



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA



CENTRO DE
LENGUAS
MODERNAS

CURSOS DE LENGUA Y CULTURA EN
INGLÉS
CULTURE
ISLAMIC CULTURE IN SPAIN



ISLAMIC CULTURE IN SPAIN

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The main objective of this subject is to give the students an overall view of the Arab-Islamic world through its history and culture. Thus, the program is divided in five chapters that include Arab-Islamic history from its beginning to the present time, rendering special attention to the Islam as a fundamental religious and cultural phenomenon in Arab history, as well as to the socio-political development of al-Andalus.

CONTENTS

THEORETICAL SYLLABUS:

I. THE ARAB CONTEXT

1. Arab World / Islamic World - Relationships and divergences. The Arab-Islamic context
2. Pre-Islamic Arabia - Geography, society, culture and politics. The concept of 'Jahiliyya'

II. THE MESSAGE OF ISLAM

3. Muhammad the Prophet of Islam - Prophethood and leadership. The *Sunna*
4. The Coran - An approach to its structure and contents
5. The 'Five Pillars of Islam' and the Islamic beliefs
6. The Islamic Law (*Sharia*) - Foundations, principles and development of the juridical *sunni* schools

III. THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE

7. The spread of Islam - From the 'Rashidun' Caliphs to the Omayyad and 'Abbasid Caliphates.

IV. AL-ANDALUS

8. Political history of al-Andalus - From the early conquest to the *Tawa'if* Kingdoms.



CONTENTS

Almoravids and Almohades

9. Society and culture - Literature, philosophy and art

10. The *Nasri* Sultanate of Granada - Socio-political development

V. CONTEMPORARY ARAB-ISLAMIC WORLD

11. Colonialism and independence - From reformism to Arab nationalism. Political Islam and Islamism

12. The Arab Mass Media and the question of Democracy. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Students are expected to read texts carefully and take notes, do homework and assignments, bring their textbook and notes to class and come ready to take part in class discussions and activities.

The classes are fundamentally based on:

- Class Teaching
- Presentations and debates
- Audiovisual materials
- Bibliographical research and information analysis

ASSESSMENT

- In order to have the right to be evaluated, **attendance at 80% of classes is mandatory**
- CONTINUOUS EVALUATION:
 - Final exam (50%).
 - Attendance and active participation (25%).
 - Accomplishment of the exercises and programmed activities in the classroom, and homework (25%)



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- GOODY, Jack. *Islam in Europe*. Polity, 2003.
- HOURANI, Albert (ed.). *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the Middle East and North Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- *A History of the Arab Peoples*, Faber and Faber, 2005.
- KENNEDY, Hugh. *Muslim Spain and Portugal: A Political History of al-Andalus*. Harlow, England: Longman , 1996.
- *Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates: the Islamic Near East from the Sixth to the Eleventh Century*. London: Longman , 1996.
- SARDAR, Ziauddin. *Desperately Seeking Paradise: Journeys Of A Sceptical Muslim*. Granta Books, 2005.
- SICKER, Martin. *The Islamic World in Ascendancy from the Arab Conquests to the Siege of Vienna*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2000.