

SPAIN UNDER ISLAM
(History 3120-001 & History 6160-002)

Instructor: Professor Stillman
Assistant: Jesse Weinberg

Fall 2014

General Introduction

No medieval society has been more romanticized both in its own day and by later generations than that of al-Andalus, Islamic Iberia (both Spain and Portugal). During the Middle Ages, the Iberian Peninsula became a zone of conflict and contact between peoples of different cultures, religions, languages, and socioeconomic systems. The dynamics of the interplay of living together (called by the great Spanish historian Americo Castro *convivencia*) gave rise to a unique variety of Islamic and Jewish culture on the one hand, while on the other, it led to the formation of what was to become Christian Spain. This course will survey the history of al-Andalus, which the Jews called Sepharad. It will trace the evolution of its civilization and examine the complex forces of ethnic conflict and cultural diffusion both within Islamic territory and within the early Spanish Christian kingdoms of the north.

Class Format

The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30am in Kaufmann Hall 138. Though a lecture course, it will try to combine some of the seminar format. Therefore, it is especially important that students should come to class having read the material assigned and be prepared for discussion.

There will be no class held on Thursday, September 25 (Jewish High Holy Day of Rosh Hashanah). The free day should give ample time to make progress on the readings and the final research paper.

Grades

Grades for the undergraduate section will be determined upon the basis of class participation in discussions and a brief write-up of the film or films to be shown in class (approximately 10% of the course grade), three quizzes on October 2, November 4, and December 5 (approximately 10% of the course grade for each), a midterm essay exam to be handed out in class on Thursday, October 16 and due back in class on Tuesday, October 21 (approximately 30% of the course grade), and a final research paper (approximately 30% of the course grade) to be handed in no later than 10:00am, Tuesday, December 9 (the time that the computer-generated final exam for the course was scheduled). There will also be opportunities for extra credit as noted below.

Students in the graduate section will receive a separate sheet outlining their grading requirements.

Extra Credit

From time to time, there will be lectures or films on campus for which general extra credit will be awarded to those who attend. The first such opportunity will be on Wednesday, September 3 at noon in Gittinger Hall Lounge for the opening lecture of the JUST Lunch Brownbag series which will deal in part with a subject directly related to this class.

Students who attend these talks will receive one point for each lecture added to their final average just for attending and an additional point for doing a one or two-page write-up of each talk. (Thus a potential for adding four points to the final average which can easily make the difference between one letter grade and another.)

Final Research Papers

Each student will be required to submit a final research paper of approximately 15-20 pages in length on a particular topic that will be chosen in consultation with Professor Stillman or Mr. Weinberg. This should be done no later than the beginning of October. This should insure a) that everyone can choose a paper that conforms to his or her particular interests (intellectual- cultural- or socio-historical) and b) that everyone have ample time to submit the paper no later than the last meeting of the class on Thursday, December 11. Papers are expected to be written in good English with proper attention paid to all of the elements of expository style—grammar, syntax, spelling, and, of course, logical argumentation. The papers ought to be properly annotated using the humanities (rather than the social sciences) citation system, and there should be a full bibliography in addition to the notes. (Students are strongly urged to consult Katherine Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, which is easily available in paperback.)

Required Texts (all paperbacks and available in the University Bookstore)

Ashtor, Eliyahu, *The Jews of Moslem Spain*: vols. 1 and 2/3

Mann, Vivian et al., *Convivencia: Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Medieval Spain*

Menocal, Maria, *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*

Watt, W. Montgomery & Cachia, Pierre, *A History of Islamic Spain*

Required Texts (on reserve in Bizzell Library)

Glick, Thomas F. *Islamic and Christian Spain in the Early Middle Ages* (2nd rev. ed.)

Other Readings

In addition to the required texts other readings will be given as handouts or assigned from reference books and journals available in the library or on-line. These are to be considered required readings.

Students should find the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* 2nd edition [EI²], the *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World* [EJIW], and the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* [EJ] very useful references to seek details on people, places, literary works, and ideas.

