

Rutgers University—Newark  
Federated Department of History  
Spring Semester 2022  
Class Time: M 2:30-3:50  
W 1:00-2:20

Prof. Mayte Green-Mercado  
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Virtual Office Hours: By appointment  
ENGELHARDT 211

## HIST 405

### *Al-Andalus: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Iberia*



A Christian and a Muslim play chess.  
Spanish manuscript. Alfonso X, *Libro de los juegos* (1283)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the history of Muslim presence in the Iberian Peninsula from the Islamic conquest in 711 to the expulsion of the last Iberian Muslims, the Moriscos, in 1609. The land of the three Abrahamic religions, al-Andalus, as the Iberian Peninsula was known to Arabic speakers, offers an ideal laboratory to examine the entangled relations of Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the Middle Ages, and to test contentious constructs such as identity, *convivencia* (coexistence), conflict, violence, or tolerance. We will read chronicles and other historical sources, literary texts, art, and architecture, to examine historically the dynamics of a medieval multicultural society.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. name and identify individuals, events, themes, and issues of major importance in the history of Islamic civilization in Spain,
2. recognize the importance of cause and effect in history, and discuss the significance of change and continuity over time,
3. develop an understanding toward the use of historical evidence by historians and display some familiarity toward different types of evidence,
4. critically analyze historical evidence and articulate a synthesis with a thesis,
5. think critically about questions of identity, multiculturalism, conflict and coexistence.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Most readings for this course are available online, either through the library website, or posted on Canvas.

- Maribel Fierro (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020)
- Brian Catlos, *Kingdoms of Faith. A New History of Islamic Spain* (London: C. Hurts & Co. Ltd., 2018).
- Nina Caputo and Liz Clarke, *Debating Truth. The Barcelona Disputation of 1263. A Graphic History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017) **(Students must purchase this book and bring it to class on the day of the discussion)**
- Primary Sources on Canvas

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community.

The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here:  
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

## Assignments:

- Students will write ONE paper (500 words, 2 pages). The essay prompt will be posted on Canvas one week in advance. **No email submissions will be accepted.**
- Students will produce a final project, that they will present to the class on the last week of the semester. Each presentation will be no more than 10 minutes long. For the final projects, students will collectively create a timeline of the history of al-Andalus using the digital tool **Timeline JS**. Students will choose a biography in consultation with the Professor.
- There will be **TWO** exams (midterm and final).
- Participation in these discussions will count towards your final grade.

## Grading:

Participation	20%
Paper 1	10%
Digital Project	20%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%

A	100-90	B	85-80	C	75-70	F	59-0
B+	89-86	C+	79-76	D	69-60		

## **RESOURCES, SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE:**

Technology Resources for Students

<https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>

**Counseling Center:** The Rutgers-Newark Counseling Center provides a number of counseling and consultative services to enrolled and eligible undergraduate and graduate students. For students, if you are seeking individual or group therapy, you can expect to find a safe, supportive space to collaboratively identify and begin to change the thoughts, behaviors, and beliefs that prevent you from being your best self.

<http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>

**Disabilities:** Rutgers welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form:

<https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

**Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

**Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).

**Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).

To submit an incident report: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](https://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm).

To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu).

**Food:** PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. You can find hours and information here: <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/pantryrun>.

**Writing:** The Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center provides tutoring for students who want to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills and offers individual sessions and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers University-Newark campus. More details here:

<https://sas.n.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>.

**Important safety information:**

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, **masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others**, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). **Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth.** Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

**\*\*This syllabus is subject to change\*\***

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**Week 1      Geography, Concepts, and Context**

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W 1/19      **(Synchronous class)**  
Iberia/Hispania/España/al-Andalus/Sefarad: Introduction and Organization

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**Week 2      Visions of al-Andalus**

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M 1/24  
Mahmoud Darwish, "Eleven Stars Over Andalusia," *Grand Street* 48, Oblivion (Winter, 1994): 100-111.

