Medieval Iberia: Conflicts and Encounters

Wednesday 3:30-5:30

The seminar *Medieval Iberia: Conflicts and Encounters* stresses the political conflicts and cultural clashes on the one hand, and the processes of integration and acculturation on the other, which characterized the interactions between Christians, Muslims, and Jews in medieval Iberia. Most of the Iberian Peninsula was conquered by the Muslims during 711 - 718, bringing the Visigoth kingdom to its end. This conquest initiated a series of processes in the course of which three distinctive cultural unities and several political entities emerged. *Al Andalus*, the Muslim socio-cultural unity, was composed of Arabs and Berbers immigrating to Iberia, and progressively more and more local Muslims (*muwallads*). Christian and Jewish *dhimma* (peoples of the Book) also flourished under the rule of several political entities: emirate, caliphate, party-kings (tahun), and African dynasties. *Hispania* developed in the northern strip of the peninsula out of the encounter between the local population (Basques, Astures, and Cantabrians) and the Visigoths and Hispano-Romans émigrés arriving from the area under Muslim rule. *Sefarad*, the Jewish socio-cultural entity fluctuated between prosperity and adversity, first under the Muslim political entities, and later under the Christian ones. This seminar presents the history of permanent
transitions in politics, demography, economy, society, and culture based on a thorough analysis of a wide variety of selected and translated primary sources as well as the historiography that has evolved during the last sixty years of scholarship.

**Requirement:** Active participation in class discussions based on preliminary reading and analysis of primary sources and historiography.

**Assignment:** A seminar paper will be submitted by the end of (seminar) course. The subject, research questions, bibliography, and structure of the paper will be discussed with and approved by me.

**Grading:** Active participation in class 40%

Seminar paper 60%

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**Introducing Medieval Iberia**

1/20/2010

1. **The Historical Context**


1/27/2010

2. **The Historiographical Context**


Part I: Muslim Hegemony (711-1031)

2/3/2010

3. The Muslim Conquest of Iberia (711-718)

Primary Sources:

Ibn al-Khatib. CMIII, pp. 22-23.
*Continuatio Isidoria Hispana ad annum 754*. CMI, pp. 10-13.
Jiménez de Rada, R. *De rebus Hispaniae*. CMI, pp. 8-9.
Alfonso X. *Estoria de España*. CMI, pp. 18-23.

Secondary Sources:


2/10/2010

4. Resistance in the North and *Fitna* in the South

* At the beginning of this meeting all students must submit their paper proposal which includes: subject, research questions, and bibliography.
Primary Sources:

*Chronica prophetica.* CMI, pp. 48-49.
*Crónica Albelda.* MI, pp. 56-61.
*Crónica de Sampiro.* CMI, pp. 50-53.
*Poema de Fernán González.* CMI, pp. 54-61.


Secondary Sources:


2/17/2010 First one on one conference for determining paper subject, research questions, and bibliography.
Part II: Reversal of Power

2/24/2010

5. Taifa Kingdoms

Primary Sources:

Cantar de Mio Cid.

Secondary Sources:


3/3/2010

6. Christian Conquests

Primary Sources:

Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris. CMI, pp. 138-143, 154-159, 168-171
Caffaro. De captione Almerie et Tortuose. CMI, pp. 172-179.
De expugnatione Lyxbonensi. MI, pp. 133-136.
Juan de Osma. Crónica de los reyes de Castilla. CMII, pp. 2-5.
Privilegio a la cofradía de Belchite. MI, pp. 156-158.
Donación de Calatrava. MI, pp. 158-159.
La orden militar de Santiago. MI, pp. 159-161.
Tratado de Cazorla. MI, pp. 162-163.

Secondary Sources:


3/10/2010

7. The Conquest of Granada

* At the beginning of this meeting all students must submit the outline of their paper which includes: list of chapters and detailed outline for each chapter.

Primary Sources:

Hernando del Pulgar. Crónica de los señores reyes católicos Don Fernando y Doña Isabel. MI, pp. 343-344.
Capitulaciones de Granada. MI, pp. 344-350.

Secondary Sources:


3/17/2010 Second one on one conference for discussing the paper structure and the chapters outlines.

Part III: Minorities under Alien Rule: Conflicts and Encounters

3/24/2010

8. Christians of al-Andalus

Primary Sources:

Paulus Alvarus. Vita Eulogii. MI, pp. 51-55.
Istoria de Mahomet. MI, pp. 48-50.
Alfonso X. Estoria de España. CMI, pp. 2-7.
Ibn Hazm. al-Fasl fi al milal. MI, pp. 81-83.

Secondary Sources:

Mikel de Epalza. “Mozarabs: An Emblematic Christian Minority in Islamic al-
Andalus”. Salma Khadra Jayyusi (Ed.) The Legacy of Muslim Spain. Leiden:
Brill, 1994, pp. 149-170.


Drees, C. “Sainthood and Suicide: The Motives of the Martyrs of Cordoba, A. D. 850-
859”. Ecclesiastical History Society, pp. 59-89.

4/7/2010

9. Mozarabs under Christian Rule

Hitchcock, R. Mozarabs in Medieval and Early Modern Spain: Identities and

4/14/2010

10. The Mudejars

* At the beginning of this meeting all students must submit a two pages sample
writing out of their seminar paper.

Primary Sources:

Genealogia Sarracenorum Sancte Marie Superaddi

Secondary Sources:


4/21/2010

11. The Jews in al-Andalus

Primary Sources:


Secondary Sources:


4/28/2010

12. The Jews in the Christian Kingdoms

Primary Sources:

*Usatges of Barcelona*. MI, pp. 125-130.
*Siete Partidas*. MI, pp. 269-275.
*Autos de Fe*. MI, pp. 330-337.

Secondary Sources:


5/5/2010

13. Closing Discussion and Concluding Remarks: Medieval Iberia in the Sources, Historiography, and History

Primary Sources Collections:


