

***Mozarabs, Marraños and Mudejars:
Interfaith Lessons from Medieval Spain***
Online Lifelong Learning at Claremont School of Theology
Feb. 6 - Mar. 2, 2012

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Course Description

Al-Andalus, the area of southern Iberia ruled by Muslims from 711 to 1492 CE, is often cited as a shining example of centuries of interfaith harmony and cooperation, or *convivencia*, between premodern Muslims, Christians and Jews. Rather than focusing on the many positive interactions, this course examines the tensions between these faith communities at various stages of medieval Spanish history. What did it mean for Christians to conduct their liturgies in Arabic, for Jews to secretly continue practicing their faith while outwardly conforming to Catholicism, and for Muslims to live under Christian rule rather than emigrate from Spain with their coreligionists as the tides of statecraft and war shifted? By understanding how political and economic shifts intersected with the theological and racial views of the time, we can better appreciate how religion is implicated, for good or ill, in today's worldly affairs.

Learning Outcomes

Participants who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. Learn in general about the history of Muslim-Jewish-Christian relations in medieval Spain, and the dynamics of cooperation and conflict over several centuries in light of military and economic shifts in the Mediterranean and European regions.
2. Learn in detail about the expulsion of Muslims from Spain by 1613, following upon the expulsion of Jews in 1492, as part of the political and religious "purification" of Spain by the Catholic monarchs of the time.
3. Evaluate and discuss the ways in which religious identity can be used to support political aims, and how religion can be made to inform destructive acts by institutions and people who see their actions as positive and consistent with God's design.
4. Appreciate and discuss how contemporary discourses regarding "Islam and the West" invoke history as well as historical myths, including those connected with Al-Andalus, to advance divisive politics on the one hand, and Abrahamic reconciliation on the other.

Required Text

Carr, Matthew. *Blood and Faith: The Purging of Muslim Spain*. New Press, 2011.

Paperback available for \$14.96 on Amazon (<http://amzn.to/wKKU6f>); Kindle edition: \$8.99.

Assignments

1. During each week, read assigned chapters of *Blood and Faith: The Purging of Muslim Spain* and linked online articles/resources.
2. By Thursday of each week, prepare online responses to two online questions.
3. By Monday of the following week, provide reflections and feedback on at least two class participants' postings for each week.
4. By March 2, complete a 4-5 page paper on how the course material relates to your ministry, professional, or social context, and moving forward, how you might encourage more accurate understanding of history and how this would inform discussions about Muslim-Christian-Jewish relations.

Reading Schedule

Week 1 (Feb. 6):	<i>Blood and Faith</i> : Introduction and Prologue <i>Blood and Faith</i> : Part I – Conquest to Conversion Plus assigned online material: “Religious and Sexual Boundaries in the Medieval Crown of Aragon” by David Nirenberg, in <i>Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Spain: Interaction and Cultural Change</i> , edited by Mark D. Meyerson and Edward D. English
Week 2 (Feb. 13):	<i>Blood and Faith</i> : Part II – One Flock, One Shepherd Plus assigned online material: “Crypto-Jewish Women Facing the Spanish Inquisition: Transmitting Religious Practices, Beliefs, and Attitudes” by Renee Levine Melammed, in Meyerson/English
Week 3 (Feb. 20):	<i>Blood and Faith</i> : Part III – Catastrophe Plus assigned online material: “The Moriscos and Christian Doctrine” by Consuelo Lopez-Morillas, in Meyerson/English
Week 4 (Feb. 27):	Assigned online material (TBA) and wrap-up discussion

Further Reading

Constable, Olivia Remie, ed. *Medieval Iberia: Readings from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Sources*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997.

Doubleday, Simon R. and David Coleman, eds. *In the Light of Medieval Spain: Islam, the West, and the Relevance of the Past*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Fletcher, Richard. *Moorish Spain*. University of California Press, 1992.

Garber, Jane. *The Jews in Spain*. Free Press, 1992.

Jayyusi, Salma Khadra. *The Legacy of Muslim Spain*. Brill Academic Publishers, 2000.

Lewis, David Levering. *God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570-1215*. W.W. Norton, 2008.

Lowney, Chris. *A Vanished World: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Medieval Spain*. Free Press, 2005.

Menocal, María Menocal. *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Back Bay Books, 2003.

Meyerson, Mark D. and Edward D. English, eds. *Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Spain: Interaction and Cultural Change*. University of Notre Dame Press, 2000.

Ruiz, Teofilo. *Spanish Society, 1400-1600*. Longman, 2001.