



HUMA 4803 CHURCH, MOSQUE, AND SYNAGOGUE Christians, Muslims and Jews in Medieval Spain



Seminars: Mondays, 2:30-5:30 pm (YK SC 205)

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Office hours	Mondays, 1:00:2:00	Website	http://huma4803y2016.pbworks.com/

This course will explore various aspects of Christian-Jewish-Muslim relations in medieval “Spain” from the 5th to the 17th century. Since ancient times, the Iberian Peninsula has been home to various ethnic and religious groups. The Jews inhabited the peninsula since Roman times and with the Muslim conquest of 711, Iberia became one of the most heterogeneous societies of medieval Europe. For nearly eight hundred years, Spain was the “land of the three religions”. It is important to note that 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. This diversity has shaped every aspect of life in the Iberian peninsula and has made the medieval Spanish kingdoms very difficult for non-Spaniards to understand.

Growing religious tensions and concerns over cross-cultural relations has marked our early twenty-first century, making the medieval Iberian peninsula and Spain in particular a topic of great interest and the subject of many debates. The course will explore social, economic, religious, intellectual, and cultural contacts placing particular emphasis on their geographic, political, and temporal contexts. Students will have the opportunity to engage in both primary sources and to evaluate the writings of scholars. By looking at the primary sources ourselves, we will explore the difficulties faced by scholars as they assess the evidence from the past.

Course Format

This course is a seminar and it is therefore based on discussion. Attendance is mandatory, as is participation in class discussion. Each week, two students will act as discussion leaders (see course website for tips in leading discussions). All students are required to do the assigned readings before each class so that they are fully prepared to participate. **Attendance alone does not guarantee a passing grade.** It is your responsibility to contact me if you need to miss class because of religious holidays.

As a jumping off point for our in-class discussion, everyone is required to post a comment on the readings for each class on the course wiki site. Discussion leaders can use these comments as a foundation for the class they are leading.

After reading week, there will be three weeks dedicated to student presentations. These presentations should be 15 minutes in length and are to be based on material from your major research project.

Required texts

All books are available at the campus bookstore and on reserve at the Scott Library. Some articles are also available through the course website.

Fall Semester:

- Constable, Olivia Remie., ed. *Medieval Iberia : Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*. 2nd edition. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.
- Fletcher, R. A. *The Quest for El Cid*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Hamilton, Rita., ed. *The Poem of the Cid*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1984.

Winter semester:

- Meyerson, Mark D. *A Jewish Renaissance in Fifteenth-Century Spain*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Nirenberg, David. *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Under course reserves at Scott Library (in addition to the above)

- Collins, Roger. *Early Medieval Spain: Unity in Diversity, 400-1000*. 2nd edition. London: Macmillan Press, 1995.
- MacKay, Angus. *Spain in the Middle Ages: From Frontier to Empire, 1000-1500*
- Hillgarth, J. N. *The Spanish Kingdoms, 1250-1516*. 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976.
- Jarryusi, Salma Khadra, and Manuela Marín, eds. *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*. 2nd ed. Leiden; New York: E.J. Brill, 1994.

Course Websites

For this course, we will be using both Moodle and a course site.

[Moodle](#)

Moodle is the course management platform used by this course; although the course does not rely on Moodle for most of its weekly activities, students will be able to access their grades through it.

Course site

Everything else will be on the course site. You can access it at:
<http://huma4803y2016.pbworks.com/>

To log in, click on the “Request access” button on the right side of the screen. You will be asked for your email address. If your email is not a York U email address, please write your name in the message box below the email so I know that you are registered in the class.

Log in to
huma4803y2016.pbworks.com

This workspace is licensed for non-commercial use only. [Learn More](#)

You've been logged out of PBworks.

Email/username

Password

Remember me

[Forgot your password?](#)

Not a member?

To get in touch
[Contact the workspace owner](#)

The wiki will be used for:

- posting all assignment sheets
- posting links to readings
- discussion of the readings (see below for requirements)
- questions regarding course issues, readings, and assignments.

