



## *Syllabus*

# *Cross-cultural Encounters and Clashes in the Mediterranean Arena (Greek Hebrew Arabic Latin and V - 45858*

*Last update 06-09-2023*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Responsible Department: Romance Studies*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: prof Rapisarda Stefano*

*Coordinator Email: [srapisa@unict.it](mailto:srapisa@unict.it)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Upon student request*

*Teaching Staff:*

*Prof Stefano Rapisarda*

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Course/Module description:

*What is "difference", "otherness", between cultures? How can it be defined? What happens when two or more very different cultures meet each other in the same spatial scenario? Which are the different possibilities? Cultural transfer, dialogue among them, mutual acknowledgement or mutual indifference, or hostility and refutation? Are there forms or figures of mediation? Can written texts of the past help us to answer these questions and even bring suggestions to contemporary issues?*

*This course intends to study what past culture and written texts can teach us about cohabitation, convivence, symbiosis or struggle between communities. It shall introduce students to texts, genres, institutions, and authors operating in two crucial crossroads of cultures as Spain and Sicily during the period traditionally defined as Western Middle Ages (5th-15th centuries), in order to delineate a landscape of interactions (or sometimes clashes) between the different civilizations of the Mediterranean basin: Latin, Romance Vernacular, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek-Byzantine. Two other very important crossroad, as Byzantium and the Crusaders States of the Levant, will be object of future Seminars.*

*We will study here the origin of the cultural and linguistic connections between West and East in Western Middle Ages and the development of main genres (lyric poetry, epic poetry, short stories) in Medieval Latin, Romance Vernaculars, Greek, Arabic, Hebrew literatures, seen through their (eventual) interaction. Special attention will be given to the cross-cultural encounters: reports of pilgrims, foreign travelers, description of "aliens", but also artistic manufactures: epigraphies, coins, architecture. Knowledge of the abovementioned languages is not required. Texts and secondary literature will be read in American/English. If not available, translations will be provided by the teacher.*

Course/Module aims:

*This course intends to take benefit of what written texts of the past can teach us about cohabitation, convivence, symbiosis or struggle between communities. It shall introduce students to texts, authors, genres, operating in two crucial crossroads of cultures as Spain and Sicily during the period traditionally defined as Western Middle Ages (5th-15th centuries), focusing on possible cross-influences between different civilizations of the Mediterranean basin: Latin, Romance Vernacular, Hebrew, Arabic, Greek-Byzantine.*

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

*Students shall have gained conscience of the cultural dynamics operating into the principal communities living in Spain and Sicily. They shall know the most influential authors and texts and shall understand the problem of influence between genres, distinguishing between real interaction, indifference or cultural hostility.*

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Attendance requirements(%):

Students are required to read the texts closely beforehand and participate actively in the classes by preparing specific questions to be handed in before the class and then raised during the class.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The teacher shall pose questions (e.g. is it there a clash of religion between Moors and Christians in the Poem of the Cid? Is it there a connection between Arabic conception of love, *al wadd*, as reflected in the Andalusian "The Neck-Ring of the Dove" by Ibn Hazm, and Romance courtly love, "finamor"?) and shall give to the class textual document to answer to that question.

Course/Module Content:

Schedule

1) 05.12.2023

Introduction to the Course

Alfonso X el Sabio, *Crónica general* [excerpts on Islam and Jewish civilisation]

2) 06.12.2023

*The Chanson de Roland* and *El Cantar del Cid* [excerpts on the struggle with the Moors].

3) 19.12.2023

Ibn Hazm, *The Ring of the Dove: A Treatise on the Art and Practice of Arab Love*, trans. A. J. Arberry, London 1994

4) 20.12.2023

*Anónimo, Libro de Calila e Dimna*, ed. by José Manuel Cacho Blecua y María Jesús Lacarra, Madrid

5) 26.12.2023

*Sem Tob de Carrion* *Proverbios morales* and Spanish texts in Arabic and Hebrew alphabet, *aljamido morisco* literature

6) 27.12.2023

Sicilian multilingual documents and epigraphies

Karla Mallette, *The Kingdom of Sicily, 1100-1250: A Literary History*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 2005 [excerpts on the travel of Ibn Jubayr and Arabic poetry in Sicily]

7) 28.12.2023

Sicilian multilingual documents and epigraphies

Karla Mallette, *The Kingdom of Sicily, 1100-1250: A Literary History*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 2005 [excerpts on Hebrew texts in Sicilian vernacular alphabet and multilingual documents and epigraphies]

Required Reading:

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## Reference Books

Mallette Karla, *The Kingdom of Sicily, 1100-1250: A Literary History*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia 2005

Menocal Maria Rosa, *The Ornament of the World. How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*, Back Bay Books, 2014

## Primary sources

Alfonso X el Sabio, *Cronica general*, Ctedra. Letras Hispnicas, Madrid

An<sup>3</sup>nimo, *Libro de Calila e Dimna*, ed. by Jos© Manuel Cacho Blecua y Mara Jes÷s Lacarra, Clsicos Castalia, Madrid [Partial and not philological English translation by Ramsey Wood, *Kalila and Dimna, Fables of Conflict and Intrigue*, 2 vols.

