

INTENSIVE SUMMER COURSE

# Al-Andalus, Problems and Perspectives

Scientific Director: **Maribel Fierro** (ILC-CCHS, CSIC)

CASA ÁRABE, CORDOBA

25 • 30 JULY 2016





Foto: Interior Mezquita Aljama de Rocio Prieto

## CORDOBA AND AL-ANDALUS

The image above speaks for itself: built as the Friday Mosque of Cordoba, it is not only an extraordinary example of medieval Arab architecture and a popular tourist destination, it is at the same time the embodiment of the civilization of al-Andalus, of the power and cultural hegemony it exercised over centuries, of its fall and of its persisting appeal and legacy in our days.

Moreover, 2016 is the 1300 anniversary of Cordoba as capital of al-Andalus. In 716 al-Hurr, the governor (wali) of al-Andalus -a province of the Damascene Umayyad caliphate- moved the administrative capital from Seville to Cordoba, then becoming the political, economic and cultural center of Muslim Iberia. The anniversary is a special moment to revisit the history of the town in its changing political contexts, urban development and intellectual achievements.

This **Intensive Summer Course** held in Casa Árabe Cordoba will introduce English speakers to the fascinating history of al-Andalus. Specialists from different Spanish academic institutions will guide a select group of students in a series of seminar-style intensive classes throughout a week-long course.

Together we will explore the political, social and economic aspects of this history, examine the intellectual and artistic developments and achievements that the civilization of al-Andalus reached, and look at its various contemporary meanings and legacies. Students will be familiarized with various types of sources, textual and material remains, and the relevant scholarship in order to reach a better understanding of al-Andalus.

## VENUE

The choice of the Casa Árabe in Cordoba as the venue for the course hardly needs any explanation. It is housed in the beautiful **Casa Mudejar**, a 14-16<sup>th</sup> century building whose restoration received the World Heritage City Award 2011 from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. (<http://www.casaarabe.es/sedes/show/casa-arabe-cordoba>). The Casa is located at a three-minute walk from the Mosque-Cathedral.

## THE STUDENTS AND COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is directed at **university students and scholars** who –regardless of their specialization– want to become familiar with the most relevant issues related to the history of al-Andalus. Taught in English, it aims at guiding the participants to the wide range of scholarly research on al-Andalus. Thirty students will be selected from among the applicants (for the application procedure see below).

Students are not required to have knowledge of Arabic or any other **language** except English; for those who are proficient in Arabic, guidance in the Arabic sources will be provided as a complement.

A basic **bibliography** of studies in English will be provided once the selection of students has been made and registration has been finalized. The students selected are expected to become familiar with that bibliography before the beginning of the course. A more comprehensive bibliography, including the most relevant studies in a variety of languages, will be provided during the course.

In **each class unit** (2 hours), the teachers will provide a brief outline of the topic dealt with and devote the rest of the class to reading texts (in English translation) illuminating some salient aspects of the respective topic.

As the course is **intensive and text-oriented**, students are required to be present at each class. An attendance certificate will correspondingly be provided. For those interested in producing a research paper, assignments will be given and upon submission (within six months) an examination certificate can be obtained.

## TEACHERS

- **Antonio ALMAGRO**, School of Arabic Studies (EEA), High Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), Granada
- **Rafael BLANCO**, University of Cordoba
- **Mercedes GARCÍA ARENAL**, Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean (ILC), CSIC, Madrid
- **Alejandro GARCÍA SANJUÁN**, University of Huelva
- **Maribel FIERRO**, ILC-CSIC, Madrid
- **Eduardo MANZANO**, Institute of History, CSIC, Madrid
- **Juan Pedro MONFERRER**, University of Cordoba
- **Julio SAMSÓ**, University of Barcelona
- **Antonio VALLEJO**, Fine Arts Museum, Cordoba

## SCHEDULE

The course will take place during the last week of July, from Monday 25 to Saturday 30, with a total of **30 hours**. On Saturday morning, class will be held in the Umayyad palatine town of Madinat al-Zahra'. The course will be completed by two archeological workshops on Wednesday and Friday morning.

# PROGRAM

## Monday 25 | Casa Árabe, Cordoba

- 09:00 11:00 **A. García Sanjuán**, *The conquest: sources and studies*  
11:00 11:30 **Break**  
11:30 13:30 **M. Fierro**, *Turbans and crowns: conversion and acculturation*  
13:30 17:00 **Break**  
17:00 19:00 **E. Manzano**, *Power and authority in the Umayyad Caliphate of Cordoba (I)*

## Tuesday 26 | Casa Árabe, Cordoba

- 09:00 11:00 **E. Manzano**, *Power and authority in the Umayyad Caliphate of Cordoba (II)*  
11:00 11:30 **Break**  
11:30 13:30 **M. Fierro**, *Charismatic authority in al-Andalus*  
13:30 17:00 **Break**  
17:00 19:00 **J. P. Monferrer**, *Christians and Jews in al-Andalus: texts and contexts (I)*

## Wednesday 27 | Casa Árabe, Cordoba

- 08:30 11:00 **Rafael Blanco**, *Archaeological Workshop (death and religion)*  
11:00 11:30 **Break**  
11:30 13:30 **J. P. Monferrer**, *Christians and Jews in al-Andalus: texts and contexts (II)*  
13:30 17:00 **Break**  
17:00 19:00 **J. Samsó**, *Al-Andalus, a bridge between Arabic and European Science (I)*

## Thursday 28 | Casa Árabe, Cordoba

- 09:00 11:00 **J. Samsó**, *Al-Andalus, a bridge between Arabic and European Science (II)*  
11:00 11:30 **Break**  
11:30 13:30 **A. Almagro**, *The chance of a façade composition. From the Bab al-Wuzara to the Nasrid houses and palaces*  
13:30 17:00 **Break**  
17:00 19:00 **A. Almagro**, *The Gardens of al-Andalus*

## Friday 29 | Casa Árabe, Cordoba

- 08:30 11:00 **Rafael Blanco**, *Archaeological Workshop (daily life)*  
11:00 11:30 **Break**  
11:30 13:30 **M. García-Arenal**, *The literary culture of the Moriscos: Arabic, Aljamía and Spanish*  
13:30 17:00 **Break**  
17:30 19:00 **M. García-Arenal**, *Moriscos and Inquisition: how can we read Inquisition sources?*

Saturday 30 | Madinat al-Zahra', Cordoba

09:30 13:30 **Antonio Vallejo**, *Residential and administrative architecture during the Umayyad caliphate in al-Andalus and its political representation*

13:30 17:00 **Break**

17:00 19:00 **A. García Sanjuán**, *Modern perceptions of al-Andalus. Between the Reconquista and 'Muslim Spain'*

## LODGING AND MEALS

Coffee will be provided in the morning breaks. Students should arrange for their lodging and meals. Cordoba has many hotels and restaurants. A selection of the different options available around Casa Árabe will be provided upon registration.

## APPLICATION AND FEE

Those interested are requested to send an e-mail message, indicating in the message subject line: **Intensive Summer Course al-Andalus**, to [infocordoba@casaarabe.es](mailto:infocordoba@casaarabe.es). They need to provide a brief introduction about the candidate's profile, including first and last names (maximum 300 words), and a letter expressing their interest in the course. The deadline is **March 30<sup>th</sup> 2016**. Those 30 selected will be contacted by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Once confirmation of admittance is received, registration must be completed using the application form that will be sent. The fee for the course is **200 euros**.

Further information:

## CASA ÁRABE

Calle Samuel de los Santos Gener, 9.

From Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[infocordoba@casaarabe.es](mailto:infocordoba@casaarabe.es)

Organized by:



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Kobepocu  
"The history, the arts and the 'Andalus' - there  
is no time for coffee and honey"