

EUH3931 Spanish Golden Age

Instructor: Dr. Max Deardorff

Office Hours: Tues. 10-11am & Weds. 11am-1pm (339 Grinter)

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MWF 10:40-11:30

TUR 2349



This course traces the process by which two kingdoms in southwest Europe developed the first global empire on which the sun never set, and how that great empire fell victim to decay and decline. Beginning with the marriage of the "Catholic Monarchs" (Ferdinand and Isabella) in 1469, this course covers the union of the Crowns of Castile and Aragon, the intertwining of the destiny of the Spanish kingdoms and the Holy Roman Empire, the Spanish conquest of the Americas, the birth of a golden age of literature and drama, Mediterranean conflict with the Ottoman Empire, and the extension of maritime trade across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

In the course of engaging with these topics, we will consider the cultural, religious, political, and economic factors that contextualized the history of the period. At various moments, our telescopic lens will fix upon a variety of themes: the relationships among Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Iberian Peninsula; early modern debates about the so-called "destruction of the Indies"; the Spanish Crown's role as the protector of Catholicism during the Reformation, and the distinct evolution of a Spanish honor culture.

Required Texts:

Jon Cowans, *Early Modern Spain: A Documentary History* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003). ISBN-13: 0812218450

John H. Elliott, *Imperial Spain, 1469-1716*, 2nd ed. (Penguin, 2002). ISBN-13: 9780141007038

Lope de Vega, *Three Major Plays* (Oxford University Press, 1999). ISBN-13: 9780192833372

Catalina de Erauso, *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World*. (Beacon Press, 1997) ISBN-13: 9780807070734

[additional readings assigned online or through CANVAS]

Course Reserves: When possible, one copy of “Required Texts” listed above will be available at Library Desk for consultation.

Course goals:

(1) Students will develop an understanding of how the destiny of a number of Iberian kingdoms became intertwined, and of **the internal and external factors that gradually led to the establishment of a durable “Spanish” political unit.**

(2) Students will learn to read primary texts in a critical fashion, with an eye to understanding how and why those texts were produced, and the formulas that determined the character of their content.

(3) Students will improve their writing and communication skills, by writing short and medium-length essays that ask historical questions and muster evidence from primary sources to support their theses. All papers will be graded and returned with feedback so as to encourage better performance on future papers.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance at lectures and discussions is mandatory. **Fridays (unless otherwise noted) will be devoted to discussion of the week’s readings.** Please attend section having read the week’s materials and bring a copy with you. Spotty attendance, unpreparedness, or failure to bring readings to discussion section will certainly lower your grade and poor attendance is grounds for failing the course; excellent attendance and especially energetic and informed participation will raise final grades.

Excused Absences: One absence will automatically be excused without question. That said, students who will not be able to take an exam at the scheduled time or need an extension of the due date for a paper must provide medical documentation of their condition at the time. The same holds true for any course meetings beyond the first that students might miss because of extended illness. Students who have other conflicts that will prevent them from being able to complete an assignment on time or who will incur absences due to UF-sanctioned activities (such as participation in UF teams, etc.) must notify the professor in advance.

Reading Responses: Over the semester, you will complete two Reading Responses. These assignments concern what we call “Secondary literature,” that is to say, articles or books in which historians use historical sources to write about the past. In roughly 600-700 words (2 double-spaced pages), you should identify the general theme or themes that unite the readings as well as any particular arguments that might distinguish them.

Source Analysis: At two points, you will be asked to analyze the documentation from one of the legal cases you have read that week. In roughly 600-700 words (2 double-spaced pages), you should be prepared to answer these questions: 1) Of what kind of crime was the defendant accused? 2) What procedures did the Inquisitors follow? 3) Which contemporary objectives of the Inquisition can be identified in the process? 4) What was the surrounding social context in Spain? 5) Did any line of questioning or piece of testimony catch your eye? Why did you find it interesting?

Essay

For your essay, due March 15th, you will receive a question that requires you to read and think through a set of readings and formulate a thesis. The length should be 1800 words (roughly 5-6 pages). Your essay should **not** be a summary of the readings or recapitulations of historical events (although you might need to include brief recaps as part of your argument). It should rely heavily upon analysis of the primary sources that you have discussed in your weekly section meetings.

Midterm and Final Exams:

- These may include fill-in-the-blanks with key terms, short answers, passage identifications, and short essays.
- They will include both lecture material and material from assigned readings.

