



UNIVERSIDAD PABLO DE OLAVIDE
Centro Universitario Internacional

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL SPAIN

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to give students an introduction and overview of Spanish history and culture, from prehistory to the Renaissance. Special emphasis will be given to the events that marked Andalusia.

CLASS FORMAT:

You must come prepared to class, which means that you are required to **read the assigned readings prior to class** (excluding the first two days of classes), and **you are expected to arrive on time**.

There will be **two examinations: a midterm (session 15) and a final (session 27)**. Students will also work on a series of commentaries (analyses) of primary sources. The purpose of these small assignments is to provide the student with a first hand account of the events discussed in class, as well as permitting the student to critically think about and analyze historical documents. These assignments, of which there will be five, should be between two to three pages in length, and must be written according to the guidelines provided in the *A Very Short Guide to Writing About History*. This guide will be available via the Web-CT. These documents will also be part of the student examinations.

Field trips are an integral part of this course, and are thus mandatory. The purpose of these is to give the student a chance to view and learn history directly from a historical site. **Due to time constraints and scheduling conflicts, these trips will take place outside classroom hours and, although every effort will be made to avoid any scheduling conflicts, the student must remember that these visits are mandatory** to all students. The visits will be announced with due notice.

GRADING:

Oral participation is very important, and each student is expected to contribute enthusiastically to discussions and to be courteous while in class. Attendance is checked daily (Note: *after three unjustified absences, 0.5 points will be taken off the final grade; see UPO policy*). The participation grade will take into account the student's initiative and creativity during the different activities scheduled during the course.

Unless otherwise stated, **all assignments must be typed** according to the guidelines given and **must be submitted at the beginning of each class. No late assignments will be graded**, unless it is accompanied by an excused absence (usually medical).

The final grade is broken down as follows:

Participation (Classroom)	10%
Primary Source Commentary	30% (6% each)
Midterm & Final Examination	60% (30% each)

-*A Very Short Guide to Writing About History*: This guide will be provided in due course; in it, the student will not only find helpful information about how to write an historical essay but also specific information about the commentary papers.

WEB-CT

Web-CT is an e-learning software that allows us to interact easily when not in class. Some of the material used in class will be available for your viewing through this platform. It is important for you to review this material, as it will be part of the examination. Furthermore, some assignments will be due via this platform and therefore must be submitted electronically. On some occasions, both an electronic and printed version must be submitted; further details will be given according to each assignment.

To access Web-CT, go to www.upo.es and click on the “estudiantes” tab in the upper menu. Once the next page is loaded, click on “Aula virtual” on the side menu; alternatively: <https://campusvirtual.upo.es/> This will take you to Web-CT, where you will enter the user ID (Nombre de Usuario) and password (contaseña) issued to you by the UPO.

It is your responsibility to check Web-CT on a daily basis, since many assignments will be posted on-line and will not be announced in class. It is also your responsibility to make sure that you can access this platform.

REQUIRED READING:

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

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READINGS (selections):

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

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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

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

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

ONLINE RESOURCES:

-All web sources can be found in the Web-CT.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Session 1 – Introduction: presentation of the course and review of syllabus.

Session 2 – Prehistory I: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic (Stone Age).

Session 3 – Prehistory II & Protohistory: Metal Ages and native cultures.

*Reading: Chapman, Chapter II: Early People to 206 BC.

-Visit: Museo Arqueológico de Sevilla optional

Session 4 – Ancient History I: Arrival of foreign cultures.

Session 5 – Ancient History II: Roman Hispania. (Part I):

*Reading: Chapman, Chapter III: Roman Spain 206 BC-409 AD.

-Paper **commentary I due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS (sept. 25th)**.

Session 6 – Ancient History III: Roman Hispania. (Part II).

*Reading: Reilly, Chapter 1: At the edge of the empire.

Session 7 & 8 – Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages: the 4th & 5th century AD.

Double session - see below.

Session 8 – Visit.

-Visit: Roman Seville (Antiquarium). No class on Monday, October 7th.

-Meeting point/time: “Las Setas” Thursday, October 3rd, at 1800hrs.

Session 9 – Early Middle Ages: the Germanic tribes.

*Reading: Reilly, Chapter 2: The Germanic kingdom in Iberia, 569-711.

Session 10 – Middle Ages I: the Visigothic Kingdom.

*Reading: Chapman, Chapter IV: Visigothic Spain, 409-713

Session 11 – Middle Ages II: the arrival of Islam & al-Andalus.

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

Fletcher, Chapter 2: The Secret of the Tower.

-Paper **commentary II due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS (oct. 16th).**

Session 12 – Middle Ages III: the birth of the Emirate (756-929) & the Christian kingdoms.

*Readings: Chapman, Chapter V: Moslem Spain, 711-1035

Fletcher, Chapter 3: The Curve of Conversion.

Session 13 – Middle Ages IV: the Caliphate (929-1031) & the Taifas (1031-1091).

*Readings: Chapman, Chapter VI: Christian Spain in the Moslem Period, 711-1035.

Fletcher, Chapter 4: The Caliphate of Cordoba.

Session 14 – Middle Ages V: the Independent Taifa Kingdom of Seville (1023-1091).

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

Session 15 – Midterm Exam; Tuesday, October 30th.

Session 16 – Middle Ages VI: the Almoravids (1091-1146) & the Almohads (1147-1238).

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

Fletcher, Chapter 6: The Moroccan Fundamentalists

Session 17 – Middle Ages VII: the Christian north (11th – 13th century).

*Readings: Chapman, Chapters VII-IX 1031-1276.

Reilly, Chapter 5: The definition of Iberian autonomy: 1157-1295.

-Paper **commentary III due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS (nov. 6th).**

Session 18 – Middle Ages VIII: AD. 1248 – Seville & the end of the Reconquest (?):

Reading: Serradilla, Chapter 1: The Kingdom of Seville after the reconquest.

Session 19 – Visit:

-Visit: Carmona. No class on Wednesday, November 13th.

-Meeting point/time: “El Prado”, Friday November 15th, at TBA (am).

Session 20 – Middle Ages IX: economic growth in the Middle Ages – Seville: Economic growth & international trade (13th and 14th century).

*Reading: Serradilla, Chapter 2: Commerce and commercial districts of Seville.

Session 21 – Visit:

-Visit: Medieval & Commercial Seville.

-Meeting point/time: “Giralda”, at TBA (am or pm – via consensus).

Session 22 – Middle Ages X: the 14th century and the crisis of the Late Middle Ages.

*Reading: Reilly, Chapter 6: The evolution of the medieval order in Iberia.

-Paper commentary IV due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Session 23 – Middle Ages XI: the 15th century – Civil War & dynastic unification.

Session 24 – AD 1492: from Granada to the Bahamas.

*Reading: Fletcher, Chapter 8: Nasrid Granada.

Session 25 – AD 1516: the arrival of a new dynasty: the Hapsburgs.

*Reading: Reilly, Chapter 7: The passing of medieval Iberia, 1248-1474.

Session 26 – Review day.

Session 27 – Final Exam; time/location: TBA.

-Paper commentary V due IN CLASS – NO EXCEPTIONS day/time TBA