

Fall 2023

**Spanish 441: Boabdil in Medieval and Post-Medieval Cultural Production**  
**Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30-10:45 am**

**Prof. I. J. Rivera**  
**2636 Wescoe Hall**  
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This course will focus on the figure of Boabdil, the last Nasrid sultan of Granada, and his afterlife in Iberian culture. Boabdil, a Spanish rendering of his given name *Abu Abdillah*, negotiated the surrender of Granada and saved his people from certain slaughter at the hands of the Castilian armies, which had encircled Granada. Boabdil's actions represent a last stand against fanatical power and the failed efforts to save the multi-cultural environment associated with Nasrid culture.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Boabdil becomes the subject of countless legends, historical writings, and literary redefinition. This course will explore the various depictions and representation of Boabdil from the medieval to modern periods in order to understand the richness and complexity of the figure of Boabdil within the Spanish imaginary.

Readings, library activities, discussions, and course quizzes will help students to explore the cultural negotiation of legend, history, and the art through the figure of Boabdil. The class work will give students opportunities to learn about Spain's cultural heritage and the influences that shape the evolution of national identities.

This course may be used to fulfill the 400-level peninsular Spanish literature requirement for the Minor or Major.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 340; recommended: SPAN 424 and 428.

**Reading list:**

- Drayson, Elizabeth, *The Moor's Last Stand*
- Ashur, *Granada*
- Digital resources available on Canvas.



For more information about the course, contact Prof. Rivera at [ijrivera@ku.edu](mailto:ijrivera@ku.edu).