Islamic Spain and North Africa to 1492

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Course Description:
This survey course provides an introduction to the Islamic impact on Spain and North Africa. Emphasis will be placed on political, social, and intellectual history. Spain provides a case study for the interactions between Muslims, Christians, and Jews within varied constructs of violence, tolerance, and coexistence. The course includes an emphasis on the diffusion of science and philosophy from Islamic Spain to Western Europe. European ideas about Islam in the medieval period will also be explored.

Course Requirements and Schedule of Assignments:
February 23: First exam: 25%
March 22: Second exam: 25%
April 19: Third exam: 25%
May 3: Last exam (in class): 25%

*Grading is on a +/- scale. No computers or electronic devices may be used during class.* No makeup examinations without express, advanced consent of the instructor. *Religious observances are always understood as excused absences. *Students with disabilities should consult me at the beginning of the semester. UT Honor Code strictly enforced.

Required Reading:
J. Brown, Muhammad: A Very Short History.
O. Constable, Medieval Iberia. 1997 edition ONLY. Buy used on Amazon.
Maribel Fierro, `Abd al-Rahman III: The First Cordoban Caliph.
H. Kennedy, Muslim Spain and Portugal. *All readings on reserve in the Perry-Castaneda Library and all but Constable for purchase at the Co-op.

From North Africa to Spain: The Mediterranean as One World
I. January 17 and 19
_Introduction and Roman Spain_
Constable, _Medieval Iberia_, pp. xxv-xxvii.

II. January 24 and 26
_Vandals, Visigoths, and the Advent of Islam_
Constable, _Medieval Iberia_, 3-4; 12-23
Kennedy, _Muslim Spain_, xiv-3.
Brown, _Muhammad_. (All)
“Catholic Encyclopedia Donatists” Google the entry, read “Causes of the Schism,” Circumcellions,” “St. Augustine”

III. January 31 and February 2
_The Maghrib: Islamic Conquest of North Africa_
“al-Butr,” “al-Baranis” in _Encyclopaedia of Islam_ online
Kennedy, 3-8

IV. February 7 and 9
_Al-Andalus: Islamic Conquest and Consolidation of Spain_
Constable, 29-42.
Fierro, 1-18.
Kennedy, 8-48.

V. February 14 and 16
_Christian European Perceptions of Islam: Myth and Memory_
Constable, 48-50, “Song of Roland,” read online omacl.org/Roland/ Verses I-XXXII, XLVI-LXXI, CCLIII-CCXCL

Al-Andalus: Convivencia and Violence

VI. February 21 and 23* (23rd First Exam)
_Islamic Rule: The Umayyad Caliphate at Cordoba_
Constable, 51-55; 62-72.
Fierro, 18-78.
Kennedy, 49-108.

VII. February 28 and March 1
_Cultural Interaction under Muslim Political Domination_
Constable, pp. 77-107.

The Rise of Berber Islamic Rule:
The Maghrib and al-Andalus United
VIII. March 6 and 8
The Almoravid Dynasty
Constable, pp. 110-136.
Kennedy, pp. 154-195.

IX. March 13 and 15: Spring Break

X. March 20 and 22 ** (March 22nd Second Exam)
The Almohad Dynasty
Kennedy, 196-272.

Islamic Intellectual Breakthroughs and the Transfer of Knowledge beyond al-Andalus

XI. March 27 and 29
Intellectual Contributions of al-Andalus and the Maghrib
Constable, pp. 203-206.
Xerox selection, by Ibn Tufayl, Hayy the Son of Yaqzan (reserve PCL)

XII. April 3 and 5
The Reconquista: A Military Frontier
Constable, pp. 137-151; 209-231.

XIII. April 10 and 12
The Reconquista: The Intellectual Frontier
Constable, pp. 269-301.
Kennedy, pp. 273-299.

XIV. April 17 and 19 *** (April 19th 3rd Exam)
Ibn Khaldun: Writing World History in a Time of Chaos
Constable, pp. 232-236; 323-329.
From the Mediterranean to the Atlantic World: The Legacies of 1492

XV. April 24 and 26
*The Multiple Legacies of 1492*
Constable, pp. 330-381.
Kennedy, pp. 299-304.

XVI May 1 and 3 **** (May 3rd Last Exam in class)
*Endings and Beginnings*
Kennedy, pp. 305-308.