

Religion and Politics in Medieval Spain

EUH4930 Fall 2016



Instructor: Dr Nina Caputo
Class time and place: Thursday, period 7-9, Keene-Flint 229* (as of week 2)
Office Hours: Tuesday. 2:00-3:30
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If medieval Europe was dominated by the church and Christian kingdoms, the Spain was different. Unlike the rest of medieval Europe, the Spain was home to Christian and Muslim kingdoms which were home to members of all three Abrahamic faiths. By the early 13th century Christian Spain was more tolerant, even accommodating, of religious and cultural difference than any other part of Latin Christendom. However, by the end of the 15th century this situation had changed completely: after a long and difficult cultural struggle, religious tolerance was officially revoked with the establishment of the Inquisition and the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Christian Spain. Using primary sources spanning from the sixth to the fifteenth century as a foundation, this class will trace the modern construction of medieval Iberian history from the time of the Visigoths to the time of the Inquisition. In particular, we will focus on the expression and exertion of political and religious power, treatment of religious minorities, and the why that modern historians have interpreted these issues.

University of Florida GatorLink Email : Class announcements will be sent out to your gatormail accounts via the classrolls mailing list. Check your GatorLink email account on a regular basis; you will be held responsible for all amendments to reading or writing assignments posted there. 'I don't check my GatorLink account' will not be considered a valid excuse for failure to complete an assignment or follow instructions.

Written assignments: Historical writing demands that you make your arguments in a clear and precise manner and that you back them up with historical evidence. Thus, written assignments will be graded on the basis of **style as well as content**. Completion of the written assignments is *absolutely required*. Late assignments **will not** be accepted without penalty. Please make every effort to apprise the instructor of adverse circumstances that affect your ability to attend class or complete assignments on time. Official documentation is required to excuse an absence and to schedule make-up assignments. Unless otherwise noted, assignments will be collected at the end of the precept session for which they are assigned. Do not submit your work to via email – written work must be presented in hard-copy.

Reading assignments : You will likely find yourself frustrated and confused during the lectures if you do not make a good faith effort to finish the reading assignments before the class meetings. If you find

yourself falling behind in the readings, I suggest you at least skim the texts for each week before lectures so you are familiar with the themes and issues addressed on that day.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive for lecture promptly. A penalty will be imposed on students who arrive late for class. Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will be penalized in the following manner: you will be permitted three absences over the course of the term; every absence thereafter will lower your grade by one third.

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else’s work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and will not be accepted in this class because it violates the University of Florida’s honesty policy. Please review the policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/>.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Please turn off your cell phones. If your cell phone rings or if you spend your time texting, you will be asked to leave the class and this will count as an unexcused absence.

Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Grade Distribution and Grading Scale

Participation* – 30 %	80 - 93	A - 71
Historic Code analysis – 15 %	72 - 90	B - 67
Review – 15 %	69 - 87	C - 63
Research Paper – 40 %	60 - 83	D - 60
	52 - 79	F - 56
Key below for breakdown	48 - 75	Low 55

Participation: History classes are most rewarding when students interact with the texts, each other, and the instructor on a sustained basis. Readings provide the raw material for class discussion, where much of the learning takes place. Effective class participation is therefore essential. Students can expect a respectful atmosphere in which to express their opinions. Participation will be graded on: a) contribution to in-class discussion based on a careful reading of the assigned texts; b) completion of the short weekly writing assignments (see the ‘Assignments’ page on the Canvas site). These will not be graded, but failure to complete them will bring your participation grade down; c) Regular and prompt attendance. If you spend your time in class engaged with other activities – like texting – your participation grade will also suffer.

The Research Paper: The goal of this assignment is to immerse you in an intense and extended project based on original research. As such, and perhaps unlike most other papers you’ve written at the university, it will demand significant planning

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx - hgrades>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Successful completion of this class is necessary for the major. You cannot graduate if you do not pass this class.

Books: The following book is required for this course:

Olivia Remie Constable, ed., *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, 2nd edition (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

It is available at the University of Pennsylvania Press website

(<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14910.html>) or at Amazon

(https://www.amazon.com/Medieval-Iberia-Readings-Christian-Sources/dp/0812221680/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1471543568&sr=8-1&keywords=medieval+iberia).

