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

• Ibn Abd-Al-Hakam, *History of the Conquest of Spain* (Williams and Norgate, 1858), pp. 1-5, 18-43
• Irfan Shahid, "King Solomon's Table" [unpublished manuscript], pp. 1-29.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

• *Chronica prophetica*, pp. 1-6.

6. The Taifa Kingdom of Granada


7. “The Cid” and the Taifas
• Historia Roderici, in Barton and Fletcher, The World of the Cid: Chronicles of the Spanish Reconquest (Manchester, 2001), pp. 90-147.

8. Roland, Charlemagne, and St. James

• Papal documents: Alexander II and Gregory VII (handouts).
• Joseph O'Callaghan, Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain, pp. 1-49.
• The Song of Roland, tr. Sayers (Penguin, 1957), pp. 51-203.
• Pseudo-Turpin, History of Charles the Great, pp. 1-21.
• Richard Fletcher, St. James' Catapult: The Life and Times of Diego Gelmírez of Santiago de Compostela (Oxford, 1984)

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