

EUH-4310: Medieval Spain



Time and Location

Tuesdays 10:40-11:30 and Thursdays 10:40- 12:35

Flint 111

Description

The Middle Ages (ca. 500-1300) was a period of fundamental transformations in Spanish history. At the same time it was the only period between Antiquity and the modern age in which the Iberian Peninsula witnessed the most remarkable political, religious, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity in its history. Such diversity creates serious problem of study, as during the Middle Ages, three or, occasionally more, Christian states existed at the same time, each with its own distinct history, culture, and institutions. In addition, one or more Muslim powers dominated the south. The inescapable importance of the Jewish and Basque communities adds to a bewildering richness and complexity of the cultural and religious mix. The medieval history of Spain has long been regarded as isolated from the mainstream of European development, but

more than in any other period in the history of the Iberian Peninsula, Spain during the Middle Ages was linked to a vast region in Eurasia, from the banks of the Danube to the deserts of Arabia.

In this course we will examine the various aspects of that history. We will initially follow a topical, rather than chronological order. Our focus will be on the Spanish mainland, but we will also look at some of the neighboring areas, such as the Balears.

Textbooks

- Roger Collins, *Early Medieval Spain: Unity in Diversity, 400-1000*. 2nd edition. La Vergne: St. Martin's Press, 2010 [hereafter *Collins*]; ISBN 031212662X; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#)
- Olivia Remie Constable (ed.), *Medieval Iberia. Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*. 2nd edition. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012 [hereafter *Constable*]; ISBN 9780812221688; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#)
- Peter Linehan, *Spain, 1157-1300. A Partible Inheritance*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011 [hereafter *Linehan*]; ISBN 9781444339758; available as e-book through [Library West](#)
- Bernard F. Reilly, *The Contest of Christian and Muslim Spain, 1031-1157*. Malden/Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 1992 [hereafter *Reilly*]; ISBN: 978-0-631-19964-9; on two-hour reserve in [Library West](#)

Assignments and grading policies

There is no attendance policy, but you are responsible for attending all lectures and reading the required texts. Class participation may be taken into account to determine the overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be four quizzes and two exams (Midterm and Final). The unannounced quizzes are exclusively based on primary source readings from your *Constable* book and will consist only of multiple-choice questions (no essay). A careful study of these texts is necessary for a good performance at the quiz. The Midterm and Final exams will cover everything from lectures and readings. Both Midterm and Final will consist of two parts: an identification and/or multiple-choice part, and a short essay, in which you will be asked to synthesize your knowledge of the topic, dropping in facts to show that you understand the concrete aspects of that topic. Only the Midterm will be cumulative. In other words, the Final examination will cover only the material since the Midterm examination. Make-up Midterm and Final exam will be given for very serious reasons, in which case you will have to produce some official proof. There is no make-up for quizzes. Extra-credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. The format of the extra-credit option shall be discussed with the instructor during regular office hours. The following point system will be used in determining the final grade:

Quizzes: 40 points
Midterm: 30 points
Final exam: 30 points
Total: 100 points

The following scale will be used in determining your final grade.

<i>Points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
97-100	A
93-96	A-
88-92	B+
81-87	B
75-80	B-
68-74	C+
61-67	C
55-60	C-
48-54	D+
41-47	D
35-40	D-
under 30	E

Weekly Topics

Week 1 (January 11-15): Introduction

- A bit of Spanish geography; see a relief map of the [Iberian Peninsula](#), as well as views of the [Gibraltar Straits](#), the [Pyrenees](#), the [Meseta](#), the [Cantabrian Mountains](#), the [Sierra Morena](#), the [Cordillera Central](#), [Extremadura](#), [Mulhacén](#), and [terra rossa soils](#)
- Sources of the early medieval history of Spain [*Linehan* 1-7]; visit [Madinat al-Zahra](#), [Tolmo de Minateda](#), [El Bovalar](#), and the [Alcázar of Seville](#)
- The historiography of medieval Spain; see portraits of [Alfonso X](#), King of Castile, [Claudio Sánchez-Albornoz y Menduïña](#), [Marcellino Menéndez Pelayo](#), and [Américo Castro y Quesada](#)

Week 2 (January 18-22): Roman legacy and the emergence of a new order [*Collins* 1-31]

