New York University
World Cultures:
Muslim Spain
(711-1609 AD)
[V55.0527] M&W 11-12:15
703 Main

F. E. Peters
email: frank.peters@nyu.edu
Michael Gasper: meg5763@nyu.edu
Ricky Hidari: rjh238@nyu.edu
Terry Rifkin: tjr220@nyu.edu

"Andalusia and everything in it belongs to God"  
(Anonymous Arab poet)

The intent of the course is to introduce the student to one of the two examples-the other is the Balkans-of the long-term establishment of a Muslim polity in Europe. The course will trace the political flow of events, from the Arab-Berber conquest of the peninsula and their experiments in state-formation to the gradual emergence of Christian rivals in the northern kingdoms and the reversal of the tide until the final submission of the surviving Muslim enclave of Granada in 1492. The chief emphasis, however, will be on 1) the construction of a remarkable social and intellectual culture out of the various indigenous and imported elements available; 2) how the three indigestible ingredients called Islam, Christianity and Judaism fared in that melting pot, particularly when one of the others was stirring; and 3) the problems posed by the notion of "Muslim Spain" for Spanish historians and for Westerners generally.

"You live in al-Andalus, with its waters, its shade, its rivers, its trees—how blessed you are! If Paradise lies somewhere else than in your country, and if it was possible to choose between them, it would be your country I would choose."
(from the Collected Poetry of Ibn Khafaja (d. 1139))

Syllabus of Meetings and Assignments

The following syllabus will also be found on the "Blackboard" version of the class (available to registered students), along with a Study Guide and much required and supplementary material for the course, is available online. Log onto your NYU Home account and you will find it there. Problems getting on? Try 998-3333 or send an email to: problems.blackboard@nyu.edu.

A useful link for this course may be found at: http://libro.ucd.edu

   Readings: Fletcher, pp. 1-14.

2. [M. 27 Jan.] The Making of Hispania: The Romans in Iberia
   Readings: Reilly, pp. 1-16.
3. [W. 29 Jan.] Christian and Visigothic Spain

4. [M. 3 Feb.] The Coming of the Muslims, or Was It the Berbers and Arabs?
   Readings: Reilly, pp. 51-56; Fletcher, pp. 15-34; Constable, pp. 27-42.

5. [W. 5 Feb.] The Message of Islam: Muhammad and the Quran
   Readings: In Blackboard “Course Documents”.

6. [M. 10 Feb.] The Structure of Islam: Law, Lawyers and Law Schools
   Readings: In Blackboard “Course Documents”

7. [W. 12 Feb.] Muslims, Christians (Mozarabs) and Jews: Counting Heads
   Reading: Fletcher, pp. 35-42; Constable, pp. 48-55.

8. [W. 19 Feb.] The Umayyad Caliphate of Cordoba
   Readings: Fletcher, pp. 53-78; Constable, pp. 56-74.

9. [M. 24 Feb.] Slide Lecture: La Mezquita

10. [W. 26 Feb.] The High Culture of the Cordoban Caliphate and First Paper Due:
    Reading: Reilly, pp. 56-74.

11. [M. 3 Mar.] The Other Spain: The Christian Kingdoms of the North
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 74-89; Constable ##20-25

12. [W. 5 Mar.] The Era of the Party Kings
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 90-121; Fletcher, pp. 79-104.

13. [M. 10 March] The Culture and Civilization of Early Muslim Spain
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 121-128; Constable ##15-19: pp. 75-108

14. [W. 12 March] MIDTERM [Examine your options!]

    Readings: Fletcher, pp. 105-118; Constable ##20-31 (pp. 109-172).

16. [W. 27 March] An African Empire in al-Andalus: The “Ribat Men” or Almoravids

17. [M. 31 March] Muslim Fundamentalists in al-Andalus: Al-Muwahhidun or Almohads
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 129-139; Fletcher, pp. 118-130; Constable ##34-35 (pp. 185-197).

    Readings: Reilly, pp. 121-128; Fletcher, pp. 118-130.

19. [M. 7 Apr.] Convivencia I: The Meeting of Minds
    Readings: Fletcher, pp. 147-156

20. [W. 9 Apr.] Slide Lecture: Toledo, City of Three Faiths
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 153-159.

21. [M. 14 Apr.] Convivencia II: The War for Souls
    Readings: In Blackboard “Course Documents.”

22. [W. 16 Apr.] Muslim Society in Exile: The Mudéjars
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 195-198; Fletcher, pp. 134-145; Constable, #47, #58.

23. [M. 21 Apr.] Granada and the Reconquista
    Readings: Reilly, pp. 160-172; Constable, pp. 207-236.

24. [W. 23 Apr.] Slide Lecture: Nasrid Granada and Its Alhambra
Readings: Reilly, pp. 190-195; Fletcher, pp. 157-162 and

Second Paper Due:

25. [M. 28 Apr.] 1492: The Fall of Granada and the End of Al-Andalus
   Readings: Readings: Fletcher, pp. 163-169; Constable, pp. 343-351.

26. [W. 30 Apr.] The Denouement: The Spanish Inquisition, the Conversos and Moriscos

Final Exam: Monday May 5, 2003: 11:00-12:15 PM

Required Readings:

[At the Campus Bookstore]

Note: In addition to those printed texts, many of the required readings for this course are found only in the "Course Documents" section of the Blackboard.

