

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HIST*3230: Spain and Portugal 1085-1668
Fall 2025

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The course examines the history of Spain and Portugal from the period of the Reconquista to the Iberian Overseas Expansion. The course covers the political, diplomatic, religious and cultural development of early modern Spain and Portugal and the rise of its overseas empire.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an in-depth examination of Spain and Portugal, tracing their histories from the Christian conquest of Toledo in 1085 to the Treaty of Lisbon (1668). Course material will address three major themes: the Christian reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula; the nature of religious coexistence of Jews, Muslims and Christians, and its collapse; and the subjugation of Indigenous people in Spanish America and Brazil as well as the beginning of the Atlantic slave trades.

ASSESSMENT AND DUE DATES

Primary Source Paper Outline	10%	Friday 03 October 2025
Midterm Examination (in-person)	25%	Thursday 23 October 2025
Primary Source Paper	30%	Friday 14 November 2025
Final examination (in-person)	35%	TBA

The **Primary Source Paper Outline** is due at the end of Week 4. For this assignment you should choose one of the primary sources listed on Courselink and research its historical context using reference works and other tools for background research. Include a bibliography of five scholarly sources from the library with short annotations (1-2 sentences) indicating how they will be useful to your paper. Write 250 words about the historical significance of your document (e.g., why it is important to the study of history and how it might be used). Upload your assignment into Courselink. Late assignments will not be accepted after the drop box closes.

The **Midterm Exam** will be written in Week 7 in the regular classroom. The exam is multiple choice and will test your knowledge of course material covered in lectures and readings to the end of Week 6. Students requiring accommodation or extra time should contact the instructor and Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible to book a slot in the exam centre.

The **Primary Source Paper** is due at the end of Week 10 and must be uploaded onto CourseLink by 11:59pm. The paper should be between 2000 and 2500 words in length and cite at least seven secondary sources in the footnotes. Footnotes must conform to Chicago Style for the Humanities and must include page numbers, or the paper will receive a failing grade. Papers based on inadequate research (e.g., too few sources or non-academic sources) will receive a failing grade. Further instructions for the paper will be provided in class and a grading rubric will

be posted on Courselink. Late papers will not be accepted after the drop box closes (on the last class day.)

This course uses Turnitin Software to check for originality. Students are encouraged to check originality scores prior to submitting assignments. Please see the instructor if you need further assistance.

All submissions must be original work and reflect the ideas and research conducted by the student. Use of AI software (e. g. ChatGPT) may result in charges of academic misconduct. Please see the instructor if you are unsure as to what tools may be used.

The Final Exam will be written in person on **TBA**. The location will be announced on Web Advisor at a later date.

LATE PENALTIES AND MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments should be submitted to the Courselink Dropbox by 11:59 pm on the day they are due. For assignments due on Friday, a grace period will extend to the following Monday at 9am. Assignments that are submitted in the grace period are considered late and will not receive detailed feedback, but equally they will not receive a penalty. All students are welcome to make an appointment to receive oral feedback on their work. Assignments received after the grace period will receive a late penalty of 2% per weekday, calculated on the calendar day. Late penalties are capped at 15%, but papers will not be accepted after the dropbox closes. If a student misses an assignment because they are experiencing exceptional difficulties (e.g., long term illness, a death in the family) or needs accommodation for a learning disability, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible, and prior to the assignment due date.

REWEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS

The value of the various components for this course will not be reweighted, except in very exceptional cases (such as severe and prolonged illness or very serious health circumstances). Each component of the course is designed to contribute to and assess different aspects of the course's learning objectives, and students are expected to complete all of them.

USE OF EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Course slides, sample assignments, rubrics and templates are the intellectual property of the instructor. These are freely given to registered students in the course as part of their education. I do not give my permission to students to post these materials on any external commercial website or platform (e.g., CourseHero). If you are struggling in the course, arrange to meet with me and I can either help you or point you in the right direction.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All readings can be found on Courselink. Whenever possible, the reading should be done in advance of the weekly lectures. There are no textbooks that have to be purchased for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

- learned to read and analyze primary sources documents and understand how they connect to the broader historical development of Spain and Portugal.
- evaluated conflicting interpretations of Iberian society in the medieval and early modern periods.
- synthesized independent research and course readings to develop a balanced historical perspective.
- developed an informed and nuanced understanding of religious conflict, colonialism, and intercultural relations in the medieval and early modern periods.
- learned to formulate and complete a developed and proof-read assignment and to submit it by a scheduled deadline.

