NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers (2015)

The Alhambra and Spain’s Islamic Past

Hosted in Granada by the Laboratorio de la Arqueología y Arquitectura de la Ciudad (LAAC), Escuela de Estudios Árabes (EEA), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

Co-Directors: D. Fairchild Ruggles and Oscar E. Vázquez

SYLLABUS

Per NEH policy, the Institute meetings are open only to Scholars in the Summer Institute. The exception is events marked with an asterisk (*).

Week 1 (June 15-19) - The Alhambra as an Islamic palace complex, 13th-15th centuries

Monday, June 15

9:00am-10:00am (Carmen de la Victoria terrace) – Introductions. Whether you are living at the Carmen or off site, please arrive no later than 9:00 and gather on the upper terrace.

10:30-12:30 (LAAC seminar room) – Dr. Antonio Orihuela, Director: Welcome. Explanation of Institute customs and requirements; followed by introductory lecture on Islamic Spain and Granada.

6:00pm (Meet on the terrace of the Carmen de la Victoria) – Walk through the Albaicín to see the new mosque at the Plaza de San Nicolas, the Puerta de Pesos, various cisterns, and the minarets/towers of San José and San Juan de los Reyes.

Readings for June 15 & 16:
N.B. Because the Institute is held in English, we have selected readings in English. However, for those participants wishing to explore in greater depth, there is a much larger bibliography in Spanish. We can direct Summer Scholars to these resources.

Tuesday, June 16 – First ALHAMBRA Visit

8:00am – (Meet at the main gate of the Carmen to walk together to the Alhambra bus on the Plaza Isabel la Católica. Off-site dwellers will meet at the Plaza Isabel la Católica at 8:30). Visit to the Alhambra and Generalife. In this visit we focus on the palace complex as a Nasrid monument.

9:00-10:30 Groups 1 and 2 enter Alhambra with Dede. Groups 3 and 4 visit Generalife with Oscar.

11:00-12:30 Groups 3 and 4 enter Alhambra with Dede. Groups 1 and 2 visit Generalife with Oscar.

1:00-1:45pm Groups 1-4 reunite for special visit to the Torre de las Infantas and Torre de la Cautiva.

Wednesday, June 17

9:00-10:00am (LAAC) – Meeting in groups to discuss projects on selected historical travelers and visitors to the Alhambra (Washington Irving, Theophile Gautier, Henry Swinburne, Richard Ford, John Frederick Lewis, etc.). Some texts are available in the library of sources provided to you, but you will need to seek other sources. These are group projects to be presented in Week 2.

10:30am-12:30pm (LAAC) – Guest speaker Jerrilynn Dodds: “‘Convivencia’ and the Medieval Iberian Peninsula: the values and perils of a historical concept.”

Reading for this meeting:

- J. D. Dodds, M. Menocal, and A. Balbale, “Brothers” and “Intimacy Betrayed,” in The Arts of Intimacy (2008), pp. 241-69.

Also recommended:


1:00 -2:00pm – Site visit to the Fundación del Agua de Granada in the Carmen del Rey

6:30-8:30pm (LAAC) – Presentations:

- “The andalusí architectural heritage of the Albaicín (Granada)” El patrimonio arquitectónico andalusí del Albaicín de Granada” by Antonio Orihuela and Luis García (Escuela de Estudios Árabes, CSIC).
**Thursday, June 18**

9:00am-1:00 (meet at Carmen terrace) – Walk to the 16th-century Casa del Chápiz, 14th-century Cuarto Real de Santo Domingo, and 14th-century Alcázar Genil for discussion/tour with guest speaker Antonio Almagro (Escuela de Estudios Árabes, CSIC).

* 6:00-7:20pm (Carmen, Sala de Actos) – Jerrilynn Dodds, “Mudejar: Beyond Religion and Identity.”

Reading:
- J. D. Dodds, M. Menocal, and A. Balbale, “Union,” in *The Arts of Intimacy* (2008), pp. 113-143.

