

HIST 720 – Interfaith Spain

Classroom: SCI 268

Phone: 415-338-1560

Office Hours: MW 2:00 – 3:30

Webpage: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/jrodriguez/courses/720/720home.htm>

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This course offers an exploration on the history of medieval and early modern Spain through the lens of the relationship between its three religious communities as Muslims, Jews, and Christians were all active participants in the shaping of Spanish identity. This course will focus on the period between the 11th and 16th centuries as the kingdoms of Christian Spain began their “reconquest” of the Muslim south and brought large numbers of Muslims and Jews under their control. The land of three religions that this conquest forged was a study in contradictions. On the one hand, some modern scholars have termed the atmosphere that developed here as “convivencia” (a happy coexistence), while on the other, there are too many episodes of expulsions, pogroms, and forced conversions to keep alive the notion that medieval Spain was an ideal multi-confessional society. By the end of this course, we will have a clearer idea which characterization comes closer to the truth.

This is a graduate seminar. Students MUST HAVE graduate standing in history and HIST 700 or permission of the instructor to enroll.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn and be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of interfaith relations in Spain and its impact of our understanding of the Middle Ages as well as Spanish history.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret historical evidence, both primary and secondary, by their participation in class discussions and the research paper.
3. Students will have to demonstrate an ability to do extensive research in primary and secondary sources on a topic of their choice pertaining to interfaith relations on medieval Spain. They will also have to effectively communicate the results of this research in a 20-25 page research paper due at the end of term.

Books

Debra Blumenthal, *Enemies and Familiars: Slavery and Mastery in Fifteenth Century Valencia* (Cornell, 2009)

Olivia R. Constable, *Trade and Traders in Muslim Spain: the Commercial Realignment of the Iberian Peninsula, 900-1500* (Cambridge, 1996)

Jean Dangler, *Making Difference in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005)
Henry Kamen, *The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision* (Yale, 1999)
David Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence* (Princeton, 1996)
Mark Meyerson, *A Jewish Renaissance in Fifteenth-Century Spain (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)* (Princeton, 2004)
Mary Elizabeth Perry, *The Handless Maiden: Moriscos and the Politics of Religion in Early Modern Spain* (Princeton, 2007)
Bernard Reilly, *The Medieval Spains* (Cambridge, 1993)

Grades and Assignments

Class Participation: 15% (Missing classes will impact this part of the grade. I expect every student to participate in every class)

Book Review 1: 15%, 1000-1250 words. (Select a book of your choice that you plan to use for your research paper—DUE MARCH 15th.)

Book Review 2: 15%, 1000-1250 words (Select one of the books that we are reading for class and review it—DUE THE DAY WE READ THE BOOK)

Research Paper Abstract: 5% (DUE MARCH 8th)

Research Paper First Draft: 10% (Optional—DUE APRIL 19th)

Final Research Paper: 20-25 Pages 40% (50% is you choose not to turn in a draft—DUE MAY 17th)

Disability Statement Policy

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

Readings and Discussion Topics

Week 1 (Jan 25): Introduction

Reilly, *The Medieval Spains*

Week 2 (Feb 1): Crusade and Convivencia

Carl Erdmann, "Introduction" in *The Origin of the Idea of Crusade* (Princeton, 1977) 3-34 [e-reserve]

Thomas Glick, "Convivencia: An Introductory Note" in Thomas Glick et al. *Convivencia: Jews, Muslims and Christians in Medieval Spain* (New York, 1992) 1-9 [e-reserve]

Roger Highfield, "Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Same Society: The Fall of Convivencia in Medieval Spain," *Studies in Church History* 15 (1978) 121-146 [e-reserve]

Elena Lourie, "A Society Organized for War: Medieval Spain," *Past and Present* 35 (1966), 54-76 [JSTOR]

Joseph O'Callaghan, "Reconquest, Holy War and Crusade" in *Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain* (Philadelphia, 2004) 1-22 [e-reserve]

Jonathan Ray, "Beyond Tolerance and Persecution: Reassessing our Approach to Medieval 'Convivencia'," *Jewish Social Studies (New Series)* 11 (Winter, 2005) 1-18 [JSTOR]

Week 3 (Feb 8): Boundaries, Frontiers and Exchanges

Robert I. Burns, "Immigrants to Islam: Crusaders' Use of Muslims as Settlers in the Thirteenth Century Spain," *American Historical Review* 80 (1975), 21-42 [JSTOR]