Ibn Hazm, *The Ring of the Dove: A Treatise on the Art and Practice of Arab Love*. trans. A. J. Arberry. London: Luzac Oriental, 1994

*La Chanson De Roland*, ed. by Gerard J. Brault, Student Edition Oxford Text and English Translation (English and French Edition), 2013

*Sem Tob de Carrion, Proverbios morales*, Ctedra. Letras Hispnicas, Madrid, 1998

*The Poem of the Cid: Dual Language Edition*, Penguin Classics, Paperback

## Additional Reading Material:

Burnett Ch., *The Institutional Context of Arabic-Latin Translations of the Middle Ages: A Reassessment of the "School of Toledo"*, in *Vocabulary of Teaching and Research between the Middle Ages and Renaissance, Proceedings of the Colloquium, London, Warburg Institute, 11-12 March 1994, a cura di O. Weijers, CIVICIMA, Etudes sur le vocabulaire intellectuel du moyen ęge*, 8, Brepols, Turnhout 1995, pp. 214-235

Casassas Canals Xavier, *La literatura aljamiado-morisca en el marco de la literatura islmica espa±ola: siglos XIII-XVII (una variedad del castellano vinculada al hiero-sprachbund islmico)*, en Benlabbah, Fatiha y Chalkha, Achouak. (Eds.), *Los moriscos y su legado desde ęsta y otras laderas*, Rabat, 2010, pp. 368-396.

D'Alverny Marie-Therese, *Les traductions deux interprıtes d'arabe en langue vernaculaire en latin*, in *Traductions et traducteurs au Moyen Age*, Paris, 1989, pp. 193-206.

Johns Jeremy and Nadia Jamil, *Signs of the Times: Arabic Signatures as a Measure of Acculturation in Norman Sicily*, in *"Muqarnas"*, 21, *Essays in Honor of J. M. Rogers*

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(2004), pp. 181-192

Johns Jeremy, *The Arabic Inscriptions of the Norman Kings of Sicily. A Reinterpretation in Maria Andaloro (ed.), The Royal Workshops in Palermo during the Reigns of the Norman and Hohenstaufen Kings of Sicily in the 12th and 13th century*, Catania: Giuseppe Maimone, 2006, pp. 324-337

Kaplan, G., *Sem Tob's Proverbios Morales. The Epitome of Jewish Cuaderna Va Poetry*, in *Jewish Poetry and Cultural Coexistence in Late Medieval Spain*, 2019, pp. 43-66, Amsterdam University Press.

Rapisarda S., *Discussion on Karla Mallette, European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean. Toward a New Philology and a Counter-Orientalism*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010, in «*Revue Critique de Philologie Romane*», 12-13 (2011-2012), pp. 140-157, with a reply of Karla Mallette, pp. 157-167

Rapisarda S., *Filologia e critica delle situazioni di contatto: Andalusia e Sicilia*, in *Medioevo Romano e Orientale. Linee storiografiche e nuove prospettive di ricerca* (Roma, 27-28 febbraio 2018 - Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei), a cura di A. Pioletti, F. Bellino, E. Creazzo, Rubbettino 2019, pp. 23-48

Rapisarda S., *Would Another Roland Be Possible? Ganelons Reasons*, Atti del convegno *Figure della memoria culturale. Tipologie, identità, personaggi, testi e segni* (Macerata, 9-10-11 novembre 2011), a cura di M. Bonafin, in *L'immagine riflessa*, Testi, società, culture, 22 (2013), pp. 151-175

Roth Norman, "Deal gently with the young man": *Love of Boys in Medieval Hebrew Poetry of Spain*, in *Speculum*, 57, 1982, pp. 20-51

Schippers Arie, *Arabic and Hebrew Love Poetry in Sicily in the Middle Ages and their Contacts with Early Romance and German Poets in Sicily: Suffering of Love in Sicilian Poetry*, *Quaderni di Studi Arabi*, n.s. 10 (2015), pp. 87-102

Wacks D.A., *The cultural context of the translation of Calila e Dimna*, in *Framing Iberia. Maqāmāt and Frametale Narratives in Medieval Spain*, pp. 86-128, Brill, 2007, E-Book

#### Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 30 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 10 %

#### Additional information:

