

REL/HIS 357E - Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Spanish Context

Course Description

This class focuses on the role of the three main monotheistic religions in Spanish history, from Antiquity to Modern-Day Spain. Discussion will focus on the role of Catholicism and other religions in a Democratic Spain, in interaction with the growing population of Muslim immigrants, Jewish communities, and the establishment of Churches of various denominations around the country.

Course Goals and Methodology

Students will come prepared to class, after working with the assigned pages from the readings, primary sources, key questions, and other material supplied by the instructor. The course will include classroom sessions and excursions to sites related to the material covered, in Seville and out of town.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand the cultural and historical meaning of religion(s) within the Spanish historical context; as well to interpret religious traditions by examining religion(s) as historical, social, and cultural phenomena. Furthermore, each student should be able to understand and interpret the subjective dimensions of religion(s) through analyses that explore the psychological, philosophical, and cognitive dynamics of religion and religious experience. And finally, to recognize the historical evolution and influence of religion and religions in today's world.

Required Texts

Selection of readings available in Blackboard.

- Álvarez Junco, J. and A. Schubert (eds.). Spanish History Since 1808. Hodder Arnold, 2000.
- Constable, O. R. (ed.). Medieval Iberia. Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997.
- Cowans, J. (ed.). Early Modern Spain. A Documentary History. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003.
- Cowans, J. (ed.). Modern Spain. A Documentary History. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003.
- Fletcher, R. Moorish Spain. University of California Press, 2006.
- Phillips, W. D. and Phillips, C. R. A Concise History of Spain. Cambridge UP, 2010.

Other readings may be added as well and will also be part of the requirements. All readings will be available online.

Course Requirements and Grading

Oral participation is very important. Students are expected to contribute enthusiastically and courteously. The final grade will consider your initiative and creativity during the different activities scheduled during the course, but also any outside activity that you participate in. You must come prepared to class, which means that you are required to read the assigned chapters prior to class, and you are expected to arrive on time.

There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final exam. There will also be two concise commentaries (500 words, both due in Blackboard) of primary sources due throughout the semester. Further information will be available in Blackboard. No late papers will be accepted.

Students will write a short paper (1000 words) on religion and religions in Spain today, and do a group presentation in class at the end of the semester. More information will be available in Blackboard.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows.

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| • Course Engagement | 20% |
| • Commentaries | 20% |
| • Presentation | 10% |
| • Final Paper | 10% |
| • Exams | 40% |

All assignments will be graded using the Spanish grade scale, please see the UPO student handbook for further detail.

Missed or Late Work

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be typed according to the guidelines given and must be submitted at the beginning of each class, or the given time if submitted. All assignments will be graded using the Spanish grade scale. No late assignments will be accepted.

General Course Policies

Each student is expected to be familiar with the course syllabus. Students are expected to focus their full attention on the class, arrive on time, and stay until class ends. Leaving the classroom on repeated occasions is disturbing to both your professor and your classmates and may adversely affect your participation grade. Please make use of the 10-minute breaks in between classes to fill up your water bottle, use the restroom, etc.

Students are expected to listen and respect other points of view. Phone calls, social media, email, or Internet browsing at any time during class are not acceptable during class except for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor. You are responsible for all course material covered in class, announcements, and/or handouts if you are not present for any reason. Students will be held responsible to be up to date by attending class regularly and checking both email and the Blackboard site of the course frequently (monitor your email and Blackboard announcements at least once every 24 hours).

Communicating with instructor: Please allow at least 48 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails. The weekend is not included in this timeframe. If you have an urgent request or question for your professor, be sure to send it during the week.

Student Engagement Policy

Student's engagement will account for at least 20% of the final grade for every course, thus highlighting its significance for high-impact learning. Students will receive two engagement grades: a mid-term grade (at least 10%) and an end-of-semester grade (at least 10%). An engagement rubric is provided to ensure transparent and consistent grading.

Absences and lack of engagement: Absences during the add/drop period do not count against students' engagement grade but may impact their performance in the course. As a consistent lack of academic engagement may raise concerns about a student's overall academic performance, the following steps will be taken to support students' success:

Initial outreach – after missing 3 classes*

E-mail from professor reiterating engagement policy and consequences for additional absences.

Second outreach – after missing 4 classes*

E-mail from professor and notification of academic staff at the International office.

Academic probation – after missing 6 classes*

Student is called in for a meeting with academic staff at the International office. Automatic notification of home institution and further academic consequences.

Any additional absences will result in a failing grade. Below you can find the Student Engagement Rubric.

RUBRIC

Criteria	Exemplary (9-10)	Proficient (7-8)	Passing (5-6)	Poor (0-4)
Attendance	Arrives on time and stays for the entire duration of class. No absences, or if absent once, demonstrates knowledge of course material missed.	Misses no more than two sessions or is occasionally late. Demonstrates knowledge of course material missed.	Misses 3 or 4 sessions or frequently arrives late/leaves early; exhibits little knowledge/interest regarding course material missed.	Misses 5 or more sessions and does not demonstrate knowledge of course material missed.
Preparation	Consistently well-prepared; demonstrates deep understanding of readings and completes assignments.	Usually prepared; completes readings with some understanding and usually completes assignments.	Occasionally prepared. Demonstrates limited understanding of materials and occasionally completes assignments.	Rarely prepared; minimal effort to engage with course materials.
Participation	Actively participates in discussions with thoughtful comments/questions; demonstrates knowledge of the material and critical thinking skills.	Participates often demonstrating knowledge of material and critical thinking skills.	Participates once in a while or contributions lack depth or relevance.	Does not participate or is disruptive during discussions.
Attentiveness & Respect	Fully engaged and attentive during all sessions; respectful to professor and fellow students. Use of laptop/tablet for notetaking only; no cellphone use.	Generally attentive, with very infrequent lapses in focus and use of electronic devices for non-class related purposes. Respectful to professor and fellow students.	Occasionally inattentive or disengaged. Use of electronic devices for non-class related purposes thus showing disrespect towards professor and fellow students.	Rarely attentive, focused or responsive. Repeated use of electronic devices for non-class related purposes thus showing disrespect towards professor and fellow students.
Collaboration & Feedback	Effectively collaborates with peers in group or in-class activities following professor's instructions. Incorporates feedback to improve learning & performance.	Collaborates frequently with peers or in in-class activities. Incorporates feedback and makes moderate efforts to improve learning & performance.	Occasionally works well with peers but does not contribute substantially to in-class or group assignments. Responds to feedback inconsistently with minimal improvement.	Does not collaborate with peers, does not complete in-class or group assignments. Ignores feedback.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. The International Center may also report this to your home university. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

About using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of AI tools such as grammar checkers, ChatGPT, etc. and automatic translation tools is prohibited unless expressly permitted by the instructor to enhance the students' learning experience. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unacknowledged use of these tools to create content submitted as one's own. If the use of any of these tools is suspected, the instructor may request notes and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students must retain these materials until final grades are posted. Failure to produce these materials when requested may negatively impact the student's grades.

Learning Accommodations

If you require special accommodations or have any other medical condition you deem may affect your class performance, you must stop by the International Center to speak to the Faculty Coordinator Marta Carrillo (mcaroro@acu.upo.es) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The coordinator will explain the options available to you.

Behavior Policy

Students are expected to always show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

Course Contents

1. Introduction to the course: Religion and Religions in Spanish History.
2. Paganism, Monotheism and Heresy in Roman Hispania.
3. Visigothic Hispania
4. Al-Andalus I. Arabization and Islamization
5. Al-Andalus II. The Caliphate of Córdoba
6. Al-Andalus III. Faith and Reason: Aristotle, Averroes & St Thomas of Aquinas
7. Medieval Christian Iberia I. Political divisions and religious unity.
8. Medieval Christian Iberia II. Reconquest and Ideology.
9. The Catholic Monarchs.
10. The Expulsion and Diaspora of Sephardic Jews and Moriscos.
11. The Age of Reforms.
12. Enlightenment and Liberalism. The Constitution of 1876: Limited Religious Freedom and the Return of the Jews
13. The 'Religious Question' during the II Republic and the Spanish Civil War.
14. From National Catholicism to the Non-Confessional State: Francoism and the Transition to Democracy.
15. Religion(s) and religiosity in Spain today

Class Schedule

Week 1

- Introduction. Ancient religions and monotheism. The arrival of Judaism and Christianity to the Iberian Peninsula during the period of Roman rule.
- The rise of Christianity to state religion in the Empire.

Week 2

- Arrival and settlement of Islam in the Iberian Peninsula.
- Rupture or continuity? Christians and Jews under Islamic rule

Week 3

- Who were the Andalusians? Arabization and Islamization.
- Al-Andalus, an Islamic society. The city in al-Andalus.

Week 4

- Knowledge and cultural exchanges in medieval Iberia.
- The peninsula as a cultural bridge between East and West.

Week 5

- Christian Iberia during the Middle Ages.
- Christian society. Feudalism.

Week 6

- Jews and Muslims in medieval Christian Iberia
- From acceptance to rejection. The 14th century, the breakdown of coexistence between religions. Anti-Judaism.

Week 7

- Modern Spain (16th-17th centuries).
- Society in the modern age. "New Christians" versus "old Christians." Purity of blood as a social regulator.

Week 8

- The converso and Moorish problem.
- The Protestant Reformation in Spain.
- The Spanish Inquisition (or New Inquisition).

Week 9

- The expulsion of the Spanish Jews.
- The Sephardic Diaspora.

Week 10

- The Morisco century (1502-1610): Who were the Moriscos? Evangelization and Christianization. Repression and expulsion
- Resistance. The diaspora of the Moriscos.

Week 11

- The Golden Age.
- Church-State relations, 18th-19th centuries.

Week 12.

- The 20th century. End of the colonial wars. The civil war: "The Moors brought by Franco".
- General Franco's dictatorship: "anti-Semitism without Jews" and "the Spanish-Arab brotherhood".

Week 13

- Student presentations

Visit - Tour of Sevilla (TBD)

***This syllabus is subject to change.**