*****

There will be both a midterm and final examination. The midterm is optional. If you do take it, the final exam will cover only the second half of the course; if you choose not to take the midterm, your final exam will cover the entire course. If you do take the midterm and are not satisfied with it, you still have the option of taking a full-course final exam and so canceling the midterm grade. In addition, there will be two papers, each of 3 double-spaced typed pages. They will be due at the meetings indicated on the syllabus. Papers will not be accepted after the due date. Spelling, syntax and neatness all count, just like in the real world.

The grading breaks down approximately as follows: midterm 20%, final exam 40%, each paper 15%, discussion participation, 10%. Mashallah.

Failure to hand in any of the two papers will result in an automatic grade of "Incomplete"

Failure to take the midterm and the final examination will result in an automatic grade of "F"

Note: Attendance will be taken regularly at discussion sessions and randomly at the lectures. Failure to attend discussion sessions will lead to a progressive grade loss: after three recorded absences, a half letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade for each subsequent absence. And, in accordance with college policy, recurrent or consistent absences will be reported to the dean.

Are you interested in majoring in Middle Eastern Studies, where this all started? Nothing easier:
For the Major: 4 MES language courses (Turkish, Hindi, Farsi or Arabic) plus 8 non-language MES courses (history, politics, religion, literature etc.).

For the Minor: either 4 MES language courses or 4 non-language MES courses.
Academic Guidelines for Students

To help foster common academic expectations among students and instructors; the following guidelines for MAP courses are offered to students. While these represent minimum expectations across the curriculum, individual faculty members may set additional course requirements. Students should therefore be sure to consult the course syllabus for details of policies in each class.

Attendance

Inasmuch as students have voluntarily sought admission to the University, they are expected to attend all class meetings, including all lectures and all meetings of associated recitation, workshop, or laboratory sections. Students may be excused for documented medical or personal emergency and will receive reasonable accommodation for the observance of religious holidays. In these cases, they should contact their instructors in advance or, in cases of emergency, as soon as is practicable. Students are responsible for making up any material or assignments they miss.

Classroom Decorum

The classroom is a space for free and open inquiry and for the critical evaluation of ideas, and it should be free of personal prejudice. Students and instructors alike have an obligation to all members of the class to create an educational atmosphere of mutual trust and respect in which differences of opinion can be subjected to deliberate and reasonable examination without animus.

As a matter of courtesy to their fellow students and instructors, students should arrive at class promptly, prepared and ready to participate. Students are reminded particularly to shut off all cellular telephones and pagers and, except in cases of emergency, to remain in the classroom for the duration of the lecture or section meeting. If it is necessary to leave or enter a room once class has begun, students should do so quietly and with as little disruption as possible.

Under University policy, disruptive classroom behavior may be subject to faculty review and disciplinary sanction.

Completion of Assignments

Students are expected to submit course work on time and to retain copies of their work until a final grade has been received for the course. Instructors are not obliged to accept late work and may assign a failing or reduced grade to such assignments.

Students who encounter sudden and incapacitating illness or other comparably grave circumstance that prevents them from completing the final examination or assignment in a course may request a temporary mark of Incomplete from the course instructor. To receive an Incomplete, students must have completed all other requirements for the course, including satisfactory attendance, and there must be a strong likelihood they will pass the course when all work is completed.

Questions and Concerns

Up-to-date course information is available on the MAP website, http://www.nyu.edu/cas/map. Questions, concerns, comments, and feedback may be directed to the following members of the MAP staff, both located in 903 Silver, (212) 998-8119. Complaints will remain confidential.

- **Foundations of Contemporary Culture:** Dr. Vincent Renzi map.fcc@nyu.edu
- **Foundations of Scientific Inquiry:** Dr. Trace Jordan map.fsi@nyu.edu

(over)
Statement on Academic Integrity

As a student at New York University, you have been admitted to a community of scholars who value free and open inquiry. Our work depends on honest assessment of ideas and their sources; and we expect you, as a member of our community, likewise to maintain the highest integrity in your academic work. Because of the central importance of these values to our intellectual life together, those who fail to maintain them will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University.

Plagiarism consists in presenting ideas and words without acknowledging their source and is an offense against academic integrity. Any of the following acts constitutes a crime of plagiarism.

- Using a phrase, sentence, or passage from another person’s work without quotation marks and attribution of the source.
- Paraphrasing words or ideas from another’s work without attribution.
- Reporting as your own research or knowledge any data or facts gathered or reported by another person.
- Submitting in your own name papers or reports completed by another.
- Submitting your own original work toward requirements in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

Other offenses against academic integrity include the following.

- Collaborating with other students on assignments without the express permission of the instructor.
- Giving your work to another student to submit as his or her own.
- Copying answers from other students during examinations.
- Using notes or other sources to answer exam questions without the instructor’s permission.
- Secreting or destroying library or reference materials.
- Submitting as your own work a paper or results of research that you have purchased from a commercial firm or another person.

Particular emphasis is placed on the use of papers and other materials to be found on the World-Wide Web, whether purchased or freely available. In addition to having access to the same search engines as students, faculty also have at their disposal a number of special websites devoted to detecting plagiarism from the web.

Plagiarism and other cases of academic fraud are matters of fact, not intention. It is therefore crucial that you be diligent in assuring the integrity of your work.

- Use quotation marks to set off words not your own.
- Learn to use proper forms of attribution for source materials.
- Do your own original work in each class, without collaboration, unless otherwise instructed.
- Don’t use published sources, the work of others, or material from the web without attribution.
- Ask your professor or preceptor if you have questions about an assignment or the use of sources.
- For further information, consult the Bulletin of the College of Arts and Science, the CAS Academic Handbook, and the Student’s Guide to NYU.