
LT 444 Cervantes and his time
IES Abroad Madrid
Language and Area Studies Program

DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to introduce students to the complex and rich literary, aesthetic, philosophical and even political landscape of seventeenth-century Spain, through its most outstanding figure, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. A writer who, universally known by Don Quixote, brings together in his controversial biography some of the most specific contradictions of the period he lived in, halfway between the blinding imperialist political Austrians and the dark situation of a country too busy in their expansionist inflows. Therefore, Cervantes and his time is intended as an interdisciplinary course in which, from the most important creations of the author, they will be giving way to artistic samples outside but complementary to their literature: painting, music and history of thought.

CREDITS: 3**CONTACT HOURS:** 45**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** Spanish**PREREQUISITES:**

It is necessary to have mid to high level knowledge of Spanish, since the students will be handling complex texts from a linguistic angle, as well as structurally and thematically.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Classes will be divided into two sections. First, a theoretical introduction to the subject being studied. In a second part, analysis and comments will be raised - in which the participation of the students will be encouraged - of the compulsory readings, and a guide will be offered of the main aspects in which the student will have to look for their study
- When relevant, the explanation will be complemented by listening to musical pieces, conferences, film projection or other related materials
- The drafting at home of a final research and reflective, monographic work will be required, as well as several partial works that the students will carry out throughout the course
- Class attendance is mandatory, so failure to comply with this requirement may impair - in the case of more than three unexcused absences - the final grade. In addition, active class participation is considered very necessary

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will have obtained the following competencies:

- Knowledge of the socio-historical and cultural context related to the Spