Medieval Spain and the Idea of Convivencia

Description

It is widely appreciated that Christians, Muslims, and Jews lived together (that is, experienced *convivencia*) for significant portions of medieval Spanish history and benefited materially and culturally from such proximity. Of late *convivencia* has become the focus of increased attention, as people in the "post-9/11" world turn to history for signs of hope that Christians, Muslims, and Jews really can get along. In this course we will take a critical and nuanced look at the idea of *convivencia* and how it relates to the historical realities of medieval Spain.

Units

1. Convivencia as an Idea


2. The Visigoths and the Jews

   - *Forum Iudicum* 12.2 (pp. 1-9) and 12.3 (pp. 1-15), tr. S. P. Scott (Boston, 1910).

3. The Muslim Conquest of Spain

   - Irfan Shahid, "King Solomon's Table" [unpublished manuscript], pp. 1-29.
4. The Martyrs of Córdoba


5. The View from the North: Asturias and Germany


6. The Taifa Kingdom of Granada


7. “The Cid” and the Taifas


8. Roland, Charlemagne, and St. James

- Papal documents: Alexander II and Gregory VII (handouts).
9. The "Great Reconquest:" Muslims and Jews under Christian Rule

- Derek Lomax, *The Reconquest of Spain*, pp. 112-159.

10. Beyond "Tolerance"


11. Convivencia in Modern Spain