N.B. * LAAC-sponsored lecture at 7:30pm at the Escuela de Estudios Árabes (Cuesta del Chapiz, 22): Miguel Ángel Tabales Rodríguez, “La construcción del primitivo alcázar de Sevilla: nuevos datos sobre el proceso de obra, materiales y técnicas.”

**Friday, June 19**

Morning open to allow consultation of the EEA library (open until 3:00pm) and Alhambra library & archives (M-F 8:30-1:30). Oscar, Dede and Jerri Dodds available for consultation.

5:15-6:15 (Carmen terrace)—group discussion and summary of Week 1.

* 6:30-8:00pm (Carmen, Sala de Actos) – D. F. Ruggles, “Materiality and Originality: The Alhambra as Historic Trace.”

**Week 2 (June 22-26) – The Alhambra in literature and the historical imagination**

**Monday, June 22**

9:00-10:30am (LAAC) – Discussion of the Alhambra as heritage.

Reading:

11:00-12:30 – Guest speaker Lara Eggleton, “19th-century European travelers to the Alhambra.”

Reading:
- Lara Eggleton, “‘A Living Ruin’: Palace, City, and Landscape in Nineteenth-Century

Also recommended:


5:30-7:30pm – (LAAC seminar room) Summer Scholar groups present selected travel narratives.

**Tuesday, June 23**

9:00-10:00am (LAAC) - Jesús Bermúdez López (Conservador Arqueólogo del Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife) will give presentation (in Spanish with translation) about current conservation at the Alhambra.

5:30 -7:30pm (LAAC) – Guest speaker Richard Kagan, “Spanish historiography and the Black Legend: Changing Perspectives on Spain and its History.”

Reading:


**Wednesday, June 24**

9:00-10:00am (LAAC) – Discussion of readings on the Alhambra and the development of Spanish preservation theory and policy. Instructions for next day’s visit to the Alhambra.

Reading:


10:15-12:00 (meet at Carmen terrace) – Site visit to the historic Corral del Carbón, through the Alcaicería (reconstructed in 19th century), the Cathedral and tombs of Isabel and Ferdinand, and surrounding urban fabric.

**6:30-8:00pm (Carmen Sala de Actos) – Guest lecture by Richard Kagan, “Preserving the Past: Tourism, Vega-Inclán and the Concept of National Patrimony in 19th-20th Century Spain.”**

**Thursday, June 25 – Second ALHAMBRA Visit**

8:45am (Meet at Alhambra plaza above the Puerta de Justicia outside the visitor center,
taking the bus or walking up the Cuesta de Chinos).

9:00-10:30 – Groups 3 and 4 enter Alhambra with Dede. Groups 1 and 2 visit Palace Charles V, the 15th-century Convento de San Francisco (a former Nasrid palace) and the 19th-century shop buildings decorated with pseudo-Nasrid stucco with Oscar.

11:00-12:30 – Groups 1 and 2 enter Alhambra with Dede. Groups 1 and 2 visit Palace Charles V, the 15th-century Convento de San Francisco (a former Nasrid palace) and the 19th-century shop buildings decorated with pseudo-Nasrid stucco with Oscar.

12:30 – Groups reunite in front of the Palace of Charles V for private visit to the Harem Patio.

1:30 – Walk to Generalife. From here, walk down the Cuesta de Chinos with Dede and Oscar to the Carmen, or catch the C4 bus to downtown Granada.

N.B. *LAAC-sponsored lecture this evening at 7:30 at the Escuela de Estudios Árabes (Cuesta del Chapiz, 22): María del Carmen López Pertíñez (Fundación Rodríguez-Acosta), “Algunas reflexiones sobre aspectos técnicos de la carpintería arquitectónica nazarí.”

Friday, June 26

Reading and library research. 9:00-12:00 consultations with Dede and Oscar.

Saturday, June 27

Optional weekend for one-day or two-day self-directed trips to Malaga, Cordoba, or Seville.

Week 3 (June 29- July 3) – The Alhambra through images

Monday, June 29

9:00-11:30am (LAAC) – Discussion with Oscar on Orientalism and 19th-century Spanish painting.

Reading:
• E. Said, Orientalism (1978), excerpts from Chapter 2.
• Images (see file).