Brian Catlos, "Christians and Muslims: Contact and Conquest" in *The Victors and the Vanquished: Christians and Muslims of Catalonia and Aragon, 1050-1300* (Cambridge, 2004) 71-120 [e-reserve]

Thomas Glick, "'My Master the Jew': Observations on Interfaith Scholarly Interaction in the Middle Ages," in *Medieval Spain: A Triangular Love Affair,* in *Jews, Muslims and Christians In and Around the Crown of Aragon: Essays in Honor of Professor Elena Lourie* (Leiden, 2004) 157-182 [e-reserve]

David Nirenberg, "Love Between Muslim and Jew in Medieval Spain: A Triangular Love Affair," in *Jews, Muslims and Christians In and Around the Crown of Aragon: Essays in Honor of Professor Elena Lourie* (Leiden, 2004) 127-155 [e-reserve]

James Powers, "Frontier Municipal Baths and Social Interaction in Thirteenth Century Spain," *American Historical Review* 84 (1979), 649-667 [JSTOR]

Week 4 (Feb 15): Commerce

Constable, *Trade and Traders*

Week 5 (Feb 22): NO CLASS – University Wide Furlough Day

Week 6 (Mar 1): Slavery

Blumenthal, *Enemies and Familiars*

Week 7 (Mar 8): Captivity

James Brodman, "Municipal Ransoming Law on the Medieval Spanish Frontier," *Speculum* 60 (1985) 318-330 [JSTOR]

James Brodman, "The Rhetoric of Ransoming: A Contribution to the Debate over Crusading in Medieval Iberia" in *Tolerance and Intolerance: Social Conflict in the Age of the Crusades*, ed. by Michale Gervers and James Powell (Syracuse, 2001) 41-52 [e-reserve]

Mark Meyerson, "Slavery and Solidarity: Mudejars and Foreign Muslim Captives in the Kingdom of Valencia," *Medieval Encounters* 2 (1996), 286-343 [e-reserve]

Alan Forey, "The Military Orders and the Ransoming of Captives from Islam," *Studia Monastica* 33 (1991), 259-79 [e-reserve]

Koningsveld, P.S. van, "Muslim Slaves and Captives in Western Europe during the Late Middle Ages," *Islam and Christian Muslim Relations* 6 (1995), 5-23 [e-reserve]

Jarbel Rodriguez, "Life in Captivity" in *Captives and their Saviors in the Medieval Crown of Aragon* (Washington, 2007) 37-66 [e-reserve]

Abstracts Due

Week 8 (Mar 15): NO CLASS

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Book Reviews Due at time of your meeting

Week 9 (Mar 22): Conversion

Simon Barton, "Traitors of Faith? Christian Mercenaries in al-Andalus and the Magreb, c. 1100-1300," in *Medieval Spain. Culture, Conflict and Coexistence* ed. R. Collins and A. Goodman (New York, 2002) 23-45 [e-reserve]

Robert I. Burns, "Christian Islamic Confrontation in the West: The Thirteenth Century Dream of Conversion," *American Historical Review* 76 (1971), 1386-1434 [JSTOR]

Robert I. Burns, "Renegades, Adventurers and Sharp Businessmen: The Thirteenth Century Spaniard in the Cause of Islam," *Catholic Historical Review* 58 (1972), 341-66 [JSTOR]

David Nirenberg, "Conversion, Sex and Segregation: Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain," *American Historical Review* (2002), 1065-1093 [JSTOR]

Jarbel Rodriguez, "Conversion Anxieties in the Crown of Aragon in the Later Middle Ages," forthcoming in *Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean*

Jill Webster, "Conversion and Co-existence: The Franciscan Mission in the Crown of Aragon," in *Iberia and the Mediterranean World in the Middle Ages*, ed. P.E. Chevedden, D.J. Kagay, and P.G. Padilla (Leiden, 1996) 163-77 [e-reserve]

Week 10 (Mar 29): NO CLASS

Spring Break

Week 11 (Apr 5): NO CLASS – Personal Furlough Day

Week 12 (Apr 12): Violence and Minorities

Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence*

Week 13 (Apr 19): Jews in the Crown of Aragon

Meyerson, *A Jewish Renaissance*

First Drafts Due

Week 14 (Apr 26):

Dangler, *Making Difference*

Week 15 (May 3): The Last Moriscos

Perry, *The Handless Maiden*

Week 16 (May 10): Inquisition

Kamen, *The Spanish Inquisition*

Week 17 (May 17): Final Things

Research Papers Due in my office by 4:00pm