

ISLAMIC CULTURE IN SPAIN

General Description

The main objective of this subject is to give the students an overall view of the Arab-Islamic world through its history and culture. Thus, the program is divided in five chapters that include Arab-Islamic history from its beginning to the present time, rendering special attention to the Islam as a fundamental religious and cultural phenomenon in Arab history, as well as to the socio-political development of al-Andalus.

Content

I. THE ARAB CONTEXT

1. Arab World / Islamic World - Relationships and divergences. The Arab-Islamic context
2. Pre-Islamic Arabia - Geography, society, culture and politics. The concept of 'Jahiliyya'

II. THE MESSAGE OF ISLAM

3. Muhammad the Prophet of Islam - Prophethood and leadership. The *Sunna*
4. The Coran - An approach to its structure and contents
5. The 'Five Pillars of Islam' and the Islamic beliefs
6. The Islamic Law (*Sharia*) - Foundations, principles and development of the juridical *sunni* schools

III. THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE

7. The spread of Islam - From the 'Rashidun' Caliphs to the Omayyad and 'Abbasid Caliphates.

IV. AL-ANDALUS

8. Political history of al-Andalus - From the early conquest to the *Tawa'if* Kingdoms. Almoravids and Almohades
9. Society and culture - Literature, philosophy and art
10. The *Nasri* Sultanate of Granada - Socio-political development

V. CONTEMPORARY ARAB-ISLAMIC WORLD

11. Colonialism and independence - From reformism to Arab nationalism. Political Islam and Islamism
12. The Arab Mass Media and the question of Democracy. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Assessment

Final exam (50%). Attendance and active participation (25%). Accomplishment of the exercises and programmed activities in the classroom, and homework (25%)

Bibliography

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- BELL, R.. *Introduction to the Qur'an*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1977.
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- . *Historia de los pueblos árabes*. Barcelona: Ariel, 1992.
- KENNEDY, Hugh. [Muslim Spain and Portugal: A Political History of al-Andalus](#). Harlow, England: Longman, 1996.
- . [Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates: the Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century](#). London: Longman, 1996
- SICKER, Martin. *The Islamic World in Ascendancy from the Arab Conquests to the Siege of Vienna*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2000.