

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area	Medieval & Renaissance Studies
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	Center-Medieval & Ren Studies - D0505
College/Academic Group	Arts And Sciences
Level/Career	Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog	2520
Course Title	Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Mediterranean World
Transcript Abbreviation	Mediterranean
Course Description	An introduction to Mediterranean studies examining relationships between the cultures of the three Religions of the Book (Jews, Christians, Muslims) through art, literature, and history.
Semester Credit Hours/Units	Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course	14 Week, 4 Week (May Session)
Flexibly Scheduled Course	Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component?	No
Grading Basis	Letter Grade
Repeatable	No
Course Components	Lecture
Grade Roster Component	Lecture
Credit Available by Exam	No
Admission Condition Course	No
Off Campus	Never
Campus of Offering	Columbus

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites  
Exclusions

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code	30.1301
Subsidy Level	General Studies Course
Intended Rank	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior

## Quarters to Semesters

Quarters to Semesters	New course
Give a rationale statement explaining the purpose of the new course	See attached.
Sought concurrence from the following Fiscal Units or College	

## Requirement/Elective Designation

General Education course:

Culture and Ideas

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### **Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes**

- Interdisciplinary appreciation of history and culture of the medieval and early modern world through the lens of the Mediterranean trading zone. Appreciation of interactions of religious and ethnic groups in co-existence.
- Critical thinking skills. Use of primary and secondary sources in reading and research. Self-expression and sharpened communication skills through papers and exams.

### **Content Topic List**

- Medieval.
- Politics.
- Economy.
- History.
- Culture.
- Literature.
- Art.
- Architecture.
- Religion.
- Judaism.
- Islam.
- Christianity.
- Mediterranean.
- Early Modern.

## Attachments

- 2520\_Mediterranean.docx: Course rationale statement  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Spitulski, Nicholas M)*
- 2520 Syllabus.doc: Sample syllabus  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Heller, Sarah-Grace)*
- 2520 assessment.docx  
*(GEC Course Assessment Plan. Owner: Heller, Sarah-Grace)*

## Comments

- This is a new GE course. Package needs complete syllabus, GE rationale, and GE assessment plan. *(by Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal on 09/15/2011 08:53 AM)*
- new course *(by Spitulski, Nicholas M on 06/16/2011 11:17 AM)*

**COURSE REQUEST**  
2520 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Heysel,Garett Robert  
10/30/2011

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Spitulski,Nicholas M	06/16/2011 03:22 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Heller,Sarah-Grace	06/17/2011 02:46 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Williams,Valarie Lucille	08/25/2011 08:46 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	09/15/2011 08:53 AM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Heller,Sarah-Grace	10/18/2011 12:20 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Heller,Sarah-Grace	10/18/2011 12:23 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	10/30/2011 08:33 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Meyers,Catherine Anne Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay	10/30/2011 08:33 PM	ASCCAO Approval

MRS 2520: Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Mediterranean World: Iberia

**Course Description and Syllabus:** This course is designed to introduce students to Mediterranean studies, focusing on medieval and early modern art, literature and culture from the three religious and ethnic communities that shared the Mediterranean world. The following is a course that concentrates on Iberia from approximately 611 AD (the Muslim invasion of Spain) to 1609 (the expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain).

MRS 2520 fits in the GEC categories of Culture and Ideas in Arts and Humanities.

Associated Expected Learning Outcomes in Arts and Humanities category: Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

1. Students develop abilities to be informed observers or active participants in the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.
2. Students describe and interpret creative work, and/or movements in the arts and literature.
3. Students explain how works of art and writings explore the human condition.

**Texts:** There is no one required text for the course. The instructor will provide selected readings on history, as well as primary texts from Jewish, Christian and Muslim authors, poets, and philosophers. In addition to these readings, the instructor may present images of art and architecture, music, and documentary films in class. Readings will be posted on Carmen.

**Exams:** There will be four in-class exams covering lecture material, readings, in class presentations of art and documentary films. The exams will include multiple-choice, short answer, and brief essay questions. There is no final exam for this course.

**Final Research Project:** Students will work in small groups (2 or 3 students) on research projects dealing with Iberian cultures in a Mediterranean context within the historical time frame of the course. These projects will be presented in class during the last days of the course. Presentations should be 15 to 20 minutes long. In addition to the presentations, students will be individually graded based on written journals of approximately five pages that report on their work and learning during the research process.

**Grading:**

Participation and Presentations	15%
Exams	50%
Research project journal	35%

**Grade Scale:**

A	95-100
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A-	90-94
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	70-72
D+	68-69
D	65-67
F	0-64.9

**Academic Misconduct:**  
It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

**Disability Services:**  
Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

### Calendar of weekly topics, readings and exams:

Week 1: Mediterranean Studies. Approaches to Mediterranean Studies, Geography, Transhumance, Seas and Coasts.