Be sure to buy the 2nd edition of this book.

All other readings will be posted on our Canvas site.

Weekly Schedule

25 August Introduction – themes, methods, expectations

Readings: Fernando Arias Guillen, “The Many Histories of Medieval Spain” in *The Medieval Journal* vol. 2, no. 2 (2012), 77-98.

1 September Making Spain Christian – The Visigothic Kingdom

Readings:

• **REQUIRED** The Visigothic Code - <http://libro.uca.edu/vcode/visigoths.htm>

- Hagith S. Sivan, “The Invisible Jews of Visigothic Spain,” *Revue des études Juives* 159, no. 3–4 (2000): 369–85.

- Wolfram Drews, “Jews as Pagans? Polemical Definitions of Identity in Visigothic Spain,” *Early Medieval Europe* 11, no. 3 (2002): 189–207.

• **RECOMMENDED** Javier Arce, “The Visigoths in Spain: Old and New Historical Problems,” in *Der Frühmittelalterliche Staat -- Europäische Perspektiven*. Ed. Walter Pohl and Veronika Wieser, Forschungen Zur Geschichte Des Mittelalters, 16; Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse: Denkschriften, 386 (Wien: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2009), 31–40.

- Michael McGlynn, “The Boys Are Back in Town: The Re-Gothicization of Spanish Law,” *Medieval Perspectives* 21 (2005): 119–39.

8 September Muslim Conquest and the culture of al-Andalus

• **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 31-60.

- Guillermo García-Contreras Ruiz, “Production and Use of Salt in Al-Andalus: A State of the Art and a Perspective on its Study,” in *Processing, Storage, Distribution of Food: Food in the Medieval Rural Environment*. Ed. Jan Klápště and Petr Sommer, *Ruralia*, 8 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2011), 31–43.

- María Jesús Viguera Molíns, “The Muslim Settlement Of Spania/ Al-Andalus,” in *The Formation Of Al-Andalus, Part 1: History and Society*. Ed. Manuela Marín, *The Formation Of The Classical Islamic World*, 46. (Aldershot: Ashgate, 1998), 15–38.

15 September The Caliphate

• **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 61- 100

- Ann Christys, “Crossing the Frontier of Ninth-Century Hispania,” in *Medieval Frontiers: Concepts and Practices*, ed. David Abulafia and Nora Berend, (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002), 35–53.

- D. Fairchild Ruggles, “Mothers of a Hybrid Dynasty: Race, Genealogy, and Acculturation in Al-Andalus,” in *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 34, no. 1 (2004): 65–94.

- Janina M. Safran, “Identity and Differentiation in Ninth-Century Al-Andalus,” *Speculum* 76, no. 3 (July 1, 2001): 573–98.

22 September Dissolution of the Caliphate and the Taifa period

• **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 101-137

- Maribel Fierro, "Religious Dissension in Al-Andalus: Ways of Exclusion and Inclusion," in *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Islam, III*, ed. Maribel Fierro, Critical Concepts in Islamic Studies (Abingdon: Routledge, 2014), 233–55.

- Alejandro García-Sanjuán, "Jews and Christians in Almoravid Seville as Portrayed by the Islamic Jurist Ibn 'Abdūn," *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 14, no. 1 (2008): 78–98.

29 September Crusade and Christian 'Reconquest' (Discussion – finding academic journals and using electronic resources)

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 147-171, 184-198

- Jonathan Ray, "Beyond Tolerance and Persecution: Reassessing Our Approach to Medieval *Convivencia*." *Jewish Social Studies* 11, no. 2 (2005): 1-18

- Alex Novikoff, "Between Tolerance and Intolerance in Medieval Spain: An Historiographic Enigma" *Medieval Encounters* 11:1-2 (2005), 8-36.

- Travis Bruce, "An Intercultural Dialogue between the Muslim Taifa of Denia and the Christian County of Barcelona in the Eleventh Century," *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 15, no. 1 (2009): 1–34.

- **RECOMMENDED** Manuela Marín, "From Al-Andalus to Spain: Arab Traces in Spanish Cooking," *Food and History: Revue Semestrielle Publiée Par l'Institut Européen d'Histoire et Des Cultures de l'Alimentation / Biannual Review Published by the European Institute for the History and Culture of Food* 2, no. 2 (2004): 35–52.

