



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION TO HISPANIC CIVILIZATION - 29144

Last update 30-06-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Romance and Latin American Studies

Academic year: 1

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Silvina Schammah Gesser

Coordinator Email: silvina.gesser@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:30- 13:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Silvina Gesser

Course/Module description:

This course introduces students to the history and culture of the Iberian Peninsula from the early Middle Ages to 1700s. It presents the unique relationship among the three religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam taking place at the configuration of Al-Andalus, an era of unprecedented prosperity but also of conflicts among different groups and regions. These tensions will lead to wars, ethnic cleansing, and religious extremism.

During the course we will also analyze the beginnings of Spain as a political entity emerging from the union of Castile and Aragon, and the complexity of the Spanish empire in its early days. How does Spain become Europe's largest empire? Which are the consequence of the conquest of the New World? How does the Spanish Golden Age correspond to the weakening of Spain at the end of the 17th century? In addressing these questions, we will examine major cultural aspects that have shaped life in the Iberian Peninsula.

Course/Module aims:

acquire basic concepts to understand the history and culture of the Iberian Peninsula

Understanding Spain within the European context and the discovery of the new world

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Comprehend the historical and cultural developments in the Iberian Peninsula.

Identify major historical periods and the different groups that inhabited the Peninsula

Understand the specificity of Spain within the European context

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, class presentations, close reading, class debates, film screening

Course/Module Content:

- I. The Iberian Peninsula: Between the Romans and the Visigoths*
- II. Al-Andalus*
- III. The Christian Resistance: between cooperation and war*
- IV. The Union of the Crowns and the end of religious tolerance*
- V. Spanish Power: the Conquest of the New World*
- VI. Habsburg Spain: Charles I and Philip II*
- VII. Spanish Decline in the 17th century: The "Austrias Menores"*

Required Reading:

I. The Iberian Peninsula: Between the Romans and the Visigoths

Michael Kulikowski, Late Roman Spain and its cities (Baltimore, 2004) pp. 1-16

Roger Collins, Visigothic Spain, 409-711. (Oxford, 2004) Chapters 1-4.

II. Al-Andalus

Menocal, María Rosa, "Visions of Al-Andalus," in The Literature of Al-Andalus, eds. M.

R. Menocal, Raymond P. Scheindlin and Michael Sells (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000): pp. 1-24.

Albert Hourani. A History of the Arab Peoples, Warner: New York, 1992, pp. Ch. I and II, pp. 7-36.

.III The Christian Resistance: between cooperation and war

A. Mackay, Spain in the Middle Ages: From Frontier to Empire, 1000-1500, "Introduction": the Background of Early Eleventh-century Spain, Macmillan, [1977] 1993, pp. 1-11.

IV. The Union of the Crowns and the end of religious tolerance

John H. Elliott, Chapter 1: "The Union of the Crowns" in Imperial Spain 1469-1716, New American Library, New York 1963.

Reuven Firestone, "A Phenomenology of Chosen-ness" in Moshe Ma'oz (ed.) The Meetings of Civilizations, Muslim, Christian and Jewish, (London, 2009).

Documents:

King Ferdinand, "Marriage Concessions", (1469), Document in Jon Cowans' *Documentary History*, pp. 7-9.

"The Legal Status of Jews and Muslims in Castile", (early 14th century document), in *Medieval Iberia, Readings from Christian, Muslim and Jewish Sources*, Olivia Remie Constable, (ed.), University of Pennsylvania Press, (2003), pp.269-273,

"Ferdinand and Isabella, Decree of Expulsion of the Jews", (1492) (document), in, Jon Cowans' *Documentary History*, pp., 20-23.

David Nirenberg, "Enmity and Assimilation: Jews, Christians and Converts in Medieval Spain," *Common Knowledge* 9-1 (2003): 137-155.

Teófilo Ruiz, *Spanish Society, 1400-1600*, (California, 2001), *A Society of Orders: Chapter II, Those who have not: peasants and town dwellers; Chapter III, Those who have: the nobility and the clergy*, pp. 39-93.