Week 2: Mediterranean Studies. Selected readings from Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* (vol. I), chapter 2 “The Heart of the Mediterranean: Seas and Coasts”.

Week 3: **Exam #1 (Mediterranean Studies)**. The Jews in Iberia. Films for the Humanities documentary on the history of the Jews in Spain “Acts of Faith”.

Week 4: The Jews in Iberia. Readings from Angus MacKay *The Jews in Spain*, chapter 1 “The Jews in Spain during the Middle Ages”.

Week 5: Selected poems from Judah Halevi, and readings from Maimonides, *Commentary on the Mishna*, and *Guide for the Perplexed*. Virtual, online tour of Toledo and Santa María La Blanca, the Congregational Synagogue of Toledo.

Week 6: Jews from Iberia in the Mediterranean World. Readings from Paloma Díaz Más, *Sephardim: The Jews from Spain*, chapter 2 “History of Sephardim. Exile to Christian Countries. Sephardim in the East”. Selected readings of Sephardic ballads (Samuel Armistead, ed. online)

Week 7: **Exam #2 (Jews in Iberia and the Mediterranean)**. Christians in Iberia. Visigoths to the Habsburgs. Readings from *Spain: A History* (Ed. Raymond Carr), chapter 2 “Visigothic Spain” (by Roger Collins).

Week 8: Christians in Iberia. Readings from *Spain: A History*, chapter 3, “The Early Middle Ages: 700–1250” (by Richard Fletcher). Films for the Humanities documentary “The Spanish Reconquest”.

Week 9: Selected readings from the *Poem of the Cid* (Michael Bailey online edition <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/cid/>) and Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (“The Captive’s Tale”). Films for the Humanities documentary on Diego de Velázquez. ArtStore presentation on Velázquez and “Las Meninas”.

Week 10: Christians from Iberia in the Mediterranean World. Readings from John Lynch, *Spain Under the Habsburgs*, chapter 6, “The War with Islam”, and from *Spain: A History*, chapter 6, “Vicissitudes of World Power” (by Henry Kamen).

Week 11: **Exam # 3 (Christians in Iberia and the Mediterranean)**. Islam in Iberia. Readings from María Rosa Menocal, *Ornament of the World* (“Mother Tongues”, “A Grand Vizier, A Grand City”, “The Gardens of Memory”). Films for the Humanities documentary “The Andalusian Epic”.

Week 12: Selected readings from Hispano-Arabic poetry (muwaxahat from James Monroe, ed. *Hispano-Arabic Poetry: A Student Anthology*) and short stories (maqamat, *Maqamat al-Hariri*). Virtual tour of Alambra palace, Cordoba, the mosque of Cordoba.

Week 13: Muslim from Iberia in the Mediterranean World. Readings from Andrew Hess, *The Forgotten Frontier: A History of the Sixteenth Century Ibero African Frontier*. Films for the Humanities documentary on mosques around the world, including Spain, Africa and United States, “Heaven on Earth: Monuments to Belief”. Student presentations of research projects.

Week 14: **Exam #4 (Muslims in Iberia and the Mediterranean)**. Student presentations of research projects and conclusions

MEDREN 2520

Full Title:

Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Mediterranean World

abbreviated title

Mediterranean

short description:

An introduction to Mediterranean studies examining relationships between the cultures of the three Religions of the Book (Jews, Christians, Muslims) through art, literature, and history.

Long description:

An introduction to Mediterranean studies, focusing on medieval and early modern art, literature and culture from the three religious and ethnic communities that shared the Mediterranean world. Individual courses can center on a special theme that ties the groups together, or that concentrates on one significant region, nation state, city, or empire. For example, specialized courses could focus on Spain or Italy, the Byzantine empire, or the Almohad dynasty in North Africa. Other courses could study the history of a multicultural city, such as Marrakesh or Istanbul, or follow a particular theme, such as the silk trade, throughout the Mediterranean.

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) 2520, “Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Mediterranean World”

Rationale for GE Cultures and Ideas Category and Assessment Plan for the Course

Course Description:

This omnibus course is designed to introduce students to Mediterranean Studies, focusing on medieval and early modern art, literature and culture from the three religious and ethnic communities that shared the Mediterranean world. Individual courses taught by a wide range of CMRS affiliated professors can center on a special theme that ties the groups together, or that concentrates on one significant region, nation-state, city, or empire. For example, specialized courses could focus on Spain or Italy, the Byzantine empire, or the Almohad dynasty in North Africa. Other courses could study the history of a multicultural city, such as Marrakesh or Istanbul, or follow a particular theme, such as the silk trade, throughout the Mediterranean.