- The Roman achievement and twilight; see maps of the [Roman provinces](#) in the Iberian Peninsula; see the portraits of [Seneca](#), [Martial](#), [Quintilian](#), [Trajan](#), [Hadrian](#), and [Theodosius](#); visit [Italica](#) and [Emerita Augusta](#); see a map of Europe with the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela ([Camino de Santiago](#)) and images of the Roman amphitheater discovered in [Acci](#) (Guadix); read a brief presentation of [Priscillian and Priscillianism](#); visit the remains of fourth-century villas in [Centelles](#) and [La Olmeda](#), the walls in Barcelona ([Plaça Nova](#)), and the [Church of Sant Feliu](#) in Girona; see examples of [terra sigillata hispanica tardia](#) (TSHT)
- The Visigoths in Hispania; see a map of the [Visigothic migration](#) and a list of [Visigothic kings](#)
- The Visigothic kingdom (507-569); see a [map](#) of the Iberian Peninsula in the sixth century

Week 3 (January 25-29): The imposition of unity [*Collins* 32-86]

- Leovigild [*Constable* 5-11]; see the portrait of [King Leovigild](#) on one of his gold coins, and maps of the Visigothic kingdom at the [beginning](#) and at the [end](#) of Leovigild's reign; visit [Reccopolis](#) and [Olite](#) (Victorianum); see the [crown](#) of King Recceswinth and [gold coins](#) struck for King Leovigild
- The Church triumphant [*Constable* 12-20]; see the complete text (in translation) of the [Chronicle](#) of Isidore of Seville, as well as his [Etymologies](#); see the portrait of King [Sisebut](#) on one of his gold coins and visit [Toledo](#)

Week 4 (February 1-5): The seventh-century kingdom [*Collins* 87-143]

- Local society in towns and countryside; see the [“Roman bridge”](#) in Córdoba; visit the Visigothic villas in Pla de Nadal ([plan](#), [a reconstruction](#), and [carvings](#)), [Baños de Valdearados](#), and [Saucedo](#); see a reconstruction of the [El Bovalar village](#) and an example of slate text ([pizarra](#)) from Diego Álvaro
- The rulers of the people [*Constable* 27-29]; see the portrait of King [Chindaswinth](#) in an illuminated ninth-century manuscript
- Outsiders and the law [*Constable* 21-26]; see the complete text of the [Book of Judges \(Lex Visigothorum\)](#), with laws against Judaism in Book XII

Week 5 (February 8-12): The Arab conquest [*Collins* 144-180]

- The new masters [*Constable* 33-40]; see a map of the [Muslim conquest of Africa](#); visit [Kairouan](#)
- Conquest and society; visit [Córdoba](#) and see a [map](#) of al-Andalus with the northern marches (thugur); visit [Narbonne](#), [Carmona](#), [Zaragoza](#), [Girona](#), and [Carcassonne](#); see a medieval portrait of [Roland](#) and a coin of [al-Hakam I](#); visit [Fes](#) (Morocco) and mosque in Córdoba ([Mezquita](#) with a view of the [interior](#)); see a [map](#) of the Viking raids and an image of [Isla Menor](#) in the Guadalquivir river; visit [Beja](#) and [Calatrava](#).
- Society and government; visit [Ubeda](#), [Badajoz](#), [Bobastro](#), and [Aguilar de la Frontera](#)

Week 6 (February 15-19): The Umayyad regime [*Collins* 181-221]

- The government of a divided society [*Constable* 55-57; 75-86]; see a coin of [Abd al-Rahman III](#) and a [map](#) of the Caliphate of Córdoba; visit the [Fuengirola Castle](#) on Costa del Sol and the palatial compound at [Madinat al-Zahra](#) (with a [plan](#) and the view of the [reception hall](#)); see a view of the [mihrab](#) in the Córdoba mosque (Mezquita); see examples of golden jewelry found in [Madinat al-Zahira](#)
- The land of three religions [*Constable* 58-66; 91-92; 107-109]; read the [letter of Hasdai ibn Shaprut](#) to the King of the Khazars; visit [Cabra](#) and the abbeys of [San Torribio](#) in Liebana and [San Millán de la Cogolla](#); see an illuminated page from the Mozarabic manuscript of [Beatus of Liebana's Commentary on the Book of Revelations](#)
- The collapse of the Umayyad Caliphate; see an example of a [Berber turban](#) and a [map](#) of the *taifa* kingdoms

Week 7 (February 22-26): The Christian realms [*Collins* 222-265]

- The Asturias and León [*Constable* 67-74]; see a [map](#) of the kingdom of the Asturias, and the statue of [Pelagius](#) (Pelayo) in Covadonga; visit [Cangas de Onis](#), [Pravia](#), and [Oviedo](#) (especially the [Church of St. Julian](#) and its [frescoes](#)); visit the Church of St. Mary in [Monte Naranco](#), which was built in the southern wing of Ramiro I's palatial compound; see a map of [Castile](#); visit [Zamora](#), [Burgos](#), and the [Abbey of San Salvador de Valdedios](#); see a late medieval image of [St. James Matamoros](#) and the cross erected at [Clavijo](#); visit [León](#) (especially the [Church of St. Mary](#)) and [Salamanca](#); see a page from [Codex Vigilanus](#) and an illumination from [Codex Aemilianensis](#); visit the [Cathedral](#) in Santiago de Compostella and the abbeys of [Carracedo](#) and [Samos](#)
- The Kingdom of Pamplona and the county of Aragón; see a map of the Kingdom of Pamplona and its neighbors; visit [Nájera](#) and the abbeys of [Leyre](#), [San Juan de la Peña](#), and [San Millán de la Cogolla](#)
- Frankish March in Catalonia; see a [map](#) of early medieval Catalonia; visit the abbeys of [Gellone](#), [Sant Benet de Bages](#), [Ripoll](#) and [Cuxa](#), and the castle of [Cardona](#)

Week 8 (March 1-5): From the Umayyad Caliphate to the Empire of the Almoravids [*Reilly* 1-14, 99-104]

- The *taifa* kingdoms [*Constable* 107-116]; visit [Granada](#), [Seville](#), [Zaragoza](#), (with a view of the interior of the [Aljafería](#)), [Badajoz](#), and [Albarracín](#); see a portrait of [Alfonso VI](#) and the influence of the [Abbey of Cluny](#) (with a reconstruction of the [third abbey church](#), to the building of which he contributed); visit [Tarifa](#), [Coria](#), and [Toledo](#)
- The Almoravids [*Constable* 142-146; 227-231]; see maps of the [Almoravid Empire](#), the [Atlas mountain](#) range (with a view of the [High Atlas](#)), the medieval [trade](#) in Western Africa, and the situation in [Spain](#) after the Almoravid conquest; visit [Wadi Ziz](#), [Marrakesh](#) (especially the Almoravid [koubba](#)), [Tlemcen](#), [Tangier](#), and [Ceuta](#); see an Almoravid [dinar](#) struck in Marrakesh; visit [Aledo](#), [Bairén](#), [Consuegra](#), and [Ucles](#); see a clip from the the [1961 The Cid movie](#); visit [Motril](#) and [Fraga](#).

Week 9 (March 8-12): Under Muslim rule [*Reilly* 14-24]

- Jews and Judaism in Muslim Spain [*Constable* 117-130]

- The Mozarab community
- Midterm

Week 10 (March 15-19): The Christian world of northern Spain [*Reilly* 25-98]

- Fernando I el Magno and Navarra [*Constable* 147-161]; see a [map](#) of the Iberian Peninsula at the death of Fernando el Magno; visit [Lamego](#), [Viseu](#), [Coimbra](#), [Calahorra](#), [Graus](#) and [Barbastro](#), the castle of [Luna](#), as well as the abbeys of [San Pedro de Cardeña](#) and [San Pedro de Montes](#)
- The society of the Christian North [*Constable* 162-165]; visit the monasteries of [San Pelayo de Antealtares](#) and [San Martín Pinarío](#) in Santiago de Compostella, as well as the [Church of Santa María el Real in Nájera](#); see a [map](#) of the *via francigena* and a [coin](#) struck in Jaca for the Aragonese King [Sancho Ramírez I](#); visit [Coyanza](#)
- The hegemony of León–Castile under Alfonso VI; visit [La Rioja](#), [Avila](#), [Salamanca](#), [Segovia](#), [Medina del Campo](#), [Coria](#), [Medinaceli](#) and [Ucles](#); see a statue of [El Cid](#) in the Balboa Park, San Diego, California

Week 11 (March 22-26): Dynastic crisis in León–Castile and the rise of Aragón and Catalonia [*Reilly* 105-180]

