**Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain**

Honors Seminar 01:090:295:02

Spring 2022, M/Th 4 (2-3:20)

Miller Hall (14 College Ave.), room 115

**Course Description:**

This seminar explores the intertwined histories of Muslims, Christians, and Jews in medieval Spain. It examines the emergence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, initial encounters and shifting relationships between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Spain, cultural cross-influence and religious conversion between these groups, and the expulsions of Jews and Moriscos from Spain in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The course also explores modern legacies of this history and addresses broader questions about the fruits and challenges of cultural pluralism and the causes and consequences of cultural intolerance. Participants will have the extraordinary opportunity to **travel to Spain** from May 17 to 28, 2022— after final exams and before commencement—to visit the places they will have studied. Details about the trip are available here: [Trip information](https://global.rutgers.edu/program-search/details/embedded-spring-honors-muslims-christians-and-jews-conflict-and-co-existence)



This seminar is certified for the **SAS Core Curriculum goal WCd** (“Discipline-based Writing and Communication”): Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights

**Course-specific Learning Goals:**

* Understand the outlines of the political, cultural, and religious history of medieval Spain
* Grasp the complexity of relations between Muslims, Christians, and Jews in medieval Spain
* Appreciate the ways this history reflects broader trends and shapes the present
* Hone the skills of thinking critically, analyzing historical sources, and engaging in productive conversations
* Hone the skills involved in writing a research paper

**Required Texts,** available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore: Ferren Mall, One Penn Plaza, New Brunswick, 732-246-8448:

* Olivia Remie **Constable***,* ed., *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources,* SECOND EDITION (Philadelphia, 2011). ISBN:0812221680
* Other readings will be posted on **Canvas**

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

* Attendance and participation 10%
* Three quizzes 60% (20% each)
* Research paper 30%

**SCHEDULE**

1. **Thurs, Jan 20. Introduction**

For next time:

* Submit student questionnaire (Canvas)
* Start to think about your paper topic
* Read for background:
  + Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “Introduction,” xiii–xviii (Canvas)
  + María Rosa Menocal, “Why Iberia?” in *Diacritics* 36(2006): 7-11 (Canvas)

**2. Mon, Jan 24. “The Past” vs. History vs. Myth**

For next time:

* Think about your paper topic
* Read
  + For background: Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “Origins,” 1-13 (Canvas)
  + Optional: Jean Dangler, “Edging toward Iberia,” in *Diacritics* 36(2006): 12-26 (Canvas)

1. **Thurs, Jan 27. Beginnings**

For next time:

* Submit your choice of paper topic via Canvas
* Read for background: David Myers, *Jewish History,* “Names” (pgs. 1-22) (Canvas)

1. **Mon, Jan 31. Jews and Judaism in Late Antiquity. STATEMENT OF PAPER TOPIC DUE**

For next time:

* Read for background: John Riches, “The Birth of Christianity,” in *Early Christianity,* 28-39 (Canvas)

1. **Thurs, Feb 3. The Emergence of Christianity**

For next time:

* Read:

1. For background: Knut Schäferdiek, “Christian Mission and Expansion,” in *Early Christianity,* 65-77 (Canvas)
2. Primary sources: Canons from the Council of Elvira, the Nicene Creed, Jews in Roman Law (Canvas)
3. Optional: Solomon Grayzel, “The Jews and Roman Law,” *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 59 (1968): 93-117 (Canvas)
4. **Mon, Feb 7. The Christianization of the Roman Empire**

For next time:

* Read:

1. For background:
   1. Barton, *History of Spain,* 14-21 (Google Books)
   2. Introduction to Constable reader (Constable, xxxi–xxxiii)
2. Primary sources: Visigothic Legislation concerning the Jews (Constable, doc. 4)
3. Optional: Rachel L. Stocking, “Early Medieval Christianity and Anti-Judaism: The Case of the Visigothic Kingdom,” *Religion Compass* 2 (2008): 642-58 (Canvas)
4. **Thurs, Feb 10. The Visigoths**

For next time:

* Read:

