Spain, and the world, and how concepts such as *Convivencia* can be of use in the 21st century.

2. Course Objectives

The main aim of this course is that students analyze and understand Judaism, Christianity and Islam within their own historical contexts, as well as how the relationship between these three religions shaped Medieval Iberia and still shapes our world. The cultural legacy of the three religions is becoming more alive in the Mediterranean basin and, in this sense, Spain is one of the countries from which the student can draw conclusions.

3. Syllabus

Block I: The Three Monotheistic Religions

- Lecture 1 - Judaism
- Lecture 2 - Christianity
- Lecture 3 - Islam

Block II: The Three Religious Cultures in Spain in the Middle Ages.

- Lecture 4 - Christians and Jews before the Arrival of Muslims.
- Lecture 5 - The Arrival of the Moors to the Iberian Peninsula in 711.
- Lecture 6 - Stage of Muslim Splendor in the Iberian Peninsula.
- Lecture 7 - Jews and Christians: a Minority in the Muslim Society of al-Andalus.
- Lecture 8 - The Reconquest of Christians in al-Andalus.

Block III: Christian Spain in Modern History.

- Lecture 9 - Spain as One Religion: Christianity.
- Lecture 10 - Conversions and the Expulsion of Jews and Muslims.



Block IV: Contemporary Spain.

Lecture 11 - The Legacy of Three Cultures.

Lecture 12 - The Coexistence of the Three Religions in the XX and XXI Century.

3. Bibliography

- Armstrong, Karen. *A History of God*. Ballantine Books, New York, 1993.
- Armstrong, Karen. *Islam: A Short History*. The Modern Library, New York, 2002.
- Brooks West, Douglas. *Inside Islam*. History Channel, 2002. DVD.
- Chejne, Anwar G. *Muslim Spain: Its History and Culture*. The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1974.
- Constable, Olivia R. *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2012.
- Feore, Colm, narr. *Secret Files of the Inquisition: The Tears of Spain*. Insight Film Studios, 2006. DVD.
- Gardner, Robert. *Cities of Light: Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain*. PBS, 2007. DVD.
- Hughes, Bettany, narr. *When the Moors Ruled Europe*. BBC, 2005. DVD.
- Leaman, Oliver. *Judaism: An Introduction*. I.B. Tauris, New York, 2011.
- MacCulloch, Diarmaid. *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*. Allen Lane, 2009.
- Portillo, Michael, narr. *Christianity a History: Rome*. BBC 4, 2009. DVD.
- Roth, Norman. *Conversos, Inquisition, and the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain*. The University of Wisconsin Press, Wisconsin, 1995.
- Roth, Norman. *Jews, Visigoths & Muslims in Medieval Spain: Cooperation & Conflicts*. E.J.Brill, Leiden, New York, Köln, 1994.
- Scheindlin, Raymond P. *A Short History of the Jewish People*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Teichner, Martha, narr. *The Jewish People: A Story of Survival*. PBS and Two Cats Production, 2008. DVD.
- Twomey, Lesley. *Faith and Fanaticism: Religious Fervour in Early Modern Spain*. Ashgate, Aldershot, Brookfield, Singapore, Sidney, 1997.



5. System of Evaluation

5.1 Attendance and Participation (20%)

- To show interest during the lectures
- Reading/Watching the selected material for each lecture
- Appropriate commentaries and questions during the lectures
- Taking part in class activities

5.2 Written and Oral Assignments (40%)

5.2.1 Midterm Essay (20%): A six-s essay on a topic suggested by the lecturer. The essay must be written in **MLA** format.

5.2.2 Final Essay (20%): A six-pages essay on a topic suggested by the lecturer. The essay must be written in **MLA** format.

5.2.3 Exams (40%)

5.2.3.1 Midterm Exam (20%): The exam is composed of 15 questions of which students must choose and answer only 10.

5.2.3.2. Final Exam (20%): The exam is composed of 16 questions of which students must choose and answer only 10.

6. Assignment Policies: All papers and projects, including any homework, are due at the beginning of class on the due date listed or assigned. Any assignment not turned in at that time is considered late. The title is to be written in **Bold**, 12 pt Times New Roman. Paper should generally be 5-8 pages long, including title, figures and works cited.

7. Attendance Policy: Attendance is obligatory. More than 20% of unexcused absence from class will endanger an officially certified completion of the course (grading + certificate). Medical absences are excused with the prompt receipt of proper documentation. It is expected that students arrive to class on time and that they return promptly to class after any given class break. Tardiness is figured into the absence policy.