6 October Crusade and Christian 'Reconquest' – (discussion – how read and review and academic book)

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 203-233

Jorge A. Eiroa Rodríguez, "Historians, Historiography and Archaeologically Imperceptible Change," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 4, no. 1 (2012): 21–25.

- Francisco García Fitz, "Was Las Navas a Decisive Battle?," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 4, no. 1 (2012): 5–9.

- Amy G. Remensnyder, "The Boundaries of Christendom and Islam: Iberia and the Latin Levant," in *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity*. Ed. John H. Arnold (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 93–113.

- David Waines, "The Culinary Culture of Al-Andalus," in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, ed. Salma Khadra Jayyusi, Handbuch Der Orientalistik / Handbook of Oriental Studies, Abt. 1: Der Nahe Und Mittlere Osten / The Near and Middle East, 12 (Leiden: Brill, 1992), 725–38.

- **RECOMMENDED** Martin Alvira Cabrer, "Las Navas de Tolosa: The Beginning of the End of the Reconquista? The Battle and Its Consequences According to the Christian Sources of the Thirteenth Century," *Journal of Medieval Iberian History* 4, no. 1 (2012): 45–51.

Chose book for review – subject to my approval

13 October **INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS** – no regular class meeting.

Use this week to finish reading your book and writing your review

20 October Royal Power in the 13th Century

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 271-307

- R.I. Burns, "The Spiritual Life of James the Conqueror, King of Arago-Catalonia, 1208-1276: Portrait and Self-Portrait," *The Catholic Historical Review* 62, no. 1 (1976): 1–35.

- Thomas W. Barton, "Jurisdictional Conflict, Strategies of Litigation and Mechanisms of Compromise in Thirteenth-Century Tortosa," *Recerca (Tortosa)* 14 (2012): 203–50.

- David Nirenberg, "Deviant Politics and Jewish Love: Alfonso VIII and the Jewess of Toledo," *Jewish History* 21, no. 1 (2007): 15–41.

Book review due

27 October Life in the 13th Century

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia* 310-351

- Paul Freedman, "Rural Servitude and Legal Learning in Thirteenth-Century Catalonia," *The Haskins Society Journal* 22 (2012): 193–208.

- David Igual Luis, "Great and Small Trade in the Crown of Aragon. The Example of Valencia in the Late Middle Ages," *Imago Temporis: Medium Aevum* 3 (2009): 231–48.

- Antonio M. ZALDIVAR, "Patricians Embrace of the Dominican Convent of St. Catherine in Thirteenth-Century Barcelona," *Medieval Encounters* 18, no. 2–3 (2012): 174–206.

Project proposal due – must include preliminary bibliography with at least 2 primary and 5 secondary sources and research questions

3 November The 14th century

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia*, 377-405 and 420-434.

- David Nirenberg, "Massacre and Miracle in Valencia, 1391," in *La Corona Catalanoaragonesa, l'islam i el món Mediterrani: Estudis d'història Medieval nn Hhomenatge a la Doctora Maria Teresa Ferrer i Mallol*. Ed. Josefina Mutgè Vives, Roser Salicrú Lluch and Carles Vela Aulesa, Anuario de Estudios Medievales. Anejo, 71 (Barcelona: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Institución Milà i Fontanals, 2013), 515–26.

- Silleras Fernández, Núria. "'Nigra Sum Sed Formosa': Black Slaves and Exotica in the Court of a Fourteenth-Century Aragonese Queen." *Medieval Encounters* 13, no. 3 (2007): 546–65.

10 November Unification and the Inquisition

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia*, 482-530

- E. Michael Gerli, "Social Crisis and Conversion: Apostasy and Inquisition in the Chronicles of Fernando del Pulgar and Andrés Bernaldez.," *Hispanic Review: A Quarterly Journal Devoted to Research in the Hispanic Languages and Literatures* 70, no. 2 (2002): 147–67.

Initial draft of at least 8 pages due – one hard copy and one electronic copy

17 November Writing Workshop

24 November Thanksgiving

1 December Presentations