1. For background: Brian Catlos, “The Beginning of Islam,” in *Kingdoms of Faith,* 9-18 (Canvas)
2. Primary source: The Pact of Umar (Constable, doc. 7)
3. Optional:
   1. Gordon D. Newby, “The Jews of Arabia at the Birth of Islam,” in *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations,* 29-51 (Canvas)
   2. Mark R. Cohen, “Islamic Policy toward Jews from the Prophet Muhammad to the Pact of Umar,” in *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations,* 58-71 (Canvas)
4. **Mon, Feb 14. The emergence of Islam. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background: Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “The Ruin of Spain,” 22-27 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources: Accounts of the Muslim conquest: Ibn ‘Abd al-Hakam (Constable, doc. 6B)

1. **Thurs, Feb 17. The Muslim conquest of Iberia**

For next time:

* Prepare for Quiz 1

1. **Mon, Feb 21. Review session for Quiz 1. THESIS STATEMENT DUE**

For next time:

* Prepare for Quiz 1

1. **Thurs, Feb 24. QUIZ 1**

For next time:

* Read:

1. For background: Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “The Umayyad Emirate,” 27-31 (Canvas)
2. Primary sources:
   1. Treaty of Tudmir (Constable, doc. 8)
   2. The Martyrs of Córdoba (Constable, doc. 12B)
3. Optional:
   1. Jessica Coope, “Religious and Cultural Conversion to Islam in Ninth-Century Umayyad Córdoba,” *Journal of World History* 4 (1993): 47-68 (Canvas)
   2. Janina Safran, “Society in Transition,” in *Defining Boundaries in al-Andalus,* 81-124 (Canvas)
4. **Mon, Feb 28. Muslims and Christians in the Umayyad Emirate of Córdoba**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background: Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “The Other Spains,” 31-36 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources: Christian resistance in the north (Constable, doc. 9)

1. **Thurs, March 3. Rumblings of the “Reconquista”**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background:
     1. Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “The Caliphate of Córdoba,” 37-43 (Canvas)
     2. Ahmed Renima et al., “The Islamic Golden Age” (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:
     1. On the Campaigns and Diplomacy of ‘Abd al-Rahman III (Constable, doc. 14)
     2. Declaration of an Andalusi Caliphate (Constable, doc. 15)

1. **Mon, March 7. The Caliphate of Córdoba**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background: Mercedes García-Arenal, “The Jews of al-Andalus” in *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations,* 111-14, 120-29 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources: Selected Jewish poems (Canvas)
  3. Optional:
     1. Miriam Goldstein, “‘Arabic Composition 101’ and The Early Development of Judaeo-Arabic Bible Exegesis,” in *Journal of Semitic Studies* 55 (2010): 451-78 (Canvas)
     2. Jonathan Decter, “The Jewish *Ahl al-Adab* of al-Andalus” (Canvas)

1. **Thurs, March 10. The Golden Age of Jewish culture. PAPER OUTLINE DUE**

For next time:

* Read:

1. Primary sources:
2. Two Jewish Viziers in Granada (Constable, doc. 21)
3. The Story of the Four Captives (Canvas)

**SPRING BREAK, MARCH 12-20**

1. **Mon, March 21. The caliph’s Jewish courtiers**

For next time:

* Read:

1. For background:
   1. Brian Catlos, “A Terrible, Swift Sword,” “Faith and Power,” and “An African Caliphate,” in *Kingdoms of Faith,* 251-84 (Canvas)
   2. Simon Barton, *A History of Spain,* “The Fall of the Umayyad Caliphate,” 44-47 (Canvas)
2. Primary sources:
   1. Maimonides, Letter on Conversion and Martyrdom (Canvas)
   2. Jewish lament in the wake of Almohad persecutions (Constable, doc. 46)
3. Optional:
   1. David Wasserstein, “The Intellectual Genealogy of Almohad Policy towards Christians and Jews” (Canvas)
   2. Simon Barton, “Traitors to the Faith?” Christian Mercenaries in al-Andalus” (Canvas)
4. **Thurs, March 24. The Almoravids and the Almohads**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background: Joseph O’Callaghan, “Reconquest, Holy War, and Crusade” (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:
     1. El Privilegio del Voto (Canvas)
     2. Resettlement and Redistribution of Land (Constable, doc. 53)

