

SPANISH AND ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE

General Description

This course aims to explain and elaborate on what are considered to be the basic points of what has been called the Spanish culture. Emphasis will be placed on both the topics and the specific characteristics of the different aspects covered in the syllabus. While there will be a thorough and detailed studies of phenomena universally regarded as genuinely Spanish.

The Islamic culture section is divided into two blocks where the most important aspects of Hispano-Muslim Civilization will be related, introducing the Arabic culture in general in Block I. The objectives of the course will focus on the student being able to understand the reality of Al-Andalus at a political, economic, social and cultural level (Block II). As the city is the nucleus where these aspects interrelate, area B has been dedicated to the Hispano-Arab city with special emphasis to Granada and the Alhambra.

Content

Spanish Civilisation and Culture section:

1. Spain: Who we are, where we come from, where are we going?
2. The Spains: geographical, linguistic, cultural diversities.
3. Bullfighting: symbol, ritual and metaphor.
4. Flamenco and muse.
5. The other music. Other languages: Castilian, Galician, Catalan, Basque, etc..
6. The gastronomy. The Mediterranean diet. Oil and wine.
7. Religion and folklore events: Easter, pilgrimages.
8. The Spanish family structure.
9. Contemporary Spain: main ideological tendencies, political, cultural, etc.
10. Spain of the U.E.

Islamic Culture in Spain section:

BLOCK I: Arab-Islamic Culture

Topic 1: Pre-Islamic Arabia: -. Linguistic, social, political, economic, religious structure of Arabia before the birth of the Prophet.

Topic 2: Muhammad: prophet and statesman - Biography of Muhammad until the beginning of revelation. The start of Islamic preaching. The development of Islam until the death of the Prophet.

Topic 3: Modus vivendi of Islam. The Quran and Hadith - The pillars of the Islamic faith - Principles of Islamic theology - Legal schools...

Topic 4: Political History of Al-Andalus.

BLOCK II: AREA A: Al-Andalus

Topic 1: From the Conquest to the Caliphate: The Arab-Berber conquest - Emirate dependent on Damascus - The Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba.

Topic 2: Taifa Kingdoms and Dynasties Maghreb. Disintegration of Al-Andalus - Taifa - Almohads - Almoravids

Theme 3: The Kingdom of Granada. Nasries of Granada - Nostalgia of Al-Andalus - Moors

Topic 4: Tolerance in Muslim Spain. Arabs and Berbers - Jews - Mozárabes - Mudéjares

Topic 5: Al-Andalus feudalism in its own way. Agriculture and Livestock - Industry: Production and professional organization. Trade

AREA B: The Spanish-Arabic City

Topic 6: City: citadels - Medinas - Arrabales - Jewish - Musara and musalla - Cemeteries - Streets, and squares battlements - The souk Alhóndigas and alcaicerías - Around the city.

Topic 7: The architecture of the city: Houses - Palaces - Bathrooms – Mosques

Topic 8: A day in Al-Andalus: The family - Women - Food - Dresses - The holidays

AREA C: The Andalusian Culture

Topic 9: The poetic splendour of Al-Andalus. Themes - Poets most relevant - Popular Poetry: Ibn Guzman and zéjel - Relationship between Andalusian poetry and romance.:

Topic 10: Hispano-Muslim Art: Overview - Architecture. Al-Hambra - Applied Arts - Dance and music.

Activities

In addition to the usual following of the explanations in class, there will be an instructional element, based on complementary and recommended reading of either book or newspaper articles on specific topics provided by the teacher, as well as viewing or listening to materials from the media library of CLM that the teacher deems necessary to clarify various issues addressed in the classroom.

Assessment

- Class participation and coursework: 50%.
- Final exam: 50%.

Bibliography

As the course has been conceived as interactive material and multiplicity of papers (books, press, radio excerpts, film, music, television documentaries, etc..) in the course of classes, and depending on what has been studied, the teacher will propose some necessary study materials for each of the items proposed in the subject.

Reference Section for Islamic Culture:

- El Corán, introducción, traducción y notas de VERNET, Juan, Barcelona, Planeta, 1983.
- SANTIAGO SIMÓN, E., Las claves del mundo islámico (622-1945) nº 49, Barcelona, Planeta, 1991.
- COLLINS, R., La Conquista Árabe (710-797), Barcelona, Crítica, 1991.
- SECO DE LUCENA, L., Plano de Granada árabe, Granada, 1910.
- LÓPEZ GUZMÁN, R La arquitectura del Islam Occidental, Granada, 1995