

University of Southern California

SPAN 499: Cultural Convergence in Granada and Marrakech

Maymester: May14-June 11, 2018

Professor: Marie Enright, PhD

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Course description:

This course explores the contemporary convergence of cultures and the collective memory of al-Andalus (Muslim Spain) as a point of cultural, racial and religious intersection in Granada, Spain and Marrakech, Morocco. During medieval times, Islamic rule in Spain led to important cultural exchanges and cooperation between Muslims, Christians and Jews, which we may continue to study today through the mixing of language, literature, music, theater, dance, cuisine and architecture. We seek to understand the capacity for tolerance and coexistence that existed in al-Andalus, while reflecting on contemporary challenges faced in diverse societies, particularly in terms of shared space, music, theater, literature and philosophies of life. Through this course students will discover our shared cultural patrimony through literary works by Federico Garcia Lorca, Juan Goytisolo, Washington Irving, María Rosa Menocal, Fatima Mernissi, Edward Said, and others. Students will experience cultural events and historic places such as flamenco night in the caves of Sacromonte, a visit to Federico Garcia Lorca's home, tours of the Alhambra palace and Generalife gardens, the Cathedral and Royal Chapel and the Albaicín, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. The course will include a day trip to Córdoba, the cultural and intellectual center of al-Andalus, which is also designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. The course will culminate in a 5-day excursion to the former imperial city of Marrakech, Morocco.

While in Marrakech, students will explore the Medina, including the Koutoubia Mosque and Minaret, the Bab Agnaou gate, the Saadian Necropolis, El Badi Palace, the Bahia Palace, the Jewish quarter and Ben Youssef Madrasa while reflecting on cultural similarities and differences.

Course objectives:

- *Reflect on the ways in which the cultural history and legacy of al-Andalus enriches the human experience.
- *Cultivate critical appreciation for the diverse artistic and cultural forms that are found in Andalusia and Morocco, including the written and spoken word, dance, music, architecture, and cuisine.
- *Engage with lasting ideas, values and criticisms implicit in multi-cultural societies such as that of al-Andalus.
- *Learn to read & interpret complex texts and aesthetic pieces, through various approaches.
- *Learn to evaluate texts, artwork and ideas from multiple perspectives and to recognize the value in this process.
- *Collaborate with other students in the interpretive, analytical and creative process.

Course format:

1 week at USC

2 weeks in Granada, Spain with day trip to Córdoba

1 week in Marrakech, Morocco

The course will take place over a period of four weeks – one week at USC, two weeks in Granada and one week in Marrakech, Morocco. The course will consist of daily lectures given in English, discussions and analysis of fiction, poetry and scholarly works as well as student presentations. We will visit historically significant sites with English-speaking guides and students will record their reflections (written/visual) in bi-weekly essays. Students must read the assignments before class and be prepared to discuss them in class on the date indicated. Assignments will be available on Blackboard. Student accommodations: hotels in Granada and Marrakech.

Required reading and films:

Bizet's Carmen. Dir. Francesco Rosi. Gaumont, 1984. Film.

Çelik, Zeynep, Diane Favro and Richard Ingersoll, eds. *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press: 1994. (Selections.)

García Lorca, Federico. *Collected Poems*. Rev. ed. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002.

- Goytisolo, Juan. *Count Julián*. Trans. Helen Lane. McLean: Dalkey Archive Press, 2007.
- Irving, Washington. *The Alhambra: Tales by Washington Irving*. Barcelona: Editorial Escudo de Oro: 1995.
- Menocal, María Rosa. *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2002.
- Mernissi, Fatima. *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in a Modern Muslim Society*. New York: Schenkman Publishing Company, 1975.
- . *Women and Islam*. Trans. Mary Jo Lakeland. Oxford : Blackwell Publishers, 1991.
- Nochlin, Linda. "The Imaginary Orient." *Art in America* 71, no. 5 (May 1983): 120-129, 186-191.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Random House, 1978. (Selections.)
- (Articles will be available on Blackboard)

Evaluation:

Class Participation/Preparation/Discussion 15%

2 Essays 40%

Oral Presentation 20%

Final essay exam 25%

1 – Class Participation/Preparation/Discussion 15%

Students must read the assignments and/or view films before class and be prepared to discuss them in class on the date indicated. Excursions listed on the syllabus are part of the course and are mandatory. Due to the intensive nature of this overseas program, students are allowed one unexcused absence.