LECTURES & READING SCHEDULE

Orientation Week

04 Sep. Introduction

Week 1

09 Sep. The Christian Reconquest to 1085

11 Sep. Alfonso VI and the Legend of the Cid

Reading: Simon Barton, *History of Spain*, Ch. 3, "Ascendancy of Christian Iberia", pp. 48-97.

Week 2

16 Sep. The Almoravids, Urban Liberties and the Iberian Military Orders

18 Sep. Document Study 01 "Administration of an Urban Militia"

Reading: Sam Zeno Conedera, *Ecclesiastical Knights: The Military Orders in Castile, 1150-1330*, Chapter 1: Foundations, (Fordham University Press, 2015) pp. 19-50. "Administration of an Urban Militia" in Constable, *Medieval Iberia*, p. 223-7.

Week 3

23 Sep. Second Crusades and the Conquest of Lisbon

25 Sep. Medieval Histories & Document Study 02 "The Siege of Lisbon"

Readings: Malyn Newitt, "Second Crusade and the Capture of Lisbon in *Portugal in European and World History*;" Document 02: "The Siege of Lisbon" in Constable, *Medieval Iberia*, p. 133-36.

Week 4

30 Sep. Research for the Primary Source Essay
02 Oct. Iberian Crusades from Alarcos to Seville

Reading: Readings: Joseph O'Callaghan, "Warfare in the Crusading Era", in *Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), 124-151;

Week 5

07 Oct. Jewish and Muslim minorities in the Late Middle Ages
09 Oct. Legislating Tolerance and Document Study 03 "The *Siete Partidas*"

Reading: Téofilo F. Ruiz, *Spain's Centuries of Crisis 1300-1474*, Ch. 7 "Muslims, Jews and Christians in a Century of Crisis" pp. 139-163; Document 03 "The Legal Status of Jews and Muslims in Castile" (*Siete Partidas*) in Constable, *Medieval Iberia*, 269-75.

Week 6

14 Oct. Fall Break – No class
16 Oct. Mass Conversions and the Establishment of the Inquisition

Reading: Norman Roth, "Conversos and Crisis: The Fifteenth Century," in *Conversos, Inquisition, and the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1995), 48-87.

Week 7

21 Oct. Expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain and Portugal
23 Oct. Midterm Exam in Class

No Reading

Week 8

28 Oct. Inquisition Trials and Limpieza de Sangre in the Sixteenth Century
30 Oct. Document 04 "Inquisitorial Trials of Inés López"

Reading: Francisco Bethencourt, *The Inquisition: A Global History, 1478-1834*. "Chapter 1: Foundation" pp. 35-53; Document 04 "Inquisitorial Trials of Inés López" in Constable, *Medieval Iberia*.

Week 9

04 Nov. The Early Portuguese Overseas & Slave Trade
06 Nov. Official Histories and Document 05 Conquest of Guinea

Reading: William D. Phillips, "A History of Slavery in Iberia," Document: Gomes Eanes de Azurara, "Chronicle of the Discovery and Conquest of Guinea," trans. Charles Raymond Beazley and Edgar Prestage, vol. 2 (New York: Burt Franklin, Publisher, 1899), caps LXVIII-LXX, pp. 206-213.

Week 10

- 11 Nov. Christopher Columbus, Hernan Cortez, and the Spanish Empire
- 13 Nov. Polemical Treatises and Document 06 "Destruction of the Indies"

Reading: Peter Bakewell, "Conquest after Conquest: The Rise of Spanish Domination in the New World" in *Spain, Europe and the Atlantic World*, pp. 296-315; Document: Bartolomé De Las Casas, *A Short Account of The Destruction Of The Indies*, Ed. Nigel Griffin New York: Penguin Books, 1992.

Week 11

- 18 Nov. Sugar, Slaves, and the Atlantic Economy
- 20 Nov. The Eighty Years War & Twilight of the Portuguese Empire

Reading: Mark Burkholder and Lyman Johnson, "Chapter 4: Population and Labor" in *Colonial Latin America*, p. 122-153.

Week 12

- 25 Nov. Portuguese Independence and the Treaty of Lisbon
- 27 Nov. Conclusion & Review

Reading: Malyn Newitt, "The Portuguese Restoration and the General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century," in *Portugal in European and World History*, 97-112.

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant

for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the [SAS website](#).

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations](#).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and

Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the [Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses](#).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the [Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness](#). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a [Student Wellness Navigator](#) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our [mental wellbeing resources](#). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#).