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.

Content
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 ‘Abbdasid Caliphates.

IV. AL-ANDALUS
8. Political history of al-Andalus - From the early conquest to the Tawa’if Kingdoms. 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

Assessment
Final exam (50%). Attendance and active participation (25%). Accomplishment of the exercises and programmed activities in the classroom, and homework (25%)

Bibliography