2. Two Critical Essays (20% each)

The Critical Essays will be opportunities for students to demonstrate their comprehension of the assigned texts and to reflect on the experiential learning that happens outside of the classroom. Essays will be 4 pages in length, 12 pt font, double-spaced.

3. Oral Presentation (20%)

Topics for the Oral Presentations will be cleared with the professor in advance, and will require thorough research, an outline and a 1-page write-up with bibliography. Students will prepare content questions for the class to discuss at the end of each presentation. Presentations will be given with a partner, and therefore will require collaboration.

4. Final essay exam (25%)

The Final Exam will be a comprehensive essay exam on the last day of the program in Granada.
Final Exam date: June 11, 2018

Week 1 (at USC)

Monday, May 14

9-11am Introduction to Granada and its history

Read: Menocal, María Rosa. *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2002.

Tuesday, May 15

9-11am Multiculturalism in Spain

Continue reading: Menocal, María Rosa. *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2002.

Wednesday, May 16

9-11am Orientalism defined

Read: Excerpts from: Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Random House, 1978.

Thursday, May 17

9-11am Exoticism in Spain

View film for discussion: *Bizet's Carmen* (Francesco Rosi, 1984.)

Friday, May 18

Fly to Granada

Saturday, May 19

Welcome dinner in Granada

Sunday, May 20

Week 2 (Granada)

Monday, May 21

9-11am Topography and the medieval city

Read: Excerpts from: Çelik, Zeynep, Diane Favro and Richard Ingersoll, eds. *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press: 1994.

Evening: Tapas walking tour of Granada

Tuesday, May 22

9-11am A 19th-century journey to Granada

Read: Irving, Washington. *The Alhambra: Tales by Washington Irving*. Editorial Escudo de Oro: Barcelona, 1995.

Afternoon: Alhambra and Generalife gardens

Wednesday, May 23

9-11am A 19th-century journey to Granada

Essay 1 due

Continue reading: Irving, Washington. *The Alhambra: Tales by Washington Irving*. Editorial Escudo de Oro: Barcelona, 1995.

Thursday, May 24

9-11am – Exoticism and The Other

Read: Nochlin, Linda. “The Imaginary Orient.” *Art in America* 71, no. 5 (May 1983): 120-129, 186-191.

Afternoon: Albaicín tour

Friday, May 25

Evening: Flamenco night at Caves of Sacromonte

Saturday, May 26

Sunday, May 27

Week 3 (Granada)

Monday, May 28

Day trip to Córdoba, cultural and intellectual center of al-Andalus

Tuesday, May 29

9-11am Between Morocco and Spain

Read: Goytisolo, Juan. *Count Julián*. Parts I & II

Afternoon: Cathedral and Royal Chapel

Wednesday, May 30

9-11am An Andalusian Poet

Read: Lorca, Federico Garcia. *Impresiones y paisajes*.

Afternoon: Visit Federico Garcia Lorca's home

Thursday, May 31

9-11am An Andalusian Poet

Read: Lorca, Federico Garcia. *Romancero gitano*.

Evening: Performance at Teatro Alhambra or Teatro Isabel la Católica

Friday, June 1

9am-12pm Group presentations

Afternoon: Arab baths

Saturday, June 2

Sunday, June 3

Week 4 (Granada and Marrakech)

Monday, June 4

9-11am Women, Islam and Public Space

Essay 2 due

Read: Excerpts from: Mernissi, Fatima. *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in a Modern Muslim Society*. New York: Schenkman Publishing Company, 1975.

Tuesday, June 5

Fly Granada to Marrakech

Traditional Moroccan dinner

Wednesday, June 6

Morning and afternoon: Walking tour of the Medina, including the Koutoubia Mosque and Minaret, Bab Agnaou gate, Saadian Necropolis, El Badi Palace, the Bahia Palace, the Jewish quarter and Ben Youssef Madrasa

Thursday, June 7

10am-12pm Between Morocco and Spain

Read: Goytisolo, Juan. *Count Julián*. Parts III & IV

Friday, June 8

10-12pm class Reflections on cultural differences and similarities, discuss final exam

Saturday, June 9

Fly Marrakech to Granada

Sunday, June 10

Rest, study for final exam

Monday, June 11

10am-12pm Final exam

Evening: End of Program Dinner

***This syllabus is subject to change.**

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.