This course offers an exploration on the history of medieval and early modern Spain through the lens of the relationship between its three religious communities as Muslims, Jews, and Christians were all active participants in the shaping of Spanish identity. This course will focus on the period between the 11th and 16th centuries as the kingdoms of Christian Spain began their “reconquest” of the Muslim south and brought large numbers of Muslims and Jews under their control. The land of three religions that this conquest forged was a study in contradictions. On the one hand, some modern scholars have termed the atmosphere that developed here as “convivencia” (a happy coexistence), while on the other, there are too many episodes of expulsions, pogroms, and forced conversions to keep alive the notion that medieval Spain was an ideal multi-confessional society. By the end of this course, we will have a clearer idea which characterization comes closer to the truth.

This is a graduate seminar. Students MUST HAVE graduate standing in history and HIST 700 or permission of the instructor to enroll.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will learn and be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of interfaith relations in Spain and its impact of our understanding of the Middle Ages as well as Spanish history.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret historical evidence, both primary and secondary, by their participation in class discussions and the research paper.
3. Students will have to demonstrate an ability to do extensive research in primary and secondary sources on a topic of their choice pertaining to interfaith relations on medieval Spain. They will also have to effectively communicate the results of this research in a 20-25 page research paper due at the end of term.

**Books**


Henry Kamen, *The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision* (Yale, 1999)

**Grades and Assignments**

Class Participation: 15% (Missing classes will impact this part of the grade.)

Book Review 1: 15%, 1000-1250 words. (Select a book of your choice that you plan to use for your research paper—DUE MARCH 15th.)
Book Review 2: 15%, 1000-1250 words (Select one of the books that we are reading for class and review it—DUE THE DAY WE READ THE BOOK)
Research Paper Abstract: 5% (DUE MARCH 8th)
Research Paper First Draft: 10% (Optional—DUE APRIL 19th)
Final Research Paper: 20-25 Pages 40% (50% is you choose not to turn in a draft—DUE MAY 17th)

**Disability Statement Policy**

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

**Readings and Discussion Topics**

**Week 1 (Jan 25): Introduction**

Reilly, *The Medieval Spains*

**Week 2 (Feb 1): Crusade and Convivencia**


**Week 3 (Feb 8): Boundaries, Frontiers and Exchanges**


Brian Catlos, “Christians and Muslims: Contact and Conquest” in *The Victors and the Vanquished: Christians and Muslims of Catalonia and Aragon, 1050-1300* (Cambridge, 2004) 71-120 [e-reserve]

Thomas Glick, “‘My Master the Jew’: Observations on Interfaith Scholarly Interaction in the Middle Ages,” in *Medieval Spain: A Triangular Love Affair,* [e-reserve]


**Week 4 (Feb 15): Commerce**

Constable, *Trade and Traders*

**Week 5 (Feb 22): NO CLASS – University Wide Furlough Day**

**Week 6 (Mar 1): Slavery**

Blumenthal, *Enemies and Familiars*

**Week 7 (Mar 8): Captivity**


Koningsveld, P.S. van, “Muslim Slaves and Captives in Western Europe during the Late Middle Ages,” Islam and Christian Muslim Relations 6 (1995), 5-23 [e-reserve]


Abstracts Due

Week 8 (Mar 15): NO CLASS
INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS
Book Reviews Due at time of your meeting

Week 9 (Mar 22): Conversion


Week 10 (Mar 29): NO CLASS
Spring Break

Week 11 (Apr 5): NO CLASS – Personal Furlough Day

Week 12 (Apr 12): Violence and Minorities
Nirenberg, Communities of Violence

Week 13 (Apr 19): Jews in the Crown of Aragon
Meyerson, A Jewish Renaissance
First Drafts Due

Week 14 (Apr 26):
Dangler, Making Difference

Week 15 (May 3): The Last Moriscos
Perry, The Handless Maiden

Week 16 (May 10): Inquisition
Kamen, The Spanish Inquisition

Week 17 (May 17): Final Things
Research Papers Due in my office by 4:00pm