Film : *The Conquest of Paradise*, 1492

VI.Habsburg Spain: Charles I and Philip II

VII. Spanish Decline in the 17th century: The "Austrias Menores"

John H. Elliot, "Spain and Its Empire in the 16th and 17th Centuries", *Spain and its world, 1500- 1700*, Yale University Press, 1989.pp. 7-26;

"The Mental World of Hernán Cortéz", pp. 27-41 and, "The Discovery of America and the Discovery of man", pp. *Spain and its world, 1500-1700*, Yale University Press, 1989, 42-64 .

Rosemarie Mulcahy, *Philip II of Spain, Patron of Arts*, (Dublin, 2004), pp. 267-308.

Additional Reading Material:

Nicole Clarke,
The Muslim Conquest of Iberia. Medieval Arabic Narratives (London, 2012)

Further Bibliography

James R. Adair, *Introducing Christianity*, (London, 2008).

Jerrilynn Denise Dodds; Maria Rosa Menocal and Abigail Krasner Balbale, *The Arts of Intimacy, Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Making of Castilian Culture* (New Jersey, 2008).

Jonathan Ray, *The Sephardic Frontier: The Reconquista and the Jewish Community in Medieval Iberia* (Cornell, 2006).

Charles Halperin, "The Ideology of Silence: Prejudice and Pragmatism on the Medieval Religious Frontier," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26 (1984), pp. 442-466.

Jonathan Ray, "Beyond Tolerance and Persecution: Reassessing our Approach to Medieval Convivencia," *Jewish Social Studies* 11 (2005), 1-18.

Alex Novikoff, "Between Tolerance and Intolerance in Medieval Spain: A Historiographic Enigma," in *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 11 (2005), pp. 7-36.

Hishaam Aidi, "The Interference of al-Andalus: Spain, Islam, and the West," *Social Text* 87 (2006), pp. 67-85.

Simon Doubleday and David Coleman (eds.), *In the Light of Islamic Spain: Islam, the West, and the Relevance of the Past* (Palgrave, 2008).

Margaret R. Greer, W. Mignolo and M. Quilligan, "Introduction" , pp. 1-14; David Nirenberg, "Race and the Middle Ages, The Case of Spain and Its Jews", pp. 71-87 and Barbara Fuchs, "The Spanish Race", pp. 89-98, in *Rereading the Black Legend. The Discourses of Religious and Racial Differences in the Renaissance Empires*, (Chicago ,2007).

Katie Harris, *From Muslim to Christian Granada* (Baltimore, 2007): pp. 1-46.

Sarah Stroumsa, *Maimonides in his World. Portrait of a Mediterranean Thinker*, (New Jersey, 2012).

Harris, Katie, *From Muslim to Christian Granada* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007): pp. 1-46.

Rereading the Black Legend: The Discourses of Racism in the Renaissance Empires, Eds. Margaret Greer, Walter Mignolo, and Maureen Quilligan (Chicago, 2007)

Ildefonso Falcones, *La catedral del mar*, 2006. (English and Hebrew translations available)

John H. Elliot, Spain and its world, 1500-1700, (London, 1989).

John H. Elliot, Spain, Europe and the Wider World, 1500-1800, (London, 2009).

Henry Kamen, The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision, (London, 1998).

Alejandro Lapunzina, Architecture of Spain, Reference Guides to National Architectures, (London, 2005).

Jeremy Robbins, "Renaissance and Baroque: continuity and transformation in early modern Spain" in The Cambridge History of Spanish Literature, David T. Gies (ed.), (Cambridge, 2004), pp. 137-148.

*Howard M. Sachar,
Farewell España. The world of the Sephardim remembered. (New York, 1994)*

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 70 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 15 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 15 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

*Alhambra Virtual Visit
(Barcelona, 2003)*

*Coursera.org Massive Open Online Course, "Deciphering Secrets: Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Spain".
Roger Martinez-Davila*