

HIS340E – Ancient & Medieval Spain

Dan Manuel Serradilla Avery

Office: Bldg 25 (CUI)

Email: dmserave@acu.upo.es

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Information:

Fall 2022

M/W 1600-1720hrs

Course Description

The objective of this course is to give students an introduction and overview of the political evolution of the Iberian Peninsula (or IP) from the late Roman Empire to the monarchies of the mid to late fifteenth century. Prior to dealing with ancient history, the students will receive an overview of the history of the genus *homo* in the Iberian Peninsula, as well an instruction to the main pre-Roman cultures that lived in the peninsula, both native and foreign (proto-history & ancient history)

It is important for the students to note and to fully comprehend from day one that the political and cultural entity that constitutes modern day Spain did not exist in antiquity, nor in the middle ages, but it slowly came into being during the modern period. For example, during the Middle Ages the concept of Spain did not constitute a centralized entity, which in the particular case of Spain did not come into existence until the arrival of the Bourbon dynasty in the 18th century, and more importantly it was not until 1833 that the Kingdom of Spain was born. Therefore students of this course must familiarize themselves with the political entities that existed after the fall of Rome, such as, but not limited to, the Visigoth Kingdom of Toledo, the Hispanic March, the Kingdom of Asturias, the Caliphate of Cordoba, the Kingdom of Leon, or the last Muslim kingdom in Europe, the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, to name a few.

Course Goals and Methodology

The complexity of the history of the IP after the year AD 711 –arrival of Islam– does not allow for a typical history course, whereas chronology serves as the basis of class routine. Historical chronology will indeed be important from prehistory to the arrival of the various Germanic tribes to the Roman Empire in the 4th century and early 5th century. After 711, lectures will be divided upon historical blocks by topic; for example the 8th century will be studied in three blocks: the region known as Asturias, the Hispanic March, and Emirate of Cordoba. This will continue until arrival to the mid 13th century; this method will ensure that the student fully comprehends the history of the IP without leading to confusion among the various political entities that existed within the IP.

Learning Objectives

The main objective for this course is for the student to fully understand and comprehend that there was not “such thing” as Spain during this time period. Even if today we read texts written in the past we must understand that is a contemporary misuse; for example: the Bible refers to Spain in various occasions where in fact that political location did not exist but rather a geographical location known as *Hispania*.

Furthermore, the students should be able to grasp the slow transformation of the Roman world and the ruralization that occurred in the Early Middle Ages. Also, to be able to comprehend the birth of Europe as an entity distinguishable from the Mediterranean world of antiquity.

Finally, the students should be able to point-out and explain the various religious cultures, their influences, their advancements, but also their common mistrusts and hatred, of the Iberian Peninsula.

Required Texts

-Bernard F. Reilly, *The Medieval Spains*. (2003)

Additional required readings (selections)

-Roger Collins, *Early Medieval Spain*. (1995)

-Olivia R. Constable (ed.), *Medieval Iberia*. (1997)

-Richard Fletcher, *Moorish Spain*. (2001)

-John Richardson, *The Romans in Spain*. (1998)

-Dan M. Serradilla Avery, *Seville, between the Atlantic & the Mediterranean: 1248-1492*. (2007)

Additional bibliography

-Simon Barton, *A History of Spain*. (2004)

-Raymond Carr (ed.), *Spain: a history*. (2000)

-Charles Chapman, *A History of Spain*. (1918)

Course Requirements and Grading

Oral participation is very important, and each student is expected to contribute enthusiastically and to be courteous while in class. The participation grade will take into account the initiative and creativity during the different activities scheduled during the course, but also any outside activity that the student may participate in.

Students must come prepared to class, which means that each chapter must be read *prior* to class (excluding the first two days of classes), and students are expected to arrive on time. Furthermore, the students must also read a series of primary sources related to the topic at hand and/or lecture. Later on, the students will work on a series of commentaries based upon these sources, which will complement the course. These sources and their respective commentaries, may also appear as part of the examination.

Apart from the commentaries and class participation, there is a midterm and a final examination. These exams are divided into an essay part and a short answer part. To prepare for these short answer questions there will be two quizzes which will be given in the beginning of class and without prior announcement.

Finally, a series of required visits will be made throughout the semester to various areas within Seville or its surrounding. Since they are a requirement a grade will be given. The breakdown for this grade will be two points per visit, as well as general participation during said visits.

The final grade is broken down as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Commentaries	10% (5% each)
Quizzes	20% (10% each)
Visits	10%
Exams	50% (25% each)

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.

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 any and 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 to 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.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is mandatory at all classes. As we understand that you might fall ill or be unable to come to class (e.g. due to a religious holiday, a flight delay, a family wedding/reunion, a graduation, a job interview, etc.) at some point during the semester, you are allowed up to 4 absences. You will be responsible for the material covered and any work missed. You will not need to justify your absences (up to 4) in any way unless you miss an exam, a presentation, a quiz, etc. In this case, you must present a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated) to be able to reschedule the exam, etc. It will still count as an absence but you will be allowed to retake the exam, etc. We don't encourage you to use all 4 days unless you really need them as your participation grade may suffer if you are not in class. If used unwisely and you get sick late in the semester, the following penalties will apply:

- On your 5th absence, 1 point will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 6th absence, 3 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 7th absence, 5 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

For classes that meet once a week, each absence counts as two. For classes that meet daily, the penalties outlined above apply if you go over 6 absences (7th absence=5th absence above). Exams missed due to an excused absence must be made up within a week of returning to classes. Talk to your professor immediately after your return.

COVID-19

Regarding any changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the procedure to follow will be in accordance with the current legislation in the region of Andalucía, Spain.

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.

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 to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is Sept. 30th. The coordinator will explain the options available to you.

Behavior Policy

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. 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 Schedule

Session 1 – Introduction & overview of syllabus.

Block I: prehistory to Ancient History

Session 2 & 3 – The Stone & Metal Ages: natives cultures

Session 4 – Ancient History: pre-Roman Iberia

Block II: Rome

Session 5 to 8 – From the birth to the fall of Rome.

*Readings: Richardson, Chapter I: Romans & Carthaginians, 237-206BC.

*Readings: Collins, Chapter I: The Emergence of a New Order.

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 1: At the Edge of the Empire.

Block III: Early Middle Ages (up to 11th century)

Session 9 – The Visigothic Kingdom of Toledo.

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 2: The Germanic Kingdom in Iberia, 569-711.

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 1: Romance & Reality.

Session 10 & 11 – AD 711; Islam & al-Andalus.

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 2: The Secret of the Tower.

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 3: Iberia and the Dār-al-Islam, 711-1009.

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 3: The Curve of Conversion.



*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 4: The Caliphate of Cordoba.

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 5: The Party Kings: 'Cats puffed up to look like Lions.'

Session 12 – The Christian north (8th to 11th century).

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 4: Christian Reconquista and African Empire, 1009-1157

Session 13 – Midterm Exam (Oct 26th)

Block IV – 12th century and the 13th century expansion

Session 14 & 15 – Almoravids (1091-146) & Almohads (1147-1238).

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 6: The Moroccan Fundamentalists.

Session 16 & 17 – The Christian north (11th to 13th century).

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 5: The Definition of Iberian Autonomy: 1157-1295.

*Readings: *Serradilla, Chapter 1 & 2.*

Block V – Late Middle Ages (14th & 15th century)

Session 18 & 19 – The 14th century crisis of the Late Middle Ages 1350-1474)

Session 20 & 21 – The 15th century crisis; Second Castilian Civil War (1474-1479).

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 6: The Evolution of the Medieval Order in Iberia.

*Readings: Reilly, Chapter 7: the Passing of Medieval Iberia, 1248-1474.

Block VI – the End of the Middle Ages?

Session 22 – AD 1492; from Granada to the Bahamas.

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 8: Nasrid Granada.

*Readings: Fletcher, Chapter 9: An August Pomegranate.

Block V - Visits

Session 23 – *VISIT- Roman Seville; time/location: TBA*

Session 24 – *VISIT- Islamic Seville; time/location: TBA*

Session 25 – *VISIT- 13th century Seville; time/location: TBA*

Session 26 – *VISIT- 15th century Seville; time/location: TBA*

**Carmona Visit: 18NOV*

Session 27 – Final Exam; time/location: TBA

Commentaries:

-Paper commentary I due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS on Midterm Exam

-Paper commentary II due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS on Final Exam