W 1/26  
Edward Said, "Andalusia's Journey," *Travel and Leisure*, May 15, 2009 [online edition]

José María Aznar (former prime minister of Spain, speaking at Georgetown University in 2004). Watch from second 40. (link on Canvas)

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**Week 3      Visigothic Hispania**

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M 1/31  
**Secondary Sources:**  
Hugh Kennedy, *Muslim Spain and Portugal* (Abingdon: Routledge, 1996), 1-3.

Iñaki Martín Viso, "The Iberian Peninsula Before the Muslim Conquest," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, ed. Maribel Fierro (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020), 8-17.

W 2/2  
**Primary Sources:**

"Lives of the Holy Father of Mérida (ca. 630)," Visigothic Conversion to Catholicism; "Visigoth Legislation Concerning the Jews," in *Medieval Iberia: Reading from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, edited by Olivia Remie Constable (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), 5-23.

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**Week 4 From the Conquest to the Emirate**

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M 2/7

**Secondary Source:**

Jesús Lorenzo Jiménez, "The Conquerors and the Formation of al-Andalus," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, 18-36.

W 2/9

**Primary Sources:**

"Prophecy of the Fall of Spain;" "The Invasion of Spain: Another View (711)," in *Christians and Moors in Spain*, ed. Colin Smith, vol. 1 (Warminster: Aris & Philips Ltd, 1988), 8-9; 14-17.

"Chronicle of 754;" Ibn 'Abd al-Hakam, "Narrative of the Conquest of al-Andalus;" in *Medieval Iberia*, 33-40.

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**Week 5 Rulers and Ruled**

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M 2/14

**\*\*PAPER 1 DUE \*\***

**Secondary Sources:**

Jessica A. Coope, "Arabs, Berbers, and Local Converts," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, 189-207.

David J. Wasserstein, "Christians, Jews, and the Dhimma Status," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, 207-227.

W 2/16

**Primary Sources:**

Paul Alvarus, "Description of Christian Youth," in *Medieval Iberia*, 61-62.

"The Christians in Cordova (early 10<sup>th</sup> century), in *Christians and Moors in Spain*, ed. Charles Melville and Ahmad Ubaydli, vol. III, (Warminster, Wiltshire: Aris and Phillips Ltd., 1992), 39-43.

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**Week 6 The Umayyad Caliphate of al-Andalus**

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M 2/21

**Secondary Source:**

Xavier Ballestín, "Centralization and Consolidation. The Cordoban Umayyads and the Amirids," 36-63.

W 2/23

**Primary Sources:**

"Niceties of diplomacy (953-56) in *Christians and Moors in Spain*, ed. Colin Smith, vol. I, (Warminster: Aris and Phillips Ltd., 1988), 62-75.

**Week 7** **Court Culture in al-Andalus. The Party Kings (Ta'ifa)**

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M 2/28

**Secondary Source:**

Alejandro García-Sanjuán, "Replication and Fragmentation. The Taifa Kingdoms," 65-87.

**Primary Sources:**

Ibn Arfa' Ra'suh, in *Hispano-Arabic Poetry*, ed. James T. Monroe (Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press, 2004), 224-227.

Al-A'mā al-Tuṭīlī, in *Hispano-Arabic Poetry*, ed. James T. Monroe (Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press, 2004), 248-250.

Abdullah al-Udhari (ed.), *Classical Poems by Arab Women. A Bilingual Anthology* (London: Saqi Books, 1999), 164-66; 168-74; 184-198; 200-202; 206.

W 3/2 **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 8** **"Reconquista:" Christian Conquest of al-Andalus**

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M 3/7

**Secondary Source:**

Brian Catlos, *Kingdoms of Faith. A New History of Islamic Spain* (London: C. Hurts & Co. Ltd., 2018), 221-234.

W 3/9

'Abd Allah ibn Buluggīn, *Tibyan* (1095), "The Political Dilema of a Granadan Ruler," in *Medieval Iberia: Reading from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, edited by Olivia Remie Constable (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), 142-146.

"Exile of the Cid and His Capture of Valencia (1089-1094) (*Song of the Cid*), in *Medieval Iberia: Reading from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, edited by Olivia Remie Constable (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), 147-153.

