

## REL/HIS357E Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in the Spanish Context

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Office Hours: by appointment only

### Course Information:

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REL/HIS357

M/W 12:00-13:20hrs

### Course Description

This class focuses on the role of the three main monotheistic religions in Spanish history, from Antiquity to Modern-Day Spain. Discussion will focus on the role of Catholicism and other religions in a Democratic Spain, in interaction with the growing population of Muslim immigrants, Jewish communities, and the establishment of Churches of various denominations around the country.

### Course Goals and Methodology

Students will come prepared to class, after working with the assigned pages from the readings, primary sources, key questions and other material supplied by the instructor. The course will include classroom sessions and various excursion to a sites related to the material covered, in Seville and out of town.

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand the cultural and historical meaning of religion(s) within the Spanish historical context; as well to interpret religious traditions by examining religion(s) as historical, social, and cultural phenomena. Furthermore each student should be able to understand and interpret the subjective dimensions of religion(s) through analyses that explore the psychological, philosophical, and cognitive dynamics of religion and religious experience. And finally, to recognize the historical evolution and influence of religion and religions in today's world.

### Required Texts

There is not a single textbook for this class, but rather various readings for various sources, some of which include:

- Solomon N., *Judaism*. VSI series. Oxford U. Press. (2014)
- Woodhead, L., *Christianity*. VSI series. Oxford U. Press. (2014)
- Ruthven, M., *Islam*. VSI series. Oxford U. Press. (2012)
- Barton, S. *A History of Spain*. Palgrave Macmillan Press. (2004)
- Constable, O. R. (ed.). *Medieval Iberia*. UPenn Press. (1997)
- Cowans, J. (ed.). *Early Modern Spain*. UPenn Press. (2003)
- Cowans, J. (ed.). *Modern Spain*. UPenn Press. (2003)
- Fletcher, R. *Moorish Spain*. University of California Press. (2006).
- Hooper, J. *The New Spaniards*. Penguin. (2006)

Other readings may be added as well, and will also be part of the requirements. All readings will be available online.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Oral participation is very important. Students are expected to contribute enthusiastically and courteously. The participation grade will take into account your initiative and creativity during the different activities scheduled during the course, but also any outside activity that you participate in. You must come prepared to class, which means that you are required to read the assigned chapters *prior* to class, and you are expected to arrive on time.

There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final exam; as well as four short quizzes. The aim of those quizzes is to prepare the students for the examinations. Finally, and due to the nature of this course and the various visits, a percentage of your grade will be based upon those visits. Finally there is a small paper with includes a class discussion/debate. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation (w/Visits)	10%
Paper (debate) & Visits	10% (5% each)
Quizzes:	20% (5% each)
Exams	60% (30% each)

### General Course Policies

Each student is expected to be familiar with the course syllabus. Students are expected to focus their full attention on the class, arrive on time, and stay until class ends. Leaving the classroom on repeated occasions is disturbing to both your professor and your classmates and may adversely affect your participation grade. Please make use of the 10-minute breaks in between classes to fill up your water bottle, use the restroom, etc.

Students are expected to listen and respect other points of view. Phone calls, social media, email, or Internet browsing at any time during class are not acceptable during class except for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor. You are responsible for any and all course material covered in class, announcements, and/or handouts if you are not present for any reason. Students will be held responsible to be up to date by attending to class regularly and checking both email and the Blackboard site of the course frequently (monitor your email and Blackboard announcements at least once every 24 hours).

Communicating with instructor: Please allow at least 48 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails. The weekend is not included in this timeframe. If you have an urgent request or question for your professor, be sure to send it during the week.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is mandatory at all classes. As we understand that you might fall ill or be unable to come to class (e.g. due to a religious holiday, a flight delay, a family wedding/reunion, a graduation, a job interview, etc.) at some point during the semester, you are allowed up to 4 absences. You will be responsible for the material covered and any work missed. You will not need to justify your absences (up to 4) in any way unless you miss an exam, a presentation, a quiz, etc. In this case, you must present a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated) to be able to reschedule the exam, etc. It will still count as an absence but you will be allowed to retake the exam, etc. We don't encourage you to use all 4 days unless you really need them as your participation grade may suffer if you are not in class. If used unwisely and you get sick late in the semester, the following penalties will apply:

- On your 5th absence, 1 point will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 6th absence, 3 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 7th absence, you will fail the course

For classes that meet once a week, each absence counts as two. For classes that meet daily, the penalties outlined above apply if you go over 6 absences (7th absence=5th absence above). Exams missed due to an excused absence must be made up within a week of returning to classes. Talk to your professor immediately after your return.

### **COVID-19**

Regarding any changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the procedure to follow will be in accordance with the current legislation in the region of Andalucía, Spain.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. The International Center may also report this to your home university. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

### **Learning Accommodations**

If you require special accommodations, or have any other medical condition you deem may affect your class performance, you must stop by the International Center to speak to the Faculty Coordinator to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. The coordinator will explain the options available to you.

### **Behavior Policy**

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

### **Block I – Introduction & the study of religion**

**Session 1** – Course introduction: overview of syllabus, reasons to take this class

**Session 2** – The study of religion vs religion education. Religion in Spanish history.

Geography of the Mediterranean world, and Iberia. Ancient civilizations & religious influence

### **Block II – Abrahamic religions**

**Session 3 to 6** – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

**Block III – Antiquity & the Early Middle Ages**

**Session 7 to 9** – Paganism, Monotheism, and Heresy in Rome (& Hispania)

**Session 10** – Visigothic Hispania: Arians, Trinitarians, and Paganism?

**Session 11 & 12** – al-Andalus: Islamization & Arabization. The Caliphate of Cordoba (929-1031)

**Session 13** – *Midterm Exam (Mar. 8th)*

**Block IV – Medieval Iberia**

**Session 14** – The birth & rise of Christian Iberia; political division & religious unity

**Session 15** – Cats puffed up to look like Lions: the party kingdoms of al-Andalus

**Session 16** – Reconquest and Ideology: then & now

**Block V – Early Modern Iberia**

**Session 17** – Mudejares, Marranos, Moriscos, Conversos,...

**Session 18** – 1492: Expulsion & Expansion (The Catholic Monarchs)

**Session 19** – Reformation & Counter-Reformation

**Block VI – Enlightenment, Reform, Revolution, and Constitutionalism**

**Session 20** – 19<sup>th</sup> century: the Constitution of 1812 vs 1876

**Session 21** – 20<sup>th</sup> century: from the Second Republic to National Catholicism

**Block VII – Visits**

**Session 22** – *VISIT- Roman Seville; time/location: TBA*

**Session 23** – *VISIT- Islamic Seville; time/location: TBA*

**Session 24** – *VISIT- Christian Seville; time/location: TBA*

**Session 25&26** – Student presentations (paper) & debate.

**Session 27** – Final Exam (date/time TBA)