1. **Mon, March 28. “Reconquista” as Crusade**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. Read for background: John Tolan, “The Legal Status of the Jews and Muslims in the Christian States,” in *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations,* 145–50 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:

1. Legal status of Jews and Muslims in Castile (Constable, doc. 66)
2. Barcelona Disputation excerpts (Constable, doc. 57)
3. **Thurs, March 31. Muslims and Jews in the Christian Kingdoms. PAPER DRAFT DUE**

For next time:

* Prepare for Quiz 2

1. **Mon, April 4. Review session for Quiz 2.**

For next time:

* Prepare for Quiz 2

1. **Thurs, April 7. QUIZ 2**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For Background:
     1. Renee Levine Melammed, *A Question of Identity: Iberian Conversos in Historical Perspective,* “Introduction,” 1-14 (Canvas)
     2. For Background: Renee Levine Melammed, *A Question of Identity: Iberian Conversos in Historical Perspective,* “The Aftermath,” 1-17 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:
     1. Sentencia estatuto (Canvas)
     2. Descriptions of Two *Autos de Fe* (Constable, doc. 82A)
     3. Inquisitorial Trials of Inés López (Constable, doc. 82B)
  3. Optional: Anita Novinsky, “The Last Marranos,” *Commentary* 43 (1967): 76-81.

1. **Mon, April 11. The *Conversos* and the Spanish Inquisition**

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For Background: Renee Levine Melammed, *A Question of Identity: Iberian Conversos in Historical Perspective,* “The Expulsion and its Consequences,” 1-19 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:
     1. Edict of expulsion of the Jews (Constable, doc. 85A)
     2. Jewish account of the expulsion (Constable, doc. 85B)
     3. Christian conquest of Granada (Constable, doc. 84A-C)
  3. Optional: Edward Peters, “Jewish History and Gentile Memory: The Expulsion of 1492,” *Jewish History* 9 (1995): 9-34 (Canvas)

1. **Thurs, April 14. The expulsion of the Jews in 1492** (Segovia Abraham Senneor house; Granada Royal Chapel)

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background: Helen Rawlings, “The Inquisition and the *Morisco,*” in *The Spanish Inquisition,* 72-89 (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:
     1. The Christian Conquest of Granada (Constable, doc. 84)
     2. The Expulsion of Muslims from Castile and Leon (Constable, doc. 88)
     3. Auto de fe celebrated in Granada in 1571 (Lu Ann Homza, doc. 22) (Canvas)
  3. Optional:
     1. Mercedes García Arenal, “The Muslims of Valencia and their Children,” in *Forced Conversion in Christianity, Judaism and Islam,* 354-81 (Canvas)
     2. Mercedes García-Arenal, “The Converted Muslims of Spain: Morisco Cultural Resistance,” in *Routledge Handbook of Islam in the West,* 38-52 (Canvas)
     3. Isabelle Poutrin, “The Jewish Precedent in the Spanish Politics of Conversion of Muslims and Moriscos,” *Journal of Levantine Studies* 6 (2016): 71-87 (Canvas)

1. **Mon, April 18. The *Moriscos***

For next time:

* Read:
  1. For background: Matthew Carr, Chapter, in *Blood and Faith: The Purging of Muslim Spain, 1492-1614,* pages (Canvas)
  2. Primary sources:
     1. Al-Hajari’s rendition of the 1609 edict expelling the Moriscos from Valencia (Canvas)
     2. Morisco Appeal to the Ottoman Sultan (Constable, doc. 89)
  3. Optional: Bernard Vincent, “The Geography of the Morisco Expulsion,” in *The Expulsion of the Moriscos,* 19-36 (Canvas)

1. **Thurs, April 21. The Expulsions of the *Moriscos***
2. **Mon, April 25. Review session for Quiz 3**
3. **Thurs, April 27. QUIZ 3**
4. **Mon, May 2. Conclusions. FINAL PAPER DUE**

**COURSE POLICIES**

* **Attendance.** More than 3 unexcused absences will lower the final course grade (for example, from an A to a B). In order to have an absence excused, contact the professor either before or asap after the absence.
* **Late Work** will be marked down a full letter grade every 24 hours (for example, from a B+ to a C+). After one week, it will receive an F.
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