Assignments

- Participation

30%

• Wiki discussion		10%
• Primary Source Evaluation (1,200 -1,500 words)		10%
• Secondary Source Evaluation (1,200-1,500 words)		10%
• Final Research Project		40%

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation 30% (In-Class); 10% (Wiki posts)

As you can see from the above, class attendance and participation accounts for 30% of your mark. **You cannot make up this mark at the end of the course.** In addition, you are supposed to also participate in discussion on the course wiki page.

Your participation grade is divided between:

a) Online discussion. **(10%)** For the online discussion, go to the course page on pbworks and share your impressions of the readings with the class. The comments that you post on the readings will act as a springboard for in-class discussion. You may respond to both the readings and the comments made by your fellow students. You must do this before the morning of class day so that the discussion leaders have time to review the comments before the beginning of class.

b) Participating weekly in class discussions + acting as discussion leaders for two classes **(20% + 10%)**

As participation and attendance is worth 20% of your final grade, participating on a regular basis and attending all classes can make the difference between passing or failing this course. Note that **attendance only, without any informed participation, does not guarantee a passing grade. You cannot make up for missed classes.**

Leading class discussions twice in the academic year will account for 10% of your class participation. Each week, a group of 2-3 students will be in charge of leading class discussions. The main objective of discussion leaders is to get the class to participate in discussion.

Written Assignments (60%)

El Cid Essay: Between Myth and History –(due October 28th) 10%

In this essay, you will compare and contrast two important sources regarding one of the most powerful characters of Spanish history: Rodrigo Díaz del Vivar, also known as El Cid. The main aim of the essay is to highlight the importance of thinking about a topic through multiple sources, but also to keep in mind the distinctions and similarities between sources we consider to be fictional versus those we consider historical.

This essay should be **1,200-1,500 words**. Please see the specific assignment sheet on the course wiki for more details.

Secondary Source Evaluation (due November 24th) 10%

The aim of this assignment is to review a book related to the topic of your final project and examine how this book has been received by scholars. You will need to read a book and three reviews of that book for this assignment. It should be 1,200-1,500 words. Please see the specific assignment sheet on the course site for more details.

Research Project 40% (Proposal & final project: 30% Presentation: 10%)

For your final research project, you will be required to research a topic related to Christians, Jews, and/or Muslims in medieval Spain. Your project must be based on AT LEAST one primary source and AT LEAST FIVE secondary sources. It must have an argument based on evidence and citations should follow the Chicago Manual of Style. You will need to submit a proposal on **January 26th** for your assignment to be graded. Presentations on the final project will take place during the three weeks after reading week (**Feb 27th, Mar 6th, and Mar 13th**). The final project is due **April 3rd**.

Course Policies

Late Penalties:

There is a **zero tolerance policy** in this class. This means that late assignments **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Extensions are possible, but students **MUST** get in touch with instructor ahead of time to arrange for one.

Submission of Papers:

All assignments must be submitted as specified on the assignment sheet. Make sure to check the appropriate way of submitting each assignment.

Plagiarism and Student Code of Conduct:

Plagiarism occurs when a student submits or presents work of another person in such a manner as to lead the reader to believe that it is the student's original work; self-plagiarism is the submission of work previously submitted for academic credit without prior written and signed approval of the current course instructor.

Cheating takes numerous forms and includes, but is not limited to, the following: copying from another student's work or allowing another student to copy from one's own work; obtaining a copy of an examination before it is officially available; misrepresenting or falsifying references, citations, or sources of information; knowingly recording or reporting false or invented empirical or statistical data; and possession of notes, books, diagrams or other aids during examinations that are not authorized by the examiner.

For more information, please check http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/index.html

SEMINAR TOPICS AND READINGS

All readings, except those marked with an asterisk, are in course website or in Constable, Medieval Iberia. The asterisked readings are all available for purchase in the bookstore and under reserve at the Scott Library.

Check out [“Reading Skills for University”](#) page developed by the Learning Skills Centre.

1. Sep 12th – Introduction to the course

2. Sep 19th – The Idea of “Spain” and Reading Primary Sources

**Medieval Iberia*, “Introduction”

Howell, Martha C. “The Source: The Basis of Our Knowledge about the Past,” *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods*. Ithaca, N.Y: Cornell University Press, 2001.

Meyerson, Mark D. “Introduction.” In *Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Spain : Interaction and Cultural Change* edited by Edward D. English and Mark D. Meyerson. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1999.

