HS/So 333 Discrimination and Persecution in Spain and the West Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Religious and Racial Prejudice
IES Abroad Barcelona

Description:
"The very ink with which History is written is merely fluid prejudice," Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson and Other Tales.

What are the origins of modern religious, racial, and ethnic prejudice and persecution in Europe? Why have anti-Semitism and Islamophobia been so persistent throughout history? How do these paradigmatic cases help us reflect critically upon cases of discrimination and exclusion in the world today?

Spain has always occupied a conspicuous and contradictory place within the modern history of the West. Today Spain is regarded by some (although not by all) as a relatively welcoming place for foreigners. Despite the recent economic crisis, the Migration Integration Policy Index ranks Spain as having the best record among Europe's major immigration countries with respect to the integration of migrants. This, however, is a rather recent phenomenon. Scholars from various disciplines have long argued that institutionalized religious and ethnic persecution began on the Iberian Peninsula with the forced conversion and expulsion of Jews and the establishment of the Inquisition during the late middle ages and early modern period. Laws regarding "purity of the blood" were later implanted and transformed during the colonization of Spanish America. Medieval and early modern persecutions served as a forerunner to the murderous industrialized regime of genocide, based on scientific and genetic theories of racial superiority and inferiority, in Nazi Germany during the twentieth century. Today, Islamophobia is widespread in Europe and the United States.

The course is divided into three sections. The first section examines Spain of the Inquisition and the empire. Section Two analyzes early modern and modern anti-Semitism, culminating with the Holocaust. Section Three explores contemporary cases of racial and religious discrimination in Europe and the Americas, including the thorny question of immigration and citizenship. Throughout the course, the instructor will use historical cases of persecution and discrimination as a means to provoke students to examine critically cases of prejudice and exclusion in the world today.

Credits: 3 credits

Contact Hours: 45 hours

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: None

Method of Presentation:
Class discussion: The majority of each class will consist of discussions of key themes. Students will be provided with the texts to read for each class on Moodle, together with a list of reading questions designed to focus their attention on key points and concepts in the texts. These will form the basis of the class discussions.

Course-related trips: There will be a course-related trip to the medieval Jewish neighbourhood, the call, and to the complex around the Plaça del Rei, the locus of the Inquisition in Barcelona.

Lectures: The professor will supplement class discussions with lectures to help the students interpret the material provided in the class readings, to tie the readings together, and provide summaries of theoretical approaches to the subject.

Film viewing: There will be one film viewing during the course. The film will be screened prior to class. Students will be provided with viewing and discussion questions to be completed on Moodle before the class starts. The films will serve as material for discussion of the theoretical concepts covered in the course.

Guest Speaker: The course will feature a guest speaker who will discuss issues regarding Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism in Barcelona today.
REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Draft Essay (10%). Students will write an essay on the history of anti-Semitism using required, recommended, and supplementary readings. Students will first submit a draft essay, which will serve as the subject of class discussion. After the class discussion and having received comments from the instructor, the student will then submit a final essay. The essay should be 15 to 20 pages (double-spaced; standard margins and fonts). The completed essays will be submitted as assignments on Moodle.
- Final Essay (20%): Students will submit a final version of the essay, which will be evaluated by taking into account the analytical, organizational, and formalistic quality of the work as well as the extent to which the student has effectively incorporated the instructor’s comment on the draft. The final essay will be due approximately one week before the final exam.
- Midterm exam (25%). This will use different formats to assess students’ progress towards the learning outcomes in the first half of the course. The question formats will include essay questions, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and justified True/False questions.
- Class participation (10%). Students will be expected to come to class prepared, and to participate actively in class.
- Presentations (10%). Students will be required to give two class presentations of fifteen minutes each. Given that all students will have done the reading, the presentations should consist of posing questions for debate and contextualizing the readings within the larger themes explored in the course.
- Final exam (25%). This will use different formats to assess students’ progress towards the learning outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Summarize the history of the anti-Semitism from the Middle Ages to the present day.
- Analyze how racial purity laws directed against Jews during the Spanish Inquisition were transformed into a system of racial hierarchies in Spanish America.
- Compare medieval, early modern, and contemporary forms of anti-Semitism.
- Contrast different theoretical perspectives used to analyze persecution and discrimination in history.
- Reflect critically upon the presence of Islamophobia and discrimination against immigrants in the west today.
- Analyze the historical reasons behind the evolution of contemporary doctrines of human rights.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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<td>Session 9</td>
<td>The Decline of Coexistence and the Expulsion of the Moriscos from Spain</td>
<td>James S. Amelang, &quot;Moriscos and the End of Muslim Spain&quot; in Parallel Histories, 5-66.</td>
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| Session 11 | Racial Hierarchies in Spanish America and the Caste System | • Maria Elena Martínez, "The Initial Stages and the Sociological Roots of the Sistema de Castas," in Geneological Fictions, pp. 142-170.  
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http://www.jstor.org/stable/2650572 |
| Session 18 | Draft Papers Due | Class discussion of draft paper subject comparing medieval and early modern Anti-Semitism with contemporary Anti-Semitism of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. |


Session 21 | Guest Speaker | The Guest speaker will address the subject of Moslems in Barcelona today, and will discuss contemporary anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Session 22 | Islamophobia and Contemporary Discrimination against Immigrants | Anouar Majid, "Undesirable Aliens: Hispanics in America, Muslims in Europe," and "Conclusion: We are all Moors," in *We Are All Moors: Ending Centuries of Crusades against Muslims and Other Minorities*, 123-176

Session 23 | Combating Islamophobia today | Film: Negrid Farsand and Dean Obeidallah, *The Muslims Are Coming!* 81 minutes

Session 24 | Course conclusions. Review session for the final exam |

Final Exam

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Majid, Anouar. *We are all Moors: Ending Centuries of Crusades against Muslims and Other Minorities* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012), 1-58, 123-76.


**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Bosworth, Mary. "Subjectivity and Identity in Detention: Punishment and Society in a Global Age," *Theoretical Criminology*, 212, no. 2 (16): 123-140. [http://tcr.sagepub.com/content/16/2/123](http://tcr.sagepub.com/content/16/2/123)
- Kaplan, Marion A. *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Lives in Nazi Germany* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999)