



**Course Title:** A History of Muslim Spain, 711-1492 CE  
**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 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 8th century CE, its spectacular flourishing in the early 11th century, and its eventual collapse at the end of the 15th century. Focus is on lyric poetry (*zajals* and *muwashshahat*), classical music, and philosophy (ibn Rushd, ibn Tufayl), as well as Islamic jurisprudence and politics.

*\*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

## 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 attend at least 80% of class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class 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.*

## Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1: The Iberian Peninsula before Islam

Week 2: Invasion and Consolidation

Week 3: Fall of the Umayyads

Week 4: The Caliphate of Córdoba

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions  
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650-725-2650

Week 5: Poetry and Philosophy in the Caliphate of Córdoba

Week 6: The Party Kings

Week 7: Poetry and Philosophy under the Party Kings

Week 8: Almoravids, Almohads, and Merinids

Week 9: Poetry and Philosophy under the Almohads

Week 9: The Kingdom of Granada

Week 10: The End of al-Andalus