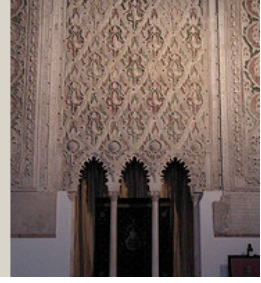




## INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL SPAIN



### Course proposed by Alexandra Guerson

This course will focus on the history of medieval “Spain” from the fifth to the early sixteenth centuries. Spain is in quotation marks because during this period, the area that we now refer to as Spain did not exist as a unified country but instead consisted of a variety of smaller kingdoms that were often politically, culturally and religiously distinct from one another. Over the next 15 weeks, we will explore various aspects of these regions, starting with the development of Visigothic kingdoms in the fifth century and ending with the ascension of Carlos I to the throne in 1512. Along the way we will consider topics such as the creation of al-Andalus, society and culture in Muslim Spain, Christian-Jewish-Muslims relations in Muslim and Christian Spain, Frontier Society, the formation of a plural society, Castilian and Aragonese government and institutions, the growth of royal power, the creation of religious uniformity and colonial expansion. Class time will be divided between lectures and discussion. Students will have the opportunity to read a variety of primary and secondary sources.

### Required texts

- Roger Collins, *Early Medieval Spain: Unity in Diversity, 400-1000* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Palgrave, 1995)
- Olivia Remie Constable ed., *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Muslim, Christian and Jewish Sources* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997)
- *The Poem of the Cid* (dual language edition; Penguin, 1985)
- Richard Fletcher, *The Quest for El Cid* (Oxford, 1991)
- Angus MacKay, *Spain in the Middle Ages: From Frontier to Empire, 1000-1500*

### Assignments

- Primary Source Evaluation of *The Poem of the Cid* (5-7 pages) **15%**
- Book Review of *The Quest for El Cid* (5-7 pages) **15%**
- Short Essays (each 3-4 pages) **3 x 5% = 15%**  
Each of these essays is based on primary sources read for the previous weeks.
- Mid-term test **15%**
- Participation and Attendance **20%**
- Final Exam **20%**

## LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

- Week 1**                    **Introduction**
- The Idea of “Spain”**  
*Medieval Iberia*, “Introduction”  
*Early Medieval Spain*, “Introduction” and “Chapter One: The Emergence of New Order”
- Week 2**                    **Visigothic Spain**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #1-In Praise of Spain; #3-The Visigothic Conversion to Catholicism; #4-Visigothic Legislation Concerning the Jews  
*Early Medieval Spain*, “Chapter 2:The Imposition of Unity” and “Chapter Four: The Seventh-Century Kingdom”
- Muslim Conquest and the creation of al-Andalus**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #6-Two Accounts of the Muslim Conquest; #7-A Muslim-Christian Treaty; #8-Christian Resistance in the North  
*Early Medieval Spain*, “Chapter Five: The Arab Conquest”
- Week 3**                    **Umayyad Caliphate**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #9-An Uprising Against Amir al-Hakam; #13-On the Campaigns and Diplomacy of ‘Abd al-Rahman III  
*Early Medieval Spain*, The Umayyad Regime
- Society and Culture in Muslim Spain**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #10-A Christian Account of the Life of Muhammad
- Week 4**                    **Christians in Muslim Spain**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #11-Eulogius and the Martyrs of Cordoba
- Jews in Muslim Spain**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #14-A Jewish Administrator Under Caliph Hisham
- Week 5**                    **Christian Kingdoms in the north to the 10<sup>th</sup> century**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #12  
*Early Medieval Spain*, Chapter 7: The Christian Realms”
- Political Fragmentation and the Taifa Kingdoms (11<sup>th</sup> century)**  
*Medieval Iberia*, #15-Ibn Hazm, The Ring of the Dove; #17-A Jewish Vizier Describes the Battle of Alfuentes; #19-The Political Dilemma of Granadan Ruler  
*Spain in the Middle Ages*, “Introduction”

**\*\*\*\*First Short Essay Due\*\*\*\***

**Week 6**

**Film, *El Cid***

**Conquest and Holy War**

*\*Medieval Iberia*, #21-Concerning King Sancho I of Aragon and His Deeds; #24-Redeeming a Captive Jewish Woman; #27-Two Arguments in Support of Christian Faith

*\*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter One"

**Week 7**

**Frontier Society in the Christian Kingdoms**

*\*Medieval Iberia*, #22-Two Christian Urban Charters; #23-Justice in Catalonia; #26-The Pilgrimage to Santiago

*\*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter Two"

**Conquest, Colonization and the Formation of a Plural Society**

*Medieval Iberia*, #38-The Christian Conquest of Valencia; #39-The Christian Conquest of Seville; #41-Resettlement and Redistribution of Land

*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter Three"

**\*\*\*\*Primary Source Evaluation of *The Poem of El Cid* due\*\*\*\***

**Week 8**

**The Transmission of Ideas**

*Medieval Iberia*, #33-Hispano-Arabic Poetry; #36-Jewish Listeners and an Arab Astrologer; #37-The Life of an Andalusí Mystic

*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter Four"

**Castilian Government and Institutions**

*\*Medieval Iberia*, #44-The King and Cortes; #45-The Proper Qualities of a King

*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter Five" pages 95-103

**Week 9**

**Crown of Aragon: Government and Institutions**

*Medieval Iberia*, #43-Everyday Life in the Crown of Aragon

*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter Five" pages 104-120

**MID-TERM**

**Week 10**

**14<sup>th</sup> century: Expansion and Conflict**

*Spain in the Middle Ages*, "Chapter 6"

\* excerpts from King Pere III's Chronicle

**14<sup>th</sup> century: Royal Power and Resistance**

*Spain in the Middle Ages, "Chapter Seven"*

\* excerpts from King Pere III's Chronicle

**\*\*\*\*Second Short Essay Due\*\*\*\***

**Week 11**

**14<sup>th</sup> century: Society and Economy**

*Medieval Iberia*, #53-Memoirs of a Castilian Noblewoman; #54-The Convent and the World

*Spain in the Middle Ages, "Chapter Eight"*

**Mudejar Society**

\**Medieval Iberia*, #47-The Legal Status of Jews and Muslims in Castile

**Week 12**

**Jews in the 14<sup>th</sup> century**

*Medieval Iberia*, #48-The Early Career of Ramon Llull; #49-On Preaching and Conversion

**Castile in the 15<sup>th</sup> century**

*Medieval Iberia*, #56-Pageants and Festivities in Castile

*Spain in the Middle Ages, "Chapter Nine"*

**Week 13**

**Crown of Aragon in the 15<sup>th</sup> century**

*Medieval Iberia*, #60-Muslims and Jews in Valencia

**\*\*\*\*Quest for El Cid review due\*\*\*\***

**Catholic Kings: Royal Authority**

*Medieval Iberia*, #61-The Christian Conquest of Granada

**Week 14**

**Catholic Kings: Religious Reform, Inquisition and Expulsion**

*Medieval Iberia*, #59-Heresy and Inquisition; #62-The Expulsion of the Jews

**Expansion in the Mediterranean and Atlantic**

*Medieval Iberia*, #64-The Castilian New World

**Week 15**

**Carlos I and the 16<sup>th</sup> century**

**\*\*\*\*Third Short Essay Due\*\*\*\***

**Review & conclusion**