

Religion and Politics in Medieval Spain

EUH4930 Fall 2016



Instructor: Dr Nina Caputo

Class time and place: Wednesday, period 7-9, Keene-Flint 113

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00, Wednesday 10:30-11:30, and by appointment

Office: 216 Keene-Flint Hall

Phone: 273-3379

Email: ncaputo@ufl.edu

Course Description

If medieval Europe was dominated by the church and Christian kingdoms, the Spain was different. Unlike the rest of medieval Europe, the Spain was home to Christian and Muslim kingdoms which were home to members of all three Abrahamic faiths. By the early 13th century Christian Spain was more tolerant, even accommodating, of religious and cultural difference than any other part of Latin Christendom. However, by the end of the 15th century this situation had changed completely: after a long and difficult cultural struggle, religious tolerance was officially revoked with the establishment of the Inquisition and the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Christian Spain. Using primary sources spanning from the sixth to the fifteenth century as a foundation, this class will trace the modern construction of medieval Iberian history from the time of the Visigoths to the time of the Inquisition. In particular, we will focus on the expression and exertion of political and religious power, treatment of religious minorities, and the why that modern historians have interpreted these issues.

Written assignments: Historical writing demands that you make your arguments in a clear and precise manner and that you back them up with historical evidence. In addition, the UF Writing Requirement ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. Thus, written assignments will be graded on the basis of **style as well as content**. Completion of the written assignments is *absolutely required*. Late assignments **will not** be accepted without penalty. Please make every effort to apprise the instructor of adverse circumstances that affect your ability to attend class or complete assignments on time. Official documentation is required to excuse an absence and to schedule make-up assignments. Unless otherwise noted, assignments will be collected at the end of the precept session for which they are assigned. Do not submit your work to via email – written work must be presented in hard-copy. the instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, usage of standard written English, clarity, coherence, and organization

Reading assignments : You will likely find yourself frustrated and confused during the lectures if you do not make a good faith effort to finish the reading assignments before the class meetings. If you find yourself falling behind in the readings, I suggest you at least skim the texts for each week before lectures so you are familiar with the themes and issues addressed on that day.

Attendance: Students are required to attend class regularly and arrive for seminar promptly. A penalty will be imposed on students who arrive late for class. Unexcused absences will be penalized in the following manner: you will be permitted one unexcused absence over the course of the term; every

unexcused absence thereafter will lower your grade by one third. Please be prepared to provide official certification to assure that your grades will not suffer for legitimate absences.

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and will not be accepted in this class because it violates the University of Florida's honesty policy. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drpf/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

The university counseling services and mental health services can be reached at: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 392-1575, University Police Department 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Grade Distribution and Grading Scale

Participation* – 30 %	A = 100 - 93	C = 74 – 71
Visigothic Code paper (1000 words) 15 %	A- = 92 - 90	C- = 70 – 67
Book review (1000 words) 15 %	B+ = 89 – 87	D+ = 66 – 63
Research Paper (5000 words) 40 %	B = 86 – 83	D = 62 – 60
	B- = 82 – 79	D- = 59 – 56
* See below for breakdown	C+ = 78 – 75	F = below 55

Participation: History classes are most rewarding when students interact with the texts, each other, and the instructor on a sustained basis. Readings provide the raw material for class discussion, where much of the learning takes place. Engaged class participation is therefore essential. Students can expect a respectful atmosphere in which to express their opinions. Participation will be graded on: a) contribution to in-class discussion based on a careful reading of the assigned texts; b) completion of the short weekly writing assignments (see the 'Assignments' page on the Canvas site). These will not be graded, but failure to complete them will bring your participation grade down; c) Regular and prompt attendance. If you spend your time in class engaged with other activities – like texting – your participation grade will also suffer.

The Research Paper: The goal of this assignment is to immerse you in an intense and extended project based on original research. As such, and perhaps unlike most other papers you've written at the university, it will demand significant planning. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of: the breadth and depth of original research using primary and secondary sources, the formulation of an original argument based on that research supported by substantial evidence, as well as the clarity of writing.

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else's work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and will not be accepted in this class because it violates the University of Florida's honesty policy. Please review the policy at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) [Links to an external site.](#)

Books: The following books are required for this course:

Olivia Remie Constable, ed., *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*, 2nd edition (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

It is available at the University of Pennsylvania Press website

(<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14910.html>) or at Amazon

(https://www.amazon.com/Medieval-Iberia-Readings-Christian-Sources/dp/0812221680/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1471543568&sr=8-1&keywords=medieval+iberia).

Be sure to buy the 2nd edition of this book.

Debating Truth: The Barcelona Disputation of 1263 Nina Caputo and Liz Clarke (Oxford University Press, 2017) <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/debating-truth-9780190226367?cc=us&lang=en&>

All other readings will be posted on our Canvas site.

Weekly Schedule

22 August Introduction – themes, methods, expectations; Making Spain Christian – The Visigothic Kingdom

- **REQUIRED** Constable, *Medieval Iberia*, 3-26

Fernando Arias Guillen, "The Many Histories of Medieval Spain" in *The Medieval Journal* vol. 2, no. 2 (2012), 77-98.

- Hagith S. Sivan, "The Invisible Jews of Visigothic Spain.," *Revue des études Juives* 159, no. 3-4 (2000): 369-85.

- Andrew Kurt, "Lay Piety in Visigothic Iberia: Liturgical and Paraliturgical Forms," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 8, no. 1 (10`6): 1-37.

- Wolfram Drews, "Jews as Pagans? Polemical Definitions of Identity in Visigothic Spain," *Early Medieval Europe* 11, no. 3 (2002): 189-207.

• **RECOMMENDED** Javier Arce, "The Visigoths in Spain: Old and New Historical Problems," in *Der Frühmittelalterliche Staat -- Europäische Perspektiven*. Ed. Walter Pohl and Veronika Wieser, *Forschungen Zur Geschichte Des Mittelalters*, 16; Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse: Denkschriften, 386 (Wien: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2009), 31-40.

- Michael McGlynn, "The Boys Are Back in Town: The Re-Gothicization of Spanish Law," *Medieval Perspectives* 21 (2005): 119-39.

29 August Muslim Conquest and the culture of al-Andalus

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 33-60.

- Guillermo García-Contreras Ruiz, "Production and Use of Salt in Al-Andalus: A State of the Art and a Perspective on its Study," in *Processing, Storage, Distribution of Food: Food in the Medieval Rural Environment*. Ed. Jan Klápště and Petr Sommer, *Ruralia*, 8 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2011), 31-43.

- María Jesús Viguera Molíns, "The Muslim Settlement of Spania/ Al-Andalus.," In *The Formation Of Al-Andalus, Part 1: History and Society*. Ed. Manuela Marín, *The Formation Of The Classical Islamic World*, 46. (Aldershot: Ashgate, 1998), 15-38.

- Denise Keyes Filios, "A Good Story Well Told: Memory, Identity, and the Conquest of Iberia," *Journal of Medieval Iberia Studies* 6, no. 2 (2014): 127-47.

5 September The Caliphate

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 61- 100

- Ann Christys, "Crossing the Frontier of Ninth-Century Hispania.," in *Medieval Frontiers: Concepts and Practices*, ed. David Abulafia and Nora Berend, (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2002), 35–53.
- D. Fairchild Ruggles, "Mothers of a Hybrid Dynasty: Race, Genealogy, and Acculturation in Al-Andalus," in *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 34, no. 1 (2004): 65–94.
- Janina M. Safran, "Identity and Differentiation in Ninth-Century Al-Andalus," *Speculum* 76, no. 3 (July 1, 2001): 573–98.
- Noelia Silva Santa-Cruz, "Ivory Gifts for Women in Caliphal Córdoba: Marriage, Maternity and Sensuality," *Journal of Medieval Iberia Studies* 6, no. 1 (2014): 103–25.

12 September Dissolution of the Caliphate and the Taifa period

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 101-137
- Maribel Fierro, "Religious Dissension in Al-Andalus: Ways of Exclusion and Inclusion," in *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Islam, III*, ed. Maribel Fierro, *Critical Concepts in Islamic Studies* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2014), 233–55.
- Alejandro García-Sanjuán, "Jews and Christians in Almoravid Seville as Portrayed by the Islamic Jurist Ibn 'Abdūn," *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 14, no. 1 (2008): 78–98.
- Jorge A. Eiroa Rodríguez, "Representations of Power in Rural Communities in South-Eastern Al-Andalus (Tenth-Thirteenth Centuries)," in *Power and Rural Communities in Al-Andalus: Ideological and Material Representations*, ed. Adela Fábregas and Flocel Sabaté (Turnholt: Brepols, 2015), 85–111.

19 September No Class – Yom Kippur

26 September Crusade and Christian 'Reconquest' (Discussion – finding academic journals and using electronic resources)

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 147-171, 184-198
- Jonathan Ray, "Beyond Tolerance and Persecution: Reassessing Our Approach to Medieval *Convivencia*." *Jewish Social Studies* 11, no. 2 (2005): 1-18
- Alex Novikoff, "Between Tolerance and Intolerance in Medieval Spain: An Historiographic Enigma" *Medieval Encounters* 11:1-2 (2005), 8-36.
- Travis Bruce, "An Intercultural Dialogue between the Muslim Taifa of Denia and the Christian County of Barcelona in the Eleventh Century," *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 15, no. 1 (2009): 1–34.
- Daniel König, "Arabic-Islamic Historiographers on the Emergence of Latin-Christian Europe," in *Visions of Community in the Post-Roman World: The West, Byzantium and the Islamic World, 300-1100.*, ed. Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, and Richard Payne (Ashgate, 2012), 427-445.
- **RECOMMENDED** Manuela Marín, "From Al-Andalus to Spain: Arab Traces in Spanish Cooking," *Food and History: Revue Semestrielle Publiée Par l'Institut Européen d'Histoire et Des Cultures de l'Alimentation / Biannual Review Published by the European Institute for the History and Culture of Food* 2, no. 2 (2004): 35–52.

3 October Reading and Writing week

Chose book for review – subject to my approval

10 October Crusade and Christian 'Reconquest' – (discussion – how read and review an academic book)

- **REQUIRED** *Medieval Iberia* 203-233
- I. Bejczy, "Tolerantia: A Medieval Concept," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 58, no. 3 (1997): 365–84.
- Amy G. Remensnyder, "The Boundaries of Christendom and Islam: Iberia and the Latin Levant," in *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity*. Ed. John H. Arnold (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 93–113.

- Jorge A. Eiroa Rodríguez, "Historians, Historiography and Archaeologically Imperceptible Change," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 4, no. 1 (2012): 21–25.
- David Waines, "The Culinary Culture of Al-Andalus," in *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*, ed. Salma Khadra Jayyusi, Handbuch Der Orientalistik / Handbook of Oriental Studies, Abt. 1: Der Nahe Und Mittlere Osten / The Near and Middle East, 12 (Leiden: Brill, 1992), 725–38.
- Carlos Laliena, "Holy War, Crusade and Reconquista in Recent Anglo-American Historiography about the Iberian Peninsula," *Imago Temporis. Medium Aevum* IX (2015): 109–22.
- RECOMMENDED Martin Alvira Cabrer, "Las Navas de Tolosa: The Beginning of the End of the Reconquista? The Battle and Its Consequences According to the Christian Sources of the Thirteenth Century," *Journal of Medieval Iberian History* 4, no. 1 (2012): 45–51.
- Francisco García Fitz, "Was Las Navas a Decisive Battle?," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 4, no. 1 (2012): 5–9.

17 October Interfaith Relations and Royal Power in the 13th Century

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia* 271-307
- Caputo, *Debating Truth*
- R.I. Burns, "The Spiritual Life of James the Conqueror, King of Arago-Catalonia, 1208-1276: Portrait and Self-Portrait," *The Catholic Historical Review* 62, no. 1 (1976): 1–35.
- David Nirenberg, "Deviant Politics and Jewish Love: Alfonso VIII and the Jewess of Toledo," *Jewish History* 21, no. 1 (2007): 15–41.

24 October Life in the 13th Century

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia* 310-327 and 347-351
- Thomas W. Barton, "Jurisdictional Conflict, Strategies of Litigation and Mechanisms of Compromise in Thirteenth-Century Tortosa," *Recerca (Tortosa)* 14 (2012): 203–50.
- Paul Freedman, "Rural Servitude and Legal Learning in Thirteenth-Century Catalonia," *The Haskins Society Journal* 22 (2012): 193–208.
- David Igual Luis, "Great and Small Trade in the Crown of Aragon. The Example of Valencia in the Late Middle Ages," *Imago Temporis: Medium Aevum* 3 (2009): 231–48.
- Antonio M. Zaldivar, "Patricians Embrace of the Dominican Convent of St. Catherine in Thirteenth-Century Barcelona," *Medieval Encounters* 18, no. 2–3 (2012): 174–206.

Project proposal due – must include preliminary bibliography with at least 2 primary and 5 secondary sources and research questions

Book review due

31 October The 14th century

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia*, 377-405 and 420-434.
- David Nirenberg, "Massacre and Miracle in Valencia, 1391," in *La Corona Catalanoaragonesa, l'islam i el món Mediterrani: Estudis d'història Medieval en Homenatge a la Doctora Maria Teresa Ferrer i Mallol*. Ed. Josefina Mutgè Vives, Roser Salicrú Lluch and Carles Vela Aulesa, Anuario de Estudios Medievales. Anejo, 71 (Barcelona: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Institución Milà i Fontanals, 2013), 515–26.
- Silleras Fernández, Núria. "'Nigra Sum Sed Formosa': Black Slaves and Exotica in the Court of a Fourteenth-Century Aragonese Queen." *Medieval Encounters* 13, no. 3 (2007): 546–65.

7 November Unification and the Inquisition

- *REQUIRED Medieval Iberia*, 482-530
- TBA
- Watch "Game Night"s

Initial draft due – one hard copy and one electronic copy

14 November Writing Workshop

21 November No Class - Thanksgiving

28 November Presentations

5 December – Presentations, papers due