Grading Scale for this Course:

92.5-100	A	87.5-82.5	B	77.5-72.5	C	67.5-62.5	D
92.5-90	A-	82.5-80	B-	72.5-70	C-	62.5-60	D-
90-87.5	B+	80-77.5	C+	70-67.5	D+	<u>Below 60 - Failing</u>	

Assignments

Reading Responses (x2):	10%
Source Analyses (x2):	10%
Map Quiz:	5%
Mid-term:	15%
Essay:	25%
Final:	25%
Class Participation and Attendance:	10%

Schedule of Readings:

Please note that this course will use the CANVAS site. Readings (those not contained in Required Texts) will be posted under “Resources” and this syllabus and any handouts or assignments will also appear there.

HOLIDAYS:

1. Introduction:

Mon 1/7 Wed 1/9, Fri 1/11

Monday 1/7: Deep Historical Background: Romans, Moors, and Jews

READING**: THE SYLLABUS

Wednesday 1/9: Politics and Society in 15th Century; the Catholic Monarchs

READING**: **Elliott** chapter 1 “The Union of the Crowns” (15-44)

Friday 1/11: Conversos, Anti-semitism, and the Expulsion of the Jews

READING**: “The Legal Status of Jews and Muslims in Castile (Siete Partidas)” Medieval Iberia: 269-275 [available on CANVAS]

Cowans docs 5 (Decree of Expulsion of the Jews), 6 (The Expulsion of the Jews)

2. Isabel, Ferdinand, and their Subjects

Mon 1/14 Wed 1/16, Fri 1/18

Monday 1/14: Government and Society in Early Modern Spain

READING**: **Elliott** “The Ordering of Spain” (77-110)

Wednesday 1/16: The Economy and its Social Foundations

READING**: **Elliott** “The Ordering of Spain” (110-129)

Friday 1/18: Fuente Ovejuna [DISCUSSION]

READING**: **Lope de Vega** (intro vii-xviii; 1-79; notes 267-279)

3. A Burgeoning Empire (& its Problems)

~~Mon 1/21~~, Wed 1/23, Fri 1/25

Wednesday 1/23: The World of Charles V

READING**: **Elliott** chapter 4 “The Imperial Destiny” and chapter 5 “The Government and the Economy in the Reign of Charles V” (130-194, 208-211)

Friday 1/25: The Growing Empire [DISCUSSION]

READING**: **Cowans docs**, 10 (Demands of the *Comuneros*), 11 (Charles V, Statement on Luther)

ASSIGNMENT***: **Map Quiz, Friday, January 25**

4. The Conquest of the Americas and its Justification

Mon 1/28 Wed 1/30, Fri 2/1

Monday 1/28: Columbus, the Indies, and Slavery

READING**: **Altman**, “The Spanish Caribbean, 1492–1550” [available on CANVAS];
Cowans doc 7 (Christopher Columbus),

Wednesday 1/30: Mexico, Peru, and the Rest

READING**: **Elliott** chapter 2 “Reconquest and Conquest” (45-76)

Friday 2/1: The Intellectual Debate over Empire [DISCUSSION]

READING**: **Cowans docs** 8 (The Requirement), 13 (Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda), 14 (Bartolomé de las Casas)

500-word (1.5 pages) source analysis due in class, Fri. 2/1

5. Commodities, People, and the First Age of Globalization

Mon 2/4, Wed 2/6, Fri 2/8

Monday 2/4: Global Trade, bringing Slavery back to Spain [DISCUSSION]

READING**: **Van Deusen**, “Coming to Castile with Cortés, Indigenous Servitude in the 16th Century” [available on CANVAS]

- Wednesday 2/6: Making the Indies Profitable
- READING**: **Cowans doc** 20 (Philip II, What to Learn Concerning Indian Tribute 1559); **Lane**, "[Potosí Mines](#)" *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*, DOI: [10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.013.2](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.013.2)
- Listen to "Episode 81: The Trans Pacific Silver Trade and Early-Modern Globalization" at *15 Minute History* (<https://15minutehistory.org/2016/04/13/episode-81-the-trans-pacific-silver-trade-and-early-modern-globalization/>)
- Friday 2/8: The Global Market for Minerals [DISCUSSION]
- READING**: **Lane**, chapter 4 "Empires and Inquisitors," from *Colour of Paradise: Emeralds in the Age of the Gunpowder Empires* [available on CANVAS]

