

**THEO-249 Studies in Theology and History: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Medieval Spain**

M T W R  
1500 - 1650  
PRH 6

This course will cover the history and achievements of what was once a multi-religious, multi-cultural civilization and explore the lessons we can learn from a time when Muslims, Christians and Jews lived and worked together. We will examine, specifically, how the contributions of theology, commerce, culture and art of these three religious groups contributed to the development of Spanish society.

The course will include an obligatory class trip to Toledo, Spain, on Friday, May 30. There we will visit some of the city's major religious sites; the Cathedral, the Mosque, the Church of Santo Tome, the Synagogue El Transito and the Sephardi Museum. The cost of the trip is 70 Euros.

An optional hiking trip on the Camino de Santiago is also programmed for May 15 – 19. The 230 Euro cost includes transportation, lunches and sleeping arrangements. Please note that this trip occurs the week before classes initiate and ends on the first day of class. For further information, please contact [studentlife-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:studentlife-madrid@slu.edu)

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will demonstrate critical thinking by analyzing themes, concepts and presuppositions presented in the course material.
- Students will analyze and critique the coherence and argumentation of the course contents within their historical and/or contemporary contexts.
- Students will formulate a thesis and develop a written argument on a specific topic in relationship to the course content.
- Students will analyze specific theological topics within the course and the relationship between them.

**Required Work:**

- Regular, punctual class attendance and preparation for class by doing the assigned readings and participating in class discussions.
- Lead a class discussion (sign-up sheet to be circulated) on one of the topics discussed in class.
- One essay.

**Required Text:** Lowney, Chris: *A Vanished World: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

**Supplementary Readings:**

- Kennedy, Hugh: *Muslim Spain and Portugal: A Political History of al-Andalus*. Longman, 1996.
- Menorcal, Maria Rosa: *The Ornamant of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance*. Hachette, 2002.
- Remie Constable, Olivia (Editor): *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

**Grading Policy:** The final grade is intended to reflect the student's fulfillment of the course requirements, engagement with and comprehension of material studied, and ability to reflect this

comprehension and engagement in the class assignments. The final grade will be determined in the following manner:

- Four written evaluations at 20% each
- Presentation 10%
- Essay 10%

### **Grading Scale**

93-100 A	73-76 C+
89-92 A-	69-72 C
85-88 B+	65-68 C-
81-84 B	60-64 D
77-80 B-	0-59 F

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected.

### **Policy on Late-work:**

- Pay close attention to the syllabus so as not to miss any deadlines.
- If you are scheduled to lead the class discussion and are unable to do so, you are responsible for switching dates with a classmate and informing the professor of the change.
- Evaluations must be taken on the dates assigned. No make-up evaluations are allowed.

**Email:** Both Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to a student's sltu.edu address. Hence you should check your sltu.edu account on a regular basis or have the mail from this address forwarded to a preferred account.

**SLU Mission Statement:** "The Mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research and community service. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding of God's creation, and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit University, the pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judaeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus."

**Accommodation Statement:** In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to [http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning\\_resources.html](http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html).

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to [counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu), or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an

approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

**Academic Integrity:** Because the university is a community of learning, an environment of mutual trust and integrity is vital. Students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility for maintaining this environment. The university's Academic Honesty Policy strictly forbids cheating, falsification, and plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the intentional representation of someone else's thoughts or words as if they were one's own.) Any violation of this policy will result in an F for the pertinent academic exercise. A detailed statement of the policy may be found at [http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic\\_advising/docs/Academic\\_integrity.pdf](http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf)

**Student Assessment:** Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of your work for this course, including exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers and/or portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

### Course Calendar

#### May

- 19 First day of class. Read: Spain before Islam.
- 20 Read: The Moors Conquer Spain. Sign up to lead class discussion.
- 21 Read: Santiago Discovered in the Field of Stars. Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade of W and/or Add a Class
- 22 Read: Martyr Activists.
- 26 Read: the Pope Who Learned Math from Muslim Spain and Europe's Busiest Highway.
- 27 Evaluation 1. Read: A Jewish General in a Muslim Kingdom.
- 28 Read: The Frontier. Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options
- 29 Read: Charlemagne.
- 30 Visit to Toledo.

#### June

- 02 Written assignment due. Read: El Cid.
- 03 Read: The Second Moses.
- 04 Read: Medieval Medicine.
- 05 Evaluation 2. Read: Rethinking Religion.
- 09 Read: A Muslim Commentator Enlightens Christendom.
- 10 Read: Sufism and The Kabbalah.
- 11 Evaluation 3. Read: Fernando III.
- 12 Read: A Common Life Shared Among Three Faiths.
- 16 Read: Alfonso the Learned King.
- 17 Read: The End of Spanish Judaism.
- 18 Final day of class: Columbus and the New World.
- 20 Final Evaluation 15:30-18:30.