3. Sep 26th - Jews in Visigothic Spain

* *Medieval Iberia*, #3-The Visigothic Conversion to Catholicism; #4-Visigothic Legislation Concerning the Jews

Bachrach, Bernard S. “A Reassessment of Visigothic Jewish Policy, 589-711.” *The American Historical Review* 78, no. 1 (1973): 11–34.

Fuente, María Jesús. “Jewish Women and Visigothic Law.” In *Jews in Early Christian Law : Byzantium and the Latin West, 6th-11th Centuries*, 267–82. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2014.

Stocking, Rachel L. “Early Medieval Christian Identity and Anti-Judaism: The Case of the Visigothic Kingdom.” *Religion Compass* 2, no. 4 (2008): 642–658.

4. Oct 3rd - Muslim Conquest and the Umayyad Caliphate

* *Medieval Iberia*, #6- Accounts of the Muslim Conquest; #7-Regulations for Non-Muslims under Islamic Rule, #8 A Muslim-Christian Treaty; #9-Christian Resistance in the North; #10-An Uprising Against Amir al-Hakam; #14-On the Campaigns and Diplomacy of ‘Abd al-Rahman III

* *The Quest for El Cid*, “Chapter Two: Al-Andalus” and “Chapter Three: The Breaking of the Necklace”

Clarke, Nicola. “Medieval Arabic Accounts of the Conquest of Cordoba: Creating a Narrative for a Provincial Capital.” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 74, no. 1 (2011): 41–57.

Pierre Guichard, “The Social History of Muslim Spain from the conquest to the end of the Almohad regime” in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, vol. 2, ed. Salma Khadra Jayyusi and Manuela Mar’n (New York: Brill, 1994), 679-708.

October 10th – Thanksgiving

5. Oct 17th - Christians in Muslim Spain

**Medieval Iberia*, #11-A Christian Account of the Life of Muhammad, #12-Christians in Córdoba, #41-Hispano-Arabic Poetry;

Coope, Jessica A. “Religious and Cultural Conversion to Islam in Ninth-Century Umayyad Córdoba.” *Journal of World History* 4, no. 1 (April 1, 1993): 47–68.

Wolf, Kenneth Baxter. “Christians in Muslim Córdoba.” In *Christian Martyrs in Muslim Spain*, 5-10. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Wasserstein, David J. “The Christians of Al-Andalus: Some Awkward Thoughts.” *Hispania Sacra : Revista de Historia Eclesiástica* 54, no. 110 (December 30, 2002): 501–514.

6. Oct 24th - Jews in Muslim Spain

**Medieval Iberia*, #16-A Jewish Administrator Under Caliph Hisham Abraham ibn Daud; #20 – A Jewish Vizier describes the Battle of Alfuentes; #21 – Two Jewish Viziers in Granada; #24-The Political Dilemma of Granadan Ruler

Decker, Jonathan. “Before Caliphs and Kings: Jewish Courtiers in Medieval Iberia.” In *The Jew in Medieval Iberia*, edited by Jonathan Ray, 1–32. Academic Studies Press, 2012.

Wasserstein, David. “Jewish Elites in al-Andalus.” In *The Jews of Medieval Islam: Community, Society, and Identity*, edited by Daniel Frank, 101-110. New York: E.J. Brill, 1995.

Gomez-Aranda, Mariano. “The Contribution of the Jews of Spain to the Transmission of Science in the Middle Ages.” *European Review* 16, no. 02 (2008): 169–181.

**** First Essay Due October 28th ****

7. Oct 31st - Research Day

We will go over research strategies for locating book reviews for the second essay as well as doing research for the final project.

8. Nov 7th - El Cid: a Problem of Sources

* *Poem of the Cid*

“Historia Roderici.” In *The World of El Cid : Chronicles of the Spanish Reconquest*, 98–147. New York: distributed exclusively in the USA by St. Martin’s Press, 2000.

9. Nov 14th –El Cid: Myth and History

* Fletcher, R. A. *The Quest for El Cid*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991 (especial attention to chapters 7, 11, 12)

Barton, Simon. “El Cid, Cluny and the Medieval Spanish Reconquista.” *The English Historical Review* CXXVI, no. 520 (2011): 517–43.