500-word (1.5 pages) reading response due in class, Fri. 2/1

6. Women and Society

Mon 2/11, Wed 2/13, Fri 2/15

- Monday 2/11: Midterm Exam
- READING**: STUDY!
- Wednesday 2/13: The Lives of Women in Golden Age Spain
- READING**: **Fink De Backer**, *Widowhood in Early Modern Spain: Protectors, Proprietors, and Patrons*, chapter 4 "Master and Mistress of the Household" pages 111-122 & 132-147 [available on CANVAS]
Poska, "Sex and the Single Woman," in *Women and Authority in Early Modern Spain: The Peasants of Galicia* (Oxford, 2005): pages 75-83 [available on CANVAS]
- Friday 2/15: Feminine Honor, Household Ideals, and The Convent [DISCUSSION]
- READING**: **Cowans docs** 22 (St. Teresa of Ávila), 28 (The Perfect Wife), 32 (Vagabond Women)

7. Honor I: Gender, Honor, and Adventure in the Iberian Atlantic

Mon 2/18, Wed 2/20, Fri 2/22

- Monday 2/18: Nobility and Honor Culture
- READING**: **Taylor**, *Honor and Violence in Golden Age Spain*, chapter 3 "Honor and the Law" [available on CANVAS]

Cowans doc 46 (Laws of the Hapsburg Monarchy)

- Wednesday 2/20: Blood Purity
- READING**: begin reading **Catalina de Erauso**, *Lieutenant Nun*
- Friday 2/22: Lieutenant Nun [DISCUSSION]
- READING**: finish **Catalina de Erauso**, *Lieutenant Nun*

8. Honor II: Social Status and Mobility

Mon 2/25, Wed ~~2/27~~ [cancelled], Fri 3/1

- Monday 2/25: Honor in the Courtroom
- READING**: **Crawford**, *The Fight for Status and Privilege in Late Medieval and Early Modern Castile, 1465–1598*, **Introduction** “The Status of Hidalgo as a Social Claim”
- Wednesday 2/27: The “Picaresque” – Lazarillo de Tormes
- READING**: *Lazarillo de Tormes* (available at: <https://archive.org/details/thelifeoflazaril00437gut>)
- Friday 3/1: The Essay
- ASSIGNMENT***: Choose a topic and write a thesis sentence to bring to class
- ASSIGNMENT***: Essay due Friday, March 15

*****SPRING BREAK***** : Mon 3/4, Wed 3/6, Fri 3/8

9. Christian Spain and Religious Reform

Mon 3/11, Wed 3/13, Fri 3/15

- Monday 3/11: Religion in Spain at the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century
- READING**: **Christian**, *Local Religion*, **chapter 5** “Local Religion: Variation, Alternatives, and Reform”
- Wednesday 3/13: The Council of Trent

READING**: **Nalle**, "Teaching a Lesson and Learning One" in *God in La Mancha*, pages 104-128

Friday 3/15: The Inquisition at Midcentury

READING**: **Kamen**, *The Spanish Inquisition*, 4th ed., "Excluding the Reformation"

ASSIGNMENT*: Essay due Friday, March 15**

10. The Moriscos

Mon 3/18, Wed 3/20, Fri 3/22

Monday 3/25: Uncertainty, 1492-1560

READING**: **Cowans doc 4** (Surrender Treaty of the Kingdom of Granada 1491), Amelang, "Rise and Fall of the Moriscos: A Political History," in *Parallel Histories* (2013): 10-25

Wednesday 3/27: Repression, 1560-1614

READING**: **Cowans doc 25** (Francisco Núñez Muley, A Morisco Plea) Cavanaugh, "Litigating for Liberty, Enslaved Morisco Children in 16th-Century Valladolid"

Friday 3/29: Assimilation, Failure, and Expulsion

READING**: **Cowans docs 33** (Francisco Bermúdez de Pedraza), 34 (Decree of the Expulsion of the Moriscos), 35 (On the Expulsion of the Moriscos) "A Final Bow"

11. King Philip II's Struggle for Religious and Political Hegemony in Europe and the Mediterranean

Mon 3/25, Wed 3/27, Fri 3/29

Monday 3/18: Philip II, King of Both Spain & the Low Countries

READING**: **E.H. Kossman & A.F. Mellink eds**, "Introduction" in *Texts Concerning the Revolt of the Netherlands* (1974): 1-49

