ARHI 386S AL-ANDALUS: ART AND CULTURE OF MUSLIM SPAIN

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course we will study a period of history which to a great extent shaped Spanish culture and identity, especially in the South. Starting with the Moorish invasion of the VIIIth Century and the splendor of the Caliphate of Córdoba, students will experience the different periods and will come to know the communities which formed Al-Andalus, a politically diverse group nevertheless united by one faith.

Thus, we will arrive at the last period of Muslim activity on the Iberian Peninsula, in the Nazarí Kingdom of Granada, and will analyze the cultural heritage of the Mudejar tradition throughout the Christian Reconquest.

STRUCTURE:

So that classes are not reduced to an exposition of theoretical concepts and slides, this course will not be limited to the classroom, but will be based on frequent contact with the entire cultural heritage that Al-Andalus has left around us.

Classes will start with a presentation of the historical facts of each period to enhance later contact with the work in question. To the greatest extent possible, for each topic we will visit a site that illustrates the features studied in class; slide and video projection in the classroom will form the theoretical base of the class.

Each student will write a field-trip diary, consisting of observations drawn from the many visits in Seville. This paper should be between 6 and 8 pages, typed in Word, 12-pt Arial font, and double spaced, according to the norms of the Writing Program. The due date for the paper will be specified.

TEXTBOOK:

Given the characteristics of this intensive course, and the specific nature of its material, our text will be a packet of readings from diverse sources (texts, articles, maps, etc.), constituting a global vision of the course’s different aspects. This packet will be available after the first class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


In addition to these recommended texts, the Center’s library holds other historical texts of interest, as well as papers, biographies and videos related to the course material.

EVALUATION:

Because of the practical nature of this course, evaluation will be ongoing and will place special emphasis on student participation (attitude, interest…). Class attendance is mandatory. Students who attend class will receive a minimum participation grade of “60” and a maximum participation grade of “100”. Any student not attending class will receive a participation grade of “0” for that day. All absences must be excused by the professor and the administration. To punctuate the importance of participation, there may be pop quizzes at the beginning of class, based on the material studied the day before.

There will be two quizzes during the course, covering the class work and slide identifications, and a final examination.
The final grade will be determined as follows:

- Participation: 25%
- Diary: 25%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Final examination: 25%
VISITS
Session II: Visits to Itálica, the Catedral de Sevilla, and to the Alcázar de Sevilla.
7-Weeks: Visits to the Museo Arqueológico, the Conventos, and the Plaza de Toros

SCHEDULE

First week


FIRST QUIZ

Second week

Topic 3. The disintegration of Córdoba’s hegemony. The Taifa Kingdoms. Visit to the Castle and Gardens of Buhaira. Visit to the wall of Seville, the Macarena, and the Valle Gardens.
Topic 4. The splendor of Seville and the arrival of the African dynasties. Almorávides y Almohades. Visit to the Patio de los Naranjos, the Giralda and Alcázar (Patio del Yeso and Sala de Justicia). Visit to the Torre del Oro, Torre de la Plata and grounds of the Alcázar (walls).

SECOND QUIZ

Third week

Topic 5. The beginning of the Christian Reconquest and the formation of the Nazarí Kingdom of Granada. Visit to the Alcázar at the Gate of Seville at Carmona.

Submit Diary of Visits.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Important Note: Given the special nature of this course, and the fact that it is intensive, attendance is obligatory. Use of Spanish is likewise required.

This program is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.