10. Nov 21st - - Holy War and Frontier Society

* *Medieval Iberia*, #26-Concerning King Sancho I of Aragon and His Deeds; #29-Redeeming a Captive Jewish Woman; #27-Two Christian Urban Charters; #28-Justice in Catalonia; #38 – Municipal Law on the Castilian Frontier; #52 Administration of an Urban Militia

Burnett, Charles. “The Coherence of the Arabic-Latin Translation Program in Toledo in the Twelfth Century.” *Science in Context* 14, no. 1–2 (n.d.): 249–88.

Dillard, Heath. “Townsmen and the Medieval Settlement of Castile.” *Daughters of the Reconquest: Women in Castilian Town Society, 1100-1300*, 12-35. Vol. Cambridge Iberian and Latin American studies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Lourie, Elena. “A Society Organized for War: Medieval Spain.” *Past and Present* (1966): 54–76.

Ray, Jonathan. “The Migration of Jewish Settlers to the Frontier.” In *The Sephardic Frontier: The Reconquista and the Jewish Community in Medieval Iberia*, 15–35. Ithaca, N.Y: Cornell University Press, 2006.

**** Second essay due November 24th ****

11. Nov 28th – Conquest, Colonization, and the Formation of a Plural Society in Thirteenth-Century Spain

* *Medieval Iberia*, #48-The Christian Conquest of Valencia; #50 – A Treaty on the Valencian Frontier; #51-The Christian Conquest of Seville; #53-Resettlement and Redistribution of Land

Powers, James F. "Frontier Municipal Baths and Social Interaction in Thirteenth-Century Spain." *The American Historical Review* 84, no. 3 (June 1, 1979): 649–67.

Barton, Thomas W. "Lords, Settlers and Shifting Frontiers in Medieval Catalonia." *Journal of Medieval History* 36, no. 3 (September 2010): 204–52.

Burns, Robert I. "Immigrants from Islam: The Crusaders' Use of Muslims as Settlers in Thirteenth-century Spain." *The American Historical Review* 80, no. 1 (February 1975): 21–42.

12. Dec 5th - Religious Polemics & Proselytizing

**Medieval Iberia*, #57 – Barcelona Disputation of 1263; #60 – Tales of Marian Miracles; #67 – The Early Career of Ramon Llull; #68-On Preaching and Conversion;

Chazan, Robert. "The Barcelona 'Disputation' of 1263: Christian Missionizing and Jewish Response." *Speculum* 52, no. 4 (October 1, 1977): 824–42.

Simon, Larry J. "Intimate Enemies: Mendicant-Jewish Interaction in Thirteenth-Century Mediterranean Spain." In *Friars and Jews in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*, edited by Susan E. Myers and Steven J. McMichael, 53–80. Leiden: Brill, 2004.

Tartakoff, Paola. "Christian Kings and Jewish Conversion in the Medieval Crown of Aragon." *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 3, no. 1 (March 2011): 27–39.

*****WINTER BREAK*****

13. Jan 9th - Sex and Marriage

Guest: Dana Wessell Lightfoot

Medieval Iberia, #78 Marriage and Divorce in Muslim Granada,
Marriage Contracts; Dowry Restitution Case

Lightfoot, Dana Wessell. "The Projects of Marriage: Spousal Choice, Dowries, and Domestic Service in Early Fifteenth-Century Valencia." *Viator* (Berkeley) 40, no. 1 (January 1, 2009): 333–353.

Barton, Simon. "Marriage Across Frontiers: Sexual Mixing, Power and Identity in Medieval Iberia." *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 3, no. 1 (March 2011): 1–25.

Nirenberg, David. "Conversion, Sex, and Segregation: Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain." *The American Historical Review* 107, no. 4 (October 2002): 1065–1093.

14. Jan 16th - Law & Society: Christians, Jews, and Muslims in Court

**Medieval Iberia*, #58- "Jewish Court Documents from Barcelona"; Domestic abuse case 1422;

Klein, Elka. "Public Activities of Catalan Jewish Women." *Medieval Encounters* 12, no. 1 (2006): 48–61.

Kelleher, Marie A. "Hers by Right: Gendered Legal Assumptions and Women's Property in the Medieval Crown of Aragon." *Journal of Women's History* 22, no. 2 (2010): 34–55.

