Course Title: Muslim Spain: Philosophy and Culture  
Course Code: HIS 189  
Instructor: Vincent Barletta

Course Summary:  
This course will examine the history and culture of Al-Andalus, the portion of what is now southern Spain and Portugal that was once under Muslim rule (711-1492 CE). With a focus on politics as well as art, music, and literature, we will consider the origins of Al-Andalus in the early eighth century CE, its spectacular flourishing in the early eleventh century, and its eventual collapse at the end of the fifteenth century. Our focus will be on philosophy, law, and song forms (zajals and muwashshahat), as well as Islamic jurisprudence and politics. In this course, students will learn of a seven-century stretch of European history during which Muslim kingdoms were at the cutting edge of science, philosophy, art, music, and literature while exercising striking tolerance with respect to their non-Muslim subjects.

Grade Options and Requirements:  
- No Grade Requested (NGR)  
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.  
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)  
  - Students must participate in at least 70% of weekly discussions and/or Zoom sessions.  
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)  
  - Students must participate in at least 70% of weekly discussions and/or Zoom sessions, and complete a piece of written work (to be discussed further in class).

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Zoom Schedule:  
Mondays 7-8:50PM

Tentative Weekly Outline:
Week One: Beginnings (Muslim conquest of Iberian Peninsula)

Week Two: Beginnings (The Umayyad Emirate, ibn Masarra)

Week Three: Theological and Legal Schools (Islamic Jurisprudence [fiqh], Four Sunni Madhabs, ibn al-Malik)

Week Four: Theological and Legal Schools (Mu’tazilites, ‘Asharites, Karaites, Zahiris)

Week Five: Intellectual Elites (Arabic poetry, qasidah, muwashshah, zajal)

Week Six: Intellectual Elites (Hebrew poetry, architecture, music)

Week Seven: Neoplatonism (Introduction, al-Batalyawsi, ibn Gabirol, Moses ibn Ezra)

Week Eight: Sufism (ibn al-‘Arabi)

Week Nine: Aristotelianism (Eastern sources (al-Farabi, ibn Sina), the Almohad Dynasty, ibn Tufayl)

Week Ten: Aristotelianism (ibn Rushd, Maimonides)

Note About Live Attendance and Recording:

These class sessions will be recorded.

Live participation is required in order for students to receive the full benefit of the course. Class recordings are not intended to be a replacement or substitute for class attendance.