Office Hours

Students are cordially invited to take advantage of office hours. You do not need to have a problem to come in. It is an excellent way for us to get to know you individually.

Professor Stillman's office is in the Judaic & Israel Studies Offices in DAHT 305D-F and his regular office hours are on Wednesday, 10:30am to noon and Thursday, noon to 1:00 p.m. Other meetings should be by special appointment. His e-mail is: nstillman@ou.edu and his office telephone is 325-6508.

Mr. Weinberg's office is in the same suite of Judaic Studies offices and his regular hours are: Monday 1:30-2:30 and Tuesday, 3:15-4:15. His e-mail is: Jesse.Weinberg-1@ou.edu.

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Class Topics & Readings

1.) Introduction: al-Andalus/Sepharad and Historical Romanticism

Glick, "Convivencia: An Introductory Note," in Mann et al., *Convivencia*, pp. 1-9.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain in the Early Middle Ages*, pp. xi-xxii and 3-24.

Bloom, "Foreward," Menocal, *Ornament of the World*, pp. xiii-xvi.

2.) The Muslim Conquest

Ashtor, *Jews of Moslem Spain I*, pp. 3-26.

Watt, *History of Islamic Spain*, pp. 1-16.

Menocal, *Ornament of the World*, pp. 3-27.

3.) Early Organization of a Distant Province

Ashtor I, pp. 27-42.

Watt, pp. 17-29.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain*, pp. 184-188 and 200-206 (on reserve).

4.) ʿAbd al-Raʿmān I - ʿAbd al-Raʿmān II and the Establishment of the Umayyad Emirate

Ashtor I, pp. 43-84.

Watt, pp. 30-35.

Menocal, pp. 53-65.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain*, pp. 228-231.

5.) Civil Disorder and Restoration

Ashtor I, pp. 85-117

Watt, pp. 35-38.

Menocal, pp. 66-78.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain*, pp. 188-209.

Monroe, "The Historical Arjuza of Ibn Abd Rabbihi," (on D2L)

6.) The Caliphate of Cordova

Watt, pp. 39-60.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain*, pp. 113-143

7.) The First Flowering of Distinctive Andalusian and Sephardi Culture

Ashtor I, pp. 155-263.

Watt, pp. 61-80.

Menocal, pp. 79-100.

Scheindlin, "Hebrew Poetry," in *Convivencia*, pp. 39-46.

Zozaya, "Material Culture," in *Convivencia*, pp.157-174.

Stillman, "The Emergence, Development and Historical Continuity of the of the Sephardi Courtier Class" (on D2L)

9.) The *Fitna* and Loss of Political Unity

Watt, pp. 81-91

Ashtor II, pp. 3-40.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain*, pp. 231-244.

10.) The Party Kings: Political Disunity and Early Reconquista

Watt, pp. 91-94.

Menocal, pp. 118-129 and 130-146.

Ashtor III, 167-240. (NOTE: Ashtor II and III are bound together, but with separate pagination.)

11.) The Party Kings: Political Disunity and Cultural Efflorescence I: Islamic Culture

Watt, pp. 112-146.

Glick, "Science in Medieval Spain," in *Convivencia*, pp. 83-111.

12.) The Party Kings: Political Disunity and Cultural Efflorescence II: Jewish Culture

Ashtor II, pp. 41-300 and Ashtor III, pp. 3-58.

Menocal, pp. 101-111.

Gampel, "Jews, Christians, and Muslim," in *Convivencia*, pp. 11-39.

Scheindlin, "Hebrew Poetry," in *Convivencia*, pp. 46-56.

13.) The Almoravids and Almohads: The End of Convivencia in al-Andalus and its Partial Continuation in the Christian North

Watt, pp. 95-111.

Menocal, pp. 158-173 and 174-243.

14.) Naḥīd Granada: The Last Outpost of al-Andalus

Watt, pp. 147-164.

Menocal, pp. 244-252.

15.) A Final Assessment

Watt, pp. 165-175.

Menocal, pp. 266-283.

Glick, *Islamic and Christian Spain*, 337-371.