O'Connor, Isabel A. "Muslim Mudejar Women in Thirteenth-Century Spain: Dispelling the Stereotypes." *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 27, no. 1 (April 1, 2007): 55–70.

15. Jan 23rd - Mass Violence in Medieval Spain

*Nirenberg, David. *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Wolff, Philippe. "The 1391 Pogrom in Spain. Social Crisis or Not?" *Past and Present* 50 (1971): 4–18.

****** Final Project Proposal Due on January 26th ******

16. Jan 30th - Jews & Muslims in the 15th century

**Medieval Iberia*, #83 Muslims and Christians in Valencia

Meyerson, Mark D. *A Jewish Renaissance in Fifteenth-Century Spain*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Catlos, Brian A. "The de Reys (1220–1501): The Evolution of a 'Middle-Class' Muslim Family in Christian Aragón." *Viator* 40, no. 2 (January 1, 2009): 197–219.

17. Feb 6th - The Spanish Inquisition

Homza, Lu Ann, ed. "First Years of the Inquisition" in *The Spanish Inquisition, 1478-1614 : an Anthology of Sources*, 1-12. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub Co., 2006.

Vose, Robin. "A Brief History of the Inquisition." Accessed September 5, 2014.
<http://goo.gl/V23mn7>

Kamen, Henry. "Trial and Punishment", *The Spanish Inquisition : an Historical Revision*, 193-213. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997.

Lynn Hossain, Kimberly. "Unraveling the Spanish Inquisition: Inquisitorial Studies in the Twenty-First Century." *History Compass* 5, no. 4 (2007): 1280–93.

18. Feb 13th - 1492 and the Expulsion of the Jews

**Medieval Iberia*, #85 "The Expulsion of the Jews", #88 The expulsion of Muslims from Castile and León.

Beinart, Haim. "Order of the Expulsion from Spain: Antecedents, Causes, and Textual Analysis." In *Crisis and Creativity in the Sephardic World, 1391-1648*, edited by Benjamin R. Gampel, 79–94. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.

Israel, Jonathan Irvine. "Jews and Crypto-Jews in the Atlantic World Systems, 1500-1800." In *Atlantic Diasporas : Jews, Conversos, and Crypto-Jews in the Age of Mercantilism, 1500-1800*, edited by Richard L. Kagan and Philip D. Morgan, 3–17. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.

Kamen, Henry. "The Mediterranean and the Expulsion of Spanish Jews in 1492." *Past & Present* no. 119 (May 1, 1988): 30–55.

Meyerson, Mark D. "Religious Change, Regionalism, and Royal Power in the Spain of Fernando and Isabel." In *Iberia and the Mediterranean World of the Middle Ages*, edited by Larry J Simon, 96–112. Brill, 1995.

Feb 20th - Family Day - No Class

19. Feb 27th – Presentations

20. Mar 6th– Presentations

21. Mar 13th - Presentations

22. Mar 20th – Conversos & Moriscos in 16th-c Spain

Kagan, Richard L., and Abigail. Dyer, eds. "Renegade Jew: Luis de la Ysla." *Inquisitorial Inquiries: Brief Lives of Secret Jews and Other Heretics*, 21-35. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

Kagan, Richard L., and Abigail. Dyer, eds. "A Captive's Tale: Diego Díaz." *Inquisitorial Inquiries: Brief Lives of Secret Jews and Other Heretics*, 147-179. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

Muchnik, Natalia. "Judeoconversos and Moriscos in the Diaspora." In *The Expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain*, edited by Mercedes García-Arenal Rodríguez and Gerard A. Wiegers, 413–39. Brill, 2014.

23. Mar 27th - Medieval Spain Today

Flesler, Daniela, and Adrián Pérez Melgosa. "Marketing Convivencia: Contemporary Tourist Appropriations of Spain's Jewish Past." In *Spain Is (still) Different : Tourism and Discourse in Spanish Identity*, edited by Eugenia Afinoguénova and Jaume Martí-Olivella, 63–84. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2008.

Kamen, Henry. "The Myth of a Christian Spain." In *Imagining Spain: Historical Myth & National Identity*, 74–95. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2008.

24. April 3rd – Final Class - TBD

****** April 3rd– Final Project Due ******