Cowans docs 21 (The Struggle Against Protestantism), 23 (The Situation in the Low Countries), 26 (Events in Antwerp 1576)

Wednesday 3/20: The Spanish Armada

READING**: **Parker**, "The Enterprise of England, 1585-1588" in *The Grand*

Strategy of Philip II (1998): 179-204

Cowans doc 30 (On the Causes of the Armada's Defeat 1588)

Friday 3/22:

The Mediterranean Conflict with the Ottoman Empire

READING**:

Hess, "The Moriscos: An Ottoman Fifth Column in Sixteenth-Century Spain"

The American Historical Review 74:1 (Oct., 1968): 1-25

Haselton, "Strange and Wonderful Things Happened to Richard

Hasleton...in His Ten Years' Travails in Many Foreign Countries (1595)," in

Vitkus ed., *Piracy, Slavery, and Redemption* (2001): 71-95.

500-word (1.5 pages) source analysis due in class, Wed. 3/22

12. A Seaborne Empire, Maritime Trade, and Financial Networks

Mon 4/1, Wed 4/3, Fri 4/5

Monday 4/1:

Philip II, A Sea, Two Oceans, and Trade

READING**:

Elliott part of chapter 7 "One Monarch, One Empire, and One Sword" and chapter 8 "Splendour and Misery" (268-320)

Cowans doc 27 (The Portuguese Succession 1579)

Wednesday 4/3:

Spain, Portugal, and Jewish and Converso Merchants

READING**:

Kintzler, *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean*, **chapter 5** "Amsterdam, the New Jerusalem"

Rupert, *Creolization and Contraband: Curaçao in the Early Modern Atlantic World*, **chapter 2** "Atlantic Diasporas"

Friday 4/5:

Africa and Africans in the Spanish Empire

READING**:

Wheat, "Global Transit Points and Travel in the Iberian Maritime World, 1580-1640" *In Governing the Sea in the Early Modern Era: Essays in Honor of Robert C. Ritchie*, Peter C. Mancall and Carole Shammas eds., 253-274. San Marino: Huntington Library, 2015

ASSIGNMENT*: 500-word (1.5 pages) reading response due in class, Fri. 4/5**

13. Outsiders and the Marginalized

Mon 4/8, Wed 4/10, Fri 4/12

Monday 4/8: Africa and Africans in Spain

READING**: **Martin Casares and Delaigue**, "The Evangelization of Freed and Slave Black Africans in Renaissance Spain: Baptism, Marriage, and Ethnic Brotherhoods" *History of Religions* 52:3 (February 2013): 214-235

Wednesday 4/10: Gypsies (and Witches)

READING**: **Pym**, *The Gypsies of Early Modern Spain*, **chapter 1** "The Early Years": 1-20

Friday 4/12: Can You Tell a Spaniard if You See One?

READING**: **Feros**, "Spaniards" in *Speaking of Spain: The Evolution of Race and Nation in the Hispanic World* (2017): 48-75.

14. The Hapsburg Empire, Stagnation, and Disintegration

Mon 4/15, Wed 4/17, Fri 4/19

Monday 4/15: The *Arbitristas* and Concern about the Welfare of the Empire

READING**: **Elliott** chapter 9 "Revival and Disaster" (321-360)

Cowans docs 31 (The Restoration of the Republic 1600); 36 (Instructions on Government 1624)

Wednesday 4/17: 1640, an Ominous Year

READING**: **Cowans docs** 37 (Catalan Grievances 1640), 38 (Pardoning the Catalan Rebels 1644)

Friday 4/19: The Thirty Years War, the Loss of the Low Countries, and the Separation of Portugal

READING**: **Cowans doc** 43 (Treaty Between Spain and Portugal 1668)

15. The Hapsburg Empire in the 17th Century

Mon 4/22, Wed 4/24, Fri 4/26

Monday 4/22: A Long Downward Spiral – Philip IV, Spain, and Europe

READING**: **Elliott** chapter 10 “Epitaph of an Empire” (361-372)

Cowans docs 44 (Memoirs of the Court of Spain 1678-82), 45 (Spain under Charles II 1696-99)

Wednesday 4/24: Politics of the late 17th C and the War of Spanish Succession

READING**: **Elliott** chapter 10 “Epitaph of an Empire” (372-386)

Cowans docs 47 (Decrees on Political Centralization 1707, 1716), 48 (The Treaty of Utrecht 1713)

FINAL EXAM Thursday, May 2: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm