ANAR 159


Pre approved as CAT 124 Practicum
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When one door closes another opens. Nowhere in world history was this more the case than in 1492 in the Iberian peninsula. North and South Americans best know 1492 for Columbus’ opening to the New World. The very same year also marked the end of seven centuries of complex cultural coexistence among Muslims, Jews, and Christians with the final “Reconquista” of Spain, the expulsion of non-Christians, and the growth of the Inquisition. This fascinating period is a vivid example of both intercultural coexistence and conflict among followers of the three great monotheistic religious traditions, with lessons that resonate today. This course will focus on the period from 711 through the end of the 16th century, and will contrast evidence for “convivencia” (multicultural coexistence) versus the history of hostility, crusade, and religious intolerance among three great cultures of Medieval Spain. We will then trace the direct line from the negotiation of identity and intercultural frontiers in Spain, to the conquest of the Americas and interaction with Native Americans. The late Medieval period defined the complex character of the Spanish conquest of the New World, which has been described as “the spirit of a gold rush with the conviction of a crusade”. Without understanding the “Convivencia”, “Reconquista” and Inquisition we could never understand the complex web of cultures that is Latin America today.

The course will take a museological approach, combining lectures and readings with weekly visits to major monuments, archaeological sites, museums, and the birthplaces of the New World conquistadors and chroniclers. Assessment will be based on four “Virtual Museum” practical research assignments. Students will design and present exhibits based on monuments or objects they experience first-hand. The aim is to create alternative exhibit text, documentation, and museum presentations of interpretations that challenge or complement on-site explanatory materials with alternative interpretations emphasizing course themes of social identities and intercultural relations in medieval Spain and its colonies.

Itinerary: Excursions to archaeological sites, museums, churches, mosques. (assuming base in Toledo)

Week 1: Toledo, town touring

Week 2: Madrid, day trip, city tour, Prado museum

Week 3: Three day trip, al Andalus and major monuments of Moorish Spain: Seville (Alkasr Royal Palaces and gardens, Cathedral of Seville, Almohad palace and mosque, Jewish quarter, archive of the Indies), Cordoba (Mosque-Cathedral, the Alkasr palace, medina, Jewish quarter), and Granada (Alhambra, old city).

Week 4 and 5: Day trips in Extremadura, birthplace of the conquistadors. Possible destinations: Trujillo (Pizarro), Medellin (Cortes), Badajoz (Alvarado, de Soto), Jerez de
los Caballeros (Balboa), Salamanca (Coronado), Llerena (Cieza de Leon), Caceres (old city), Merida (Roman ruins)

Preliminary Syllabus (readings will be edited)

**Week 1: Late Medieval Spain and multicultural heritage: Introduction to a museological approach**


Gerber, Jane, 1994 *The Jews of Spain*

Glick, Thomas 2005 *Islamic And Christian Spain in the Early Middle Ages* (Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World)

Menocal, Maria Rosa, 2003 *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*

Meyerson, Mark 2004 *A Jewish Renaissance in Fifteenth-Century Spain (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)* Princeton

Reilly, Bernard F. 1993 *The Medieval Spain* Cambridge

Ruggles, D. Fairchild *Gardens, Landscape, and Vision*

**Virtual Museum assignment: Medieval Toledo**

**Week 2: Frontiers: Economic and Political relationships**


Boone, James, 2009 *Lost Civilization? The Contested Islamic Past in Spain and Portugal*. Duckworth


**Virtual Museum assignment: Madrid**

**Week 3 “Conquista” or “Convivencia”? Cultural relationships**


Thomas Glick, 1992 *Convivencia: Jews, Muslims and Christians in Medieval Spain*


Nirenberg, David, 1996 *Communities of Violence* Princeton.


**Virtual Museum Assignment: Cultural Identities, past, present, future**
Week 4 Conflict and Conversion: Jews, Moriscos, Native Americans and the Inquisition

Burns, Robert I., “Renegades, Adventurers and Sharp Businessmen: The Thirteenth Century Spaniard in the Cause of Islam,” Catholic Historical Review 58 (1972), 341-66
Kagan and Dyer. Inquisitorial Inquiries: Brief Lives of Secret Jews and Other Heretics
Perry, Mary Elizabeth 2007 The Handless Maiden: Moriscos and the Politics of Religion in Early Modern Spain (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)

Virtual Museum Assignment: from the Crusades to the New World

Week 5 Turning westward: Origins of the Conquistadors
Elliott, John H. 2002 Imperial Spain 1469-1715.
Restall, Matthew, 2007 Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest. Oxford