- Aragón and León–Castile at war; visit the [abbey of Sahagún](#), the castle of [Candespina](#), and [Astorga](#); see portraits of Queen [Urraca](#), [Alfonso I of Aragón](#) and [Count Pedro Froilaz de Traba](#)
- The rise of Portugal [*Constable* 180-183]; see a [map](#) of the kingdom of Aragón; visit the castle of [Lanhoso](#), [Orense](#), [Sigüenza](#), [Túy](#), and [Saldaña](#); visit [Tudela](#), [Tarazona](#), [Borja](#), [Calatayud](#), [Daroca](#), [Denia](#), [Guadix](#), and [Alamazán](#)
- Barcelona in Catalonia [*Constable* 166-171]

Week 12 (March 29-April 2): The Almohad Caliphate [*Reilly* 231-238]

- The second *taifas*; visit [Santarem](#) and [Lisbon](#)
- Early Almohad caliphate [*Constable* 239-251]; see a [map](#) of Europe and Africa in ca. 1200; visit the [Sus](#) valley in Morocco, with [Tinmal](#) (visit the [mosque](#) where the early Almohads are buried); visit the [Kasbah des Oudaias](#) in Rabat and [al-Mahdiyya](#) in Tunisia; visit the [Albaicin](#) quarter in Granada, [Évora](#), [Trujillo](#), [Huete](#), [Alcaraz](#), [Buñol](#), [Cuenca](#), and [Beja](#); see a portrait of [Averroes](#) in a fourteenth-century Florentine fresco
- Late Almohad caliphate [*Constable* 267-270]; see a [map](#) of the Almohad caliphate in the late twelfth century; visit [Silves](#), [Torres Novas](#), [Tomar](#), [Alcácer do Sal](#), [Alarcos](#), [Montánchez](#), and Seville (especially the [Giralda](#), the [walls](#) by Puerta Macarena, and the [Torre del Oro](#)); see a reconstruction of the [tapial](#) technique of building walls and see example in [Alcalá de Guadaíra](#) and [Cáceres](#); visit the [Alhambra](#) and see a [map](#) of the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula, with the kingdom of Granada.

Week 13 (April 5-9): The hegemony of the Christian North [*Reilly* 181-230]

- Alfonso VII; see a portrait of [Ramón Berenguer IV](#) and a map of [Navarre](#) during the first half of the twelfth century; visit [Mequinenza](#), [Valencia de Don Juan](#), [Palencia](#), [Asturias de Santillana](#), [Castrojeriz](#), the [Abbey of Celanova](#), [Ourique](#), and [Arcos de Valedevez](#)
- The Reconquista and the Second Crusade [Constable 203-210]; see maps of the [Second Crusade](#), the [Treaty of Tudején](#), twelfth-century [Languedoc](#), and the [Christian North](#) after the death of Alfonso VII; visit [San Estebán de Gormaz](#), [Almería](#), [Tortosa](#), [Lleida](#) (Lérida), and [La Fresneda](#)
- Christian Iberian society in the twelfth century [Constable 211-220]; see a picture of the present-day [transhumance](#) in Spain; visit the abbeys of [Fitero](#), [Poblet](#), [Alcobaça](#), and the abbey churches of [Leyre](#) and [Santa Cruz de Coimbra](#); visit the cathedrals of [Jaca](#), [Zamora](#), and [Salamanca](#), and the churches of [San Martín](#) in Frómista (with [plan](#)) and [Santa Eulalia](#) in Barcelona

Week 14 (April 12-16): The age of Las Navas de Tolosa [*Linehan* 7-85, 104-114]

- Castile victorious [*Constable* 273-283]; see a [map](#) of the Iberian Peninsula in the early thirteenth century; see the [portraits](#) of Sancho III and Fernando II, as well as of [Alfonso VIII](#) and visit the Abbey of [San Zoilo de Carrión](#); visit the [University of Salamanca](#) and see a portrait of [St. Dominic](#)
- Alfonso X [*Constable* 287-292, 347-351]; see the effigy of [doña Berenguela](#) and a portrait of her son, [Fernando III \(St. Fernando\)](#); see a portrait of [James \(Jaume\) I](#) of Aragón and a [map](#) of his kingdom
- The Church in the Peninsula. A land of three religions [*Constable* 184-202, 397-405]

Week 15 (April 19-21): The Iberian Peninsula between 1200 and 1300 [*Linehan* 86-103, 114-234]

- Economy and society [*Constable* 293-302, 311-321]; visit the [Aljarafe](#) with its typical olive tree groves; see a [maravedí](#) struck for Alfonso VIII
- The crown of Aragon: a Mediterranean empire. Castile and Granada

April 30, 10:00-12:00: Final exam