

# *ISLAMIC CULTURE IN SPAIN*

## **1. Introduction**

The course is divided into two Sections in which the most important aspects of the Hispanic-Moslem Civilisation will be interconnected, appearing in Section I general Arabic culture. The aims of the course are to enable the student to recognise the reality of Al-Andalus on a political, economic, social and cultural level (Section II). As the city is the nucleus where these aspects will be interrelated, the Hispanic-Arabic city is studied in sub-section B, with special interest in Granada and the Alhambra.

## **2. Syllabus**

### *Section I: Arabic-Islamic Culture*

1. Topic 1: Pre-Islamic Arabia:- Social, political, economic, religious and linguistic structure of Arabia before the birth of the prophet.
2. Topic 2: Mahomet: prophet and man of the State. – Biography of Mahomet up to the beginnings of the revelation. The beginning of the Islamic preaching. The development of the Islam until the death of the prophet.
3. Topic 3: Modus vivendi of the Islam. The Koran and the Hadices.- The pillars of the Islamic faith.- The beginnings of the Islamic theology.- The judicial schools.
4. Topic 4: Political history of Al-Andalus.

### *Section II: Sub-Section a: Al-Andalus*

5. Topic 1: From the Conquest to the Caliphate: The Arabic-Berber conquest.- Emirate dependent on Damascus.-The Omeya Caliphate of Córdoba.
6. Topic 2: The Taifa Kingdoms and North African dynasties: Disintegration of Al-Andalus.- Taifas.- Almohads.- Almoravids.
7. Topic 3: The kingdom of Granada: Nasrid Granada.- Nostalgia for Al-Andalus.- Moors.

8. Topic 4: Tolerance in Moslem Spain: Arabs and Berbers.- Jews.- Mozarabs.- Mudejars.
9. Topic 5: Al-Andalus a *sui generis* feudalism: Agriculture and cattle.- Industry: professional production and organisation. Trade.

*Sub-Section b. The Hispanic-Arabic City*

10. Topic 6: The city: Fortresses.- Medinas.- Outskirts.- Jewish quarter.- Cemeteries.- Streets, adarves and squares.- the market-place: corn exchanges and alcaicerias.- environs of the city.
11. Topic 7: The architecture of the city: House.- Palaces.- Baths.- Mosques.
12. Topic 8: A day in Al-Andalus: Family.- Wife.- Food.- Clothes.- Celebrations.

*Sub-Section c: Andalusí Culture*

13. Topic 9: The poetic splendour of Al-Andalus: Themes.- Most relevant poets.- Popular poetry: Ibn Guzmán and the zéjel.- Relation between Andalusí poetry and romance.
14. Topic 10: Hispanic-Moslem art: General view.-Architecture.- Al-Hambra.- Applied arts.- Dance and music.

### **3. Activities**

Class lectures on the course content along with visits to the principal architectural remains of the city where questionnaires will be filled in. At the end of the course a map will be given out and the students will complete with the most important andalusí features which constituted the Islamic city.

### **4. Evaluation**

Attendance and class participation will be 20%.

Participation in cultural activities and visits will be 30%.

Exam and a coherent summary of class notes will be 50%.

## **5. Bibliography**

*El Corán*, introduction, translation and notes by VERNET, Juan, Barcelona, Planeta, 1983.

SANTIAGO SIMON, E., *Las claves del mundo islámico* (622-1945) number 49, Barcelona, Planeta, 1991.

COLLINS, R., *La Conquista Árabe* (710-797), Barcelona, Critica, 1991.

SECO DE LUCENA, L., *Plano de Granada árabe*, Granada, 1910.

LÓPEZ GUZMÁN, R., *La arquitectura del Islam Occidental*, Granada, 1995.

Films: *Mahoma, el mensajero de Dios*, British-Kuwait production, directed by Mustafa Akkad.

*Requiem por Granada*, clips from the television series. Legado Andalusí, audio-visual clips.