



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation



CORDOBA



GRANADA

Study Abroad Program in Spain

ISLAMIC CULTURE & THOUGHT

INTRODUCTION:

The rapid changes, which have occurred in the world since September 11, 2001, have created an urgency and greater need to have a better understanding of Islam and Muslims. With over 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide, it is most important for policy-makers, religious leaders, business leaders, scholars and students to have a better understanding of Islam from its historic, religious, political and social aspects.

WHY SPAIN?

Medieval Spain was a prosperous era when the advancement of medicine, philosophy, knowledge and spirituality flourished. It was the gateway to the renaissance in Europe. The magnificent architecture and artwork left behind is a tribute to its history and should not go unseen. Under Islamic rule in Spain - Muslims, Christians and Jews were successfully encouraged to live together in peace and harmony. Millions travel from all over the world each year to learn about this and much more.

The intensive course on Islamic Culture and Thought (for credit - optional) is designed to introduce Islam, its Culture and Thought from a historical perspective. It is intended for participants not only to read about the rich traditions of Islam, but also to visit and attend all lectures at the amazing historic sites in Andalusia. Additionally, there will be time for students to relax and experience what Spanish culture has to offer. The people of Spain have gracefully combined the past and the present.

PARTICIPANTS: College/University Students and Educators

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- Introduction to Islam - the Social, Political, and Spiritual Aspects
- The Holy Qur'an, Life of the Prophet Mohamad, and Islamic Law
- The Impact of the Islamic Civilization from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance
- Contemporary Islamic Movements after the Collapse of the Ottoman Empire
- Militant Islamic Phenomenon, Interpretation & Application of JIHAD

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To gain a deeper understanding of:

1. Islam and the Muslim world
2. Islamic theology and its relationship to the daily life of each Muslim
3. The Abrahamic Traditions of Muslims, Christians and Jews - Commonalities and Differences
4. Contributions of the Islamic Civilization throughout history to the West

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Attendance, participation in discussions	(15%)
Reading assignments and homework	(20%)
Quizzes	(30%)
Research paper (15 - 18 pages, double-spaced) on a topic of special interest, approved by the instructor, and turned in by designated date.	(35%)

COURSE FORMAT:

- Lectures, guest speakers, power-point and video presentations
- Meetings with local officials, religious leaders, and scholars
- Dialogue with local communities on misperceptions issues and group discussion
- Lectures will take place at historic sites in Toledo, Cordoba, Granada, and Malaga

REQUIRED TEXTS / READING:

- **The Holy Qur'an**, Translation by Yusuf Ali is recommended
- **Islam Today**, by Akbar S. Ahmed - a short introduction to the Muslim World
- **Islam the Straight Path**, by John Esposito
- **Ornament of the World**, by Maria Rosa Menocal - describes how Muslims, Jews, and Christians created a culture of tolerance in Medieval Spain

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- Mohammad and the Qur'an: The Messenger and the Message
- The Five Pillars of Islam
- Islamic Theology and the Jewish - Christian Tradition
- Sources of Islamic Law - Shari'a
- Muslim Communities and Sects throughout History: Sunnah & Shi'a, Wahhabism
- Women, Family, and Life in Islam
- Prohibitions - Lawful and Unlawful
- Spirituality and Sufism in Islam
- Islamic Expansion and Geographic Movements throughout History
- Glimpses of Co-existence between Muslims, Christians and Jews under Islamic Rule
- The Role of Spain in advancing Islamic Civilization to Europe
- Islamic Art as seen by Muslims and non Muslims
- Revivalism and Resurgence in Islam in the 19th and 20th century
- Islam in the West Before and After September 11th
- Ethics of Globalization in Islam

FACULTY:

CECF collaborates with various colleges and universities regularly along with Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat to provide this course. Offering college, dates and price can be obtained by contacting CECF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CECF:

410-944-6077

cecf1@aol.com

www.cecf-net.org