*6-7:30 (Carmen Sala de Actos) Oscar E. Vázquez, “Charging the Line: Between History and Orientalism in Spanish Painting.”

Tuesday, June 30

9:00-11:00 (LAAC) – Guest speaker José Antonio González Alcantud, “The Alhambra as
Romantic and Post-Romantic Subject in Spain and Europe.”

Reading:
- J. M. Barrios Rozúa, “La Alhambra Romántica 1813-1849,” in J.A. González Alcantud and A. Akmir, eds. La Alhambra: Lugar de la memoria y el Diálogo (2008), pp. 29-60. (N.B. translation/summary provided)

**Wednesday, July 1**

9:00-11:00 (LAAC) – Oscar will lead discussion on prints and photography as instruments of interpretation and strategies for objective documentation.

11:15-1:30 (meet at Carmen terrace) – Walk together to bus stop at Plaza de Isabel la Católica to take the C3 (Hotel Alhambra Palace stop) to the Fundación Rodrigo Acosta (an early 20th-century carmen and arts collection), Alhambra Hotel, and Alhambra Museum (in the Palace of Charles V).

Reading:

Also recommended:

**Thursday, July 2**

9:00-11:00am (LAAC) – Dede will lead discussion on the architecture, ornament, and gardens of the Alhambra in the earliest prints and photographs.

Reading:

**Friday, July 3**

Morning available for library research and for work on final projects. Consultations with Directors.

**Week 4 (July 6-10) – The Alhambra as national monument and patrimony**

**Monday, July 6**

9:00-1:00 – Archivos de la Alhambra: view selection of photographs, prints, and postcards that represent the Alhambra and Nasrid architecture.

★ 6:00-7:30pm (Carmen Sala de Actos) – Guest speaker Prof. Eric Calderwood, “Remembering al-Andalus in Modern Spain: Spain's Muslim Past and the Problem of Spain's National Identity.”

Reading:


**Tuesday, July 7**

9:00am-12:00 (LAAC) – Discussion with Eric Calderwood and Dede about Islam in Spain today.

**Wednesday, July 8**

9:00-11:00am (LAAC) – Discussion about the UNESCO nomination of the Alhambra as a World Heritage Monument and modern concepts of cultural authenticity and patrimony.

Reading:

• UNESCO nomination, 1984

11:30am-12:45 (LAAC) – Culminating meeting to discuss the Institute’s themes with opportunities for NEH Summer Scholars to summarize, compare, and reflect on the ideas developed in the past four weeks.

5:00-7:30 – Roundtable on Teaching by Summer Scholars who have chosen to develop syllabi and new ideas for teaching about Islamic and Spanish culture.

**Thursday, July 9**

9:00am-2:00 – Co-directors available for consultation; Summer Scholars polish presentations for the symposium.

5:00-7:30pm – Symposium of Summer Scholar research projects.

**Friday, July 10**

9:00am-2:00 – Symposium of Summer Scholar research projects.

7:00pm – The Institute concludes with a farewell get-together.

>>> It’s not quite over…Before the institute ends, please provide an evaluation of the institute:

[https://securegrants.neh.gov/education/participants/Evaluation/](https://securegrants.neh.gov/education/participants/Evaluation/)

Please scroll down and evaluate this institute and not just the first one on the list! (Yes, that happened a few times earlier with another program.)

**SUPPLEMENTAL (and incomplete) BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Media resources** (requires an internet connection):

- [www.alhambra.org](http://www.alhambra.org) (virtual visit)
- [www.saudiaramcoworld.com](http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com) (virtual visit)
- [www.learn.columbia.edu/ha/html/islamic.htm](http://www.learn.columbia.edu/ha/html/islamic.htm) (3D rendering)


[http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/collections/show/6](http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/collections/show/6)

Historiography and representation


Al-Andalus: Islamic art and architecture of Granada, Cordoba, Seville


Post-conquest history, conservation, patrimony, tourism


Photography, Prints, Paintings, and Representations


José Luis Díez, ed., La Pintura de historia del siglo XIX en España . Madrid: Museo del


**Paintings & Murals (at the Alhambra)**


