



SAIIE

"Your Life Experience; Your Education"



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN - PLATTEVILLE

History and Culture of Islamic Spain

Course Code: HIST 3340

Prerequisites: None required

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 42

Credits: 3

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the main features of Islamic civilization in Spain, which covers the period between 711-1492 AD.

Special attention will be placed on social, economic and creative life in the context of a multicultural society consisting of the three main religious groups (Christians, Muslims and Jews).

B. COURSE PLAN

TOPIC 0. Presentation of the course.

TOPIC 1. The origins of Islam.

- Historical and Geographical setting.
- Islam: believes and practice. What is Islam? And what are its pillars?
- The prophet Muhammad.
- The expansion of Islam during the prophet's life and after his death.

TOPIC 2. The Muslim Conquest of the Iberian Peninsula (711-716).

- The political situation of the Peninsula before the conquest.
- The course of the invasion.

TOPIC 3. Al-Andalus as a province of the Damascus Caliphate (711-756).

- The organization of the province.
- The end of the Arab advance in Europe.
- Internal tension and problems.

TOPIC 4. The independent Umayyad Emirate (756-929).

- The establishment of the emirate.
- The crisis of the emirate.

TOPIC 5. The Umayyad Caliphate (929-1031).

- Political evolution of the caliphate.
- The economy, society and institutions.
- Grandeur of its culture and art.
- The fall of the caliphate.



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TOPIC 6. Taifal Spain (1031-1091).

- The disintegration of Al-Andalus.
- The weakness of the "Party Kings".
- Cultural achievements.

TOPIC 7. The rise of the North African Powers (1091-1248).

- The Almoravid State (1091-1145).
- The Almohad State (1145-1248).

TOPIC 8. The Nasrids of Granada (From the thirteenth century to 1492).

- The survival of the dynasty.
- The last cultural glimmer.
- The fall of Granada in 1492.

TOPIC 9. The Muslims under Christian rule (1492-1610).

- Social traits: Mudejars and Moriscos.
- The Moriscos' expulsion in 1609 and 1610.

TOPIC 10. Society and administration in Al-Andalus.

TOPIC 11. The legacy of Islam: Architecture, Thought, Literature, Poetry, and Science.

C. EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

EXAMS

There will be **three examinations (EACH ONE WORTH 30%)** in which students will be assessed on the topics covered in each different part of the course. **Each exam will include the lectures covered**, they are not accumulative. The format of the exam is three essay questions and the student answers two out of three, and each answer worth 50 points.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Exam 1 | February 18 | regular class time | 30% |
| Exam 2 | March 18 | regular class time | 30% |
| Final Exam | April 29 | 8:30-11:30 | 30% |



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The final course mark will result from the average of the marks obtained in the three exams; **the other 10% will be completed with a paper and its presentation in class.**

PAPER AND ITS PRESENTATION IN CLASS

The other 10% will be completed with a paper and its presentation in class.

In order to obtain their grade, the students will have to write **a paper** on one of the topics discussed throughout the course; it must be handed in by **March 26th**.

The paper will be 5-6 pages long, using MS WORD and Arial 12 and will be double-spaced. You will let your instructor know ahead of time.

D. ATTENDANCE

You can only have two unjustified absences. For every other class you miss without an excuse due to serious health reasons or verifiable family emergencies, **you will miss 5 points from your average**

E. GRADING

| | | | |
|--------|----|-------|----|
| 97-100 | A+ | 77-79 | C+ |
| 93-96 | A | 73-76 | C |
| 90-92 | A- | 70-72 | C- |
| 87-89 | B+ | 67-69 | D+ |
| 83-86 | B | 63-66 | D |
| 80-82 | B- | 60-62 | D- |

Below 60 - F

F. RECOMMENDATIONS

Try to come prepared for every class by having completed the assigned readings. Take notes while you read, as well as in class, and make sure you understand the significance of the events under consideration. Class attendance is extremely important. The contents given in class time (together with the commentaries made on



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the readings and maps assigned) will help to understand the significance of the events under consideration.

Classes will not be repeated if you have missed any. You will have to get the notes from another student.

If you ever have **ANY** problems, consult with your instructor.

G. BIBLIOGRAPHY

There is no textbook for this course. Your instructor will give copies and handouts to you. The student will use a course pack including class notes.

There will not be a textbook. Copies of translated texts, gathered both from the Muslim and Christian side, which will be used for discussion and examination, will be handed out during the course. Maps and Arabic technical terms are included for a better comprehension of the subject. **The pack is available in administration.**

Students have access to the public library services in Sevilla, especially the Infanta Elena library located in the Avda. Maria Luisa s/n, and the central library of the University of Sevilla in C/ San Fernando n°4.