**Week 9**

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M 3/14 SPRING BREAK

W 3/16 SPRING BREAK

**WEEK 10** **Amazigh Empires: Almoravids and Almohads**

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M 3/21

**Secondary Sources:**

Camilo Gomez-Rivas, "Berber Rule and Abbasid Legitimacy: The Almoravids," 88-113.

W 3/23

**Secondary Source:**

Pascal Buresi, "Berber Rule and the Maghribi Caliphate: The Almohads," 113-144.

**Primary Sources:**

"Ibn Tumart and the Rise of the Almohads;"

"The Doctrine of Divine Unity. The Almohad Creed," in *Medieval Iberia: Reading from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, edited by Olivia Remie Constable (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), 239-251.

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**WEEK 11                      Synthesis and Creativity**

M 3/28

**Mysticism**

**Secondary Sources:**

José Bellver, "Ascetics and Sufis," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, 318-343.

**Primary Sources:**

"The Life of an Andalusī Mystic, Ibn al-ʿArabī," in *Medieval Iberia*.

"Shushtari," in *Hispano-Arabic Poetry*. "Ibn ʿArabī," in *Hispano-Arabic Poetry*.

"Bahya ibn Paquda," in *The Dream of the Poem*, trans. and ed. Peter Cole (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007).

W 3/30

**Transmission of Knowledge**

Sarah Stroumsa, "Philosophy," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, ed. Maribel Fierro (Abingdon: Routledge, 2020): 425-437.

Brian Catlos, *Kingdoms of Faith. A New History of Islamic Spain* (London: C. Hurts & Co. Ltd., 2018), 285-297.

**\*\*Film:** Youssef Chahine (dir.), *Destiny* (1997).

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**WEEK 12                      The Last Muslim Stronghold in Iberia: Nasrid Granada**

M 4/4

**Secondary Source:**

Francisco Vidal-Castro, "Resistance and Adaptation. The Nasrids," in *The Routledge Handbook of Muslim Iberia*, 145-170.

W 4/6

Poetry of Ibn al-Khaṭīb and Ibn Zamrak, in *Hispano-Arabic Poetry*, edited by James T. Monroe (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2004), 338-65.

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**WEEK 13**                      **Jews Under Christian Rule**

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M 4/11

**Secondary Source:**

Nina Caputo and Liz Clarke, *Debating Truth. The Barcelona Disputation of 1263* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

W 4/13

**Film:**

*The Disputation*, Dir. Geoffrey Sax, 1986.

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**WEEK 14**                      **Jews, Muslims, and the “End of Convivencia**

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M 4/18

**Expulsion of Jews and Muslims**

**Primary Sources:**

“Charter of Expulsion of the Jews;”

“Expulsion of Muslims from Castile and Leon,” in *Medieval Iberia: Reading from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, edited by Olivia Remie Constable (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), 508-516; 535-539.ç

W 4/20

**The End of Spanish Islam: The Moriscos**

**Primary Source:**

Francisco Núñez Muley, *A Memorandum for the President of the Royal Audiencia and Chancery of the City and Kingdom of Granada*, ed. Vincent Barletta (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007) (Excerpts)

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**WEEK 15**                      **The End of Spanish Islam: The Moriscos**

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M 4/25

**Expulsion of the Moriscos**

**Primary Sources**

Ahmad ibn al-Qasim al-Hajari, *Kitab Nasr al-Din ‘ala al-Qawm al-Kafirin* (1635): Expulsion of the Moriscos, Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Rafi‘,

“Al-Anwar al-Nabawiyah fi Aba’ Khayr al-Bariyah,” in Nabil Matar, *Europe Through Arab Eyes, 1578-1727*, 194-200.

W 4/27

PRESENTATIONS

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**WEEK 16**                      **Presentations**

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M 5/2

PRESENTATIONS

W 5/4

READING DAY

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**Week 17**                      **Final Exam**

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M 5/9

Final Exam (3:00-6:00 p.m.)