In addition to the introduction to Mediterranean Studies, MRS 2520 addresses contemporary issues related to the interaction of Christians, Jews, and Muslims today in the Mediterranean region and Near East. Students will be encouraged to explore their interests and express their views on historical and contemporary topics related to the three groups in the Mediterranean through exams, brief essays, and a final research project and presentation. The course is intended to meet major requirements in CMRS, as well as GE credit. Specifically, it is intended to fulfill the GE Arts and Humanities: Cultures and Ideas category.

As described above, the course is designed to introduce students to Mediterranean Studies through various topics with interdisciplinary approaches that focus on the three ethnic and religious communities, either in a panoramic course, or by focusing on the interactions of those same groups in a particular region or time from the medieval to the early modern period. The following is a sample fourteen-week course that concentrates on Iberia from approximately 711 AD (the Muslim invasion of Iberia) to 1609 (the expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain).

In the first three weeks of class, students will study the major concepts, definitions, geography, and foundational studies for medieval and early modern Mediterranean Studies before moving on to a more concentrated examination of Iberia and its significance in the Mediterranean world.

Approximately three weeks would then be dedicated to the history and cultural production of each of the three groups in Iberia and beyond as they moved from Spain throughout the Mediterranean (for a total of nine weeks). For example, three classes could be dedicated to the Jews of Iberia and three classes on the Sephardic experience throughout the Mediterranean. Then three classes on the Christian communities and kingdoms of Spain, and three classes on the expansion of those kingdoms beyond Iberia. Finally, three classes on Muslim Spain, the Caliphate of Cordoba and Taifa kingdoms,



followed by three classes on the Muslims from Spain in North Africa. Approximately two weeks of classes can be set aside for in-class exams and research presentations.

Topics and readings for a course on Iberia can range from literary texts (epic and lyric poetry, short prose narrative, early novels, theatre, etc) to chronicles, philosophical and scientific treatises, architecture, art and music. For each of these topics there are abundant short documentary films available for students through the OSU Libraries research database Digital Resource Commons, many of which deal with the histories and cultures of Iberia, and can be used to organize class discussion.

General goals of the GE Arts and Humanities requirements:

- *Aesthetic and historical response and judgment.* Students consider the historical development and contributions of Christians, Jews and Muslims to Mediterranean civilization through the arts, philosophy, science, music and architecture.
- *Interpretation and evaluation.* Students learn about Mediterranean Studies approaches to the study of literature, art, and history.
- *Critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing.* Students develop critical tool to evaluate texts and cultural objects from the medieval and early modern Mediterranean that will aid them in becoming more critically self aware of their own ideas about Christians, Jews and Muslims.
- *Experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.* Students will directly engage literature, music, architecture, and the visual arts from the medieval and early modern Mediterranean.

General learning objectives of the GE Arts and Humanities requirements:

- *Students develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.* Students analyze a range of texts, art objects, music and architecture related to Jews, Christians and Muslims from the Mediterranean.
- *Students develop an understanding of the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.* Students learn to critically examine the beliefs of different religious communities and their shared history in the Mediterranean.
- *Students examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and humanistic writings.* Students are encouraged to explore their own values through a study of the intersecting, multicultural human experiences expressed in medieval and early modern works of art from Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities.

Expected learning outcomes for Cultures and Ideas:

- *Students develop abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret major forms of human thought and expression.* Students will analyze major secular and religious

works of literature, philosophy and art from three religious communities in the Mediterranean.

- *Students develop abilities to understand how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior. Through the study of the histories and cultures of Jews, Christians, and Muslim from the Mediterranean, students will develop a deeper appreciation of history and Western Civilization, and of the ways in which those histories shape our current understandings and debates about the relationships between Muslim, Christians and Jews today.*

Assessment plan for the course:

Assessment is embedded in the grading criteria for the assignments, exams and research projects. Assignments will be evaluated based on the goals and objectives of the course. Specifically, the course will evaluate whether students' written and oral assignments indicate that they have learned to

- understand the disciplinary history and research methods of Mediterranean Studies
- write and speak with clarity and precision so as to advance thoughts and arguments coherently and persuasively
- engage in critical analysis of written and visual texts related to the histories and cultures of Christians, Jews and Muslims from the medieval and early modern Mediterranean world
- achieve an understanding of how the art, literature and history of Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities shape our cultural values and beliefs about those same groups today.

The instructor will assess the degree to which the main objectives of the course, as stated above, have been achieved in the various course assignments. The CMRS office will maintain the instructor's assessment and other comments, such as exit surveys, in the course file for future review. Students will also be asked to complete the SEI evaluations (including the on-line SEI narrative evaluations) for the course. Based on the comments of the students and the instructor's assessment (which includes an evaluation of the materials and pedagogy employed), appropriate changes will be made to the syllabus.