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## SPAN 370 - JEWISH, ISLAMIC AND CHRISTIAN SPAIN (4 credits)

### Course Background and Objective

The arrival in the Iberian peninsula of Islam in 711 marked the beginning of a multicultural society which survived for eight centuries. Medieval and Early Modern Spain has been defined as the "land of three religions", and Spanish society has become a symbol and widespread example of a pluralist society. On the other hand, this particularity has made Spain, as compared with other European lands, a difficult culture for non-Spaniards to understand.

This course seeks to explore diverse facets of Jewish-Muslim-Christian *convivencia* ("dwelling together"; coexistence). Contacts between the three faith-communities occurred throughout, some characterized by cooperation and creativity and others by rivalry and misunderstanding.

The course focuses on religious, cultural, economic and psychological aspects of Contemporary Spain which owe their very existence to the history of multiculturalism in Spain. The course deals with written sources but also focuses on Art, Architecture, Cuisine, Music and other important aspects of Spanish culture. Consequently, this course will include visits to important places such as Toledo, Granada and Córdoba, in order to offer the student the possibility to experience first hand the rich and diverse cultural heritage of present day Spain. The most important goal of this course is to offer examples of peaceful and fruitful cooperation between the three major religions of the World, and to prove that such an ideal is not an unattainable utopia.

### Course Format

There will be 14 **reading quizzes** during the semester. Students will be required to attend class on a regular basis. Those students who accumulate more than 2 unjustified absences will see their grade lowered half a grade per absence. Grading will be based on: in-class performance, participation, reading quizzes, oral presentation, papers, and Midterm and Final Exams. All students must do an **oral presentation** (PowerPoint) in Spanish on one of the topics suggested. All students must submit **2 research papers** on one of the topics suggested.

Oral presentations. Students **MUST** form groups of 4-5 people and turn in their names. Groups must turn in a typed outline of their presentation.

Research Papers. Students **MUST** turn in 2 research papers (5-7 pages long each), following the MLA rules and format. The 1<sup>st</sup> paper will be due on the date of the Midterm Exam. Students who do not bring their paper will not be able to take their Midterm. The second paper will be due on the date of the Final Exam.

### Method of Instruction

This is a **discussion** and a **writing course**. Since mastery of critical thinking and argument skills depends upon spoken as well as written discourse and debate, it is primordial that you become acquainted with the readings to be able to participate effectively in class activities.

Methods of instruction will include lecture, discussion, Student presentations and reading quizzes.

## Classroom guidelines

- ◆ Regular attendance is highly recommended and is crucial to your chance for success and for earning a good grade in this course. Attendance will be taken daily.
- ◆ If you miss one class, you must submit an official justification for it. You are only allowed 2 unjustified absences. Any further absence will lower your grade by half a point.
- ◆ No missed lecture material will be repeated, nor will missed handouts be distributed. Have a classmate on whom you can rely for notes and class instructions.
- ◆ All missed assignments will be averaged into the student's grade as zeroes.
- ◆ **Unless instructed otherwise, students should hand in their due assignments at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted. Make up assignments will not be given without documentation of mitigating circumstance.**
- ◆ It is the student's (who has a valid excuse) responsibility to arrange to make up missed assignments and turn in work at the beginning of each class. I will not remind you every time you have an assignment due: read your class policies and syllabus and keep it for further references.
- ◆ Also, don't schedule any activity that will conflict with your classes (doctor appointments, trips, visits from relatives or friends, etc...)
- ◆ Any paper for which you integrate outside sources, you must thoroughly document following the MLA style. Plagiarism—the intentional or **accidental** use of another's ideas or words which you don't attribute to him/her—will result in **no grade for the assignment, with no opportunity to make up for it**. Similarly, no other academic dishonesty will be tolerated and may result in failure of the course.
- ◆ If you have issues relating to your performance, understanding of methodology, assignments, or you have comments about the class you are welcome to see me in my office during office hours, make an appointment for a convenient day for both you and me or contact me by e-mail.

## Classroom conduct

- ◆ If you come to class without your course-pack, writing materials and implements, you may be asked to leave and it will count as an absence.
- ◆ If you come to class inebriated or if you smell of alcohol, you will be asked to leave and it will count as an absence.
- ◆ The watchwords are respect and common sense. Respect for the learning environment demands special attention not only to classroom attendance, but to decorum as well.
- ◆ **Tardiness** will not be tolerated. If you cannot be on time, do not come at all; as classroom doors will be closed at 5 minutes past. If you are late (2) times, this will count as (1) one absence.
- ◆ Incidents of **leaving early** affect everyone in a classroom. The instructor is disrupted from the facilitation of learning activities. The classmates are distracted as the tardy student enters or leaves the same thing goes for the noisy student.
- ◆ Other disruptive behaviours such as talking to other classmates, making rude and misplaced comments that do not relate to class will not be tolerated. Classmates who want to learn are disadvantaged due to missed information.
- ◆ The school policy requires that students don't eat or drink in the classroom.
- ◆ No beepers, pagers, and cell phones, please! These devices should be turned off while you are in class. Visits to the restroom during class-time will not be tolerated, unless in case of emergency.

## Requirements and evaluation

Grades that may be earned for this class range from A to F. To be eligible to pass this course, you must be always prepared by reading the assigned texts, participate in class discussions effectively and constructively, submit **all** assigned works, turn in reading responses, take in-class quizzes, not miss classes and you must take the final exam.

All work done outside of class that has to be graded—unless specified otherwise--must be typed and presented according to MLA guidelines

**Course evaluation-grade breakdown**

<i>Quizzes (14)</i>	28%
<i>Midterm</i>	15%
<i>Final</i>	20%
<i>In-class performance</i>	10%
<i>Research papers</i>	15%
<i>Formal presentation</i>	12%

**Required text**

A course-pack will be handed out in the first day of class. This course-pack will include many of the readings in this course. Other readings will be available from the online **LIBRO** website <http://libro.uca.edu/>

All students are responsible for accessing these resources, as well as any others specified in the syllabus, from either the library at SUMC or from Online venues.