The Islamic Legacy of Spain
Dr. Thomas Deveny, McDaniel College

Islam in Spain

National Geographic: what was the most important city in the world in the year 1000?

“Spain is Different” (or: “Europe ends at the Pyrenees”)

Geography: Al-Andalus
Córdoba Sevilla Granada (Toledo, etc.)

History:
Islamic Presence: 711-1492 and beyond
Spain at the beginning of the eighth century; the invasion

Córdoba: Umayyad Emirate (756-929): Abd ar-Rahman “The Immigrant”
Umayyad Caliphate (929-1031): Abd ar-Rahman III (Medina az-Zahra)
    Al-Mansur: “aceifas”

Sevilla: Taifa Kingdoms (1031-1090)
    Hispano-Muslim, Berber, Slavs; Toledo reconquered: 1085
    The Almohavids and Almohads (1090-1212): Berber reform movements

Granada: Nasrid Dynasty
    Muhammed ibn Nasr:
    Coexistence: Mozárabes, mudéjares; moriscos
    Alfonso X (1221-1284): school of translators in Toledo
    Edict of expulsión: 1609

Art and Architecture
    Architectural features: arches, alfiz, ajimez, mocárabes, azulejos
    Córdoba: Great Mosque; Medina az-Zahra
    Sevilla: Giralda, Almorávid walls, etc.
    Granada: Alhambra, Generalife
    Toledo, Málaga, Valencia, Zaragoza, Teruel, etc.

Agriculture
    The Green Revolution

Scientific Legacy
Mathematics:
    numeric system
    Translations of Euclides
    “Las Tablas”
Optics
Astronomy
Cultural Legacy

Philosophy
Ibn Rushd (Averroes)
Maimómedes

Poetry
Jarchas
Ibn Hasm: *The Ring of the Dove*

History
Ibn Jaldún

Daily Life
Language
Customs
Exhibits, web sites

Language
Administration: aduana, alcalde,
Science: álgebra, cenit, cifra
Home: almohada, alfombra, taza
Agriculture: aceituna, acequia, algodón
Architecture: ajimez, azotea
Music: tambor, laúd
Topography: Guadalquivir, Medinaceli

Today:
Muslims in Spain today
Spain: a bridge between civilizations
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Questions

➢ Who ruled Spain prior to 711? What groups did live there?

➢ Why should we study about Cordoba?

➢ What does make Spain interesting for us?

➢ Who and when did the conquest of Spain begin?

➢ Name the 2 leaders and discuss their heritage?

➢ Why were the Muslim armies so successful in conquering Spain?

➢ What is the Arabic name for Andalucia and where did it come from? What does it mean?

➢ When, at which battle and by whom were the Muslim armies stopped?

➢ Name at least 3 Spanish cities that played an important role during the Muslim rule?

➢ Which architectural and historic monuments do you associate with these three cities?

➢ What are the characteristics of Arabic-Muslim architecture found in mosques and palaces in Spain?

➢ Who were the Mozarabs?

➢ How many and what kind of books were the library in Cordoba in the 9th and 10th centuries? Why is this an amazing fact?

➢ In what areas did the Arabic language influence the Spanish language and culture? Give concrete examples!
Islam in Spain: Selected Bibliography


Harvey, L.P. *Islamic Spain 1250-1500.* Chicago 1990.

Selected Web sites

Andalusian Legacy in Spain: various languages
(El portal del Islam en español: in Spanish)
Asociación de Musulmanes en Córdoba; Musulmanes Andaluces; Yama (Liga morisca) (In Spanish
El resurgimiento del Islam en España (In Spanish)
[http://www.mosaicfound.org/andalus/andalus_readings.htm](http://www.mosaicfound.org/andalus/andalus_readings.htm)
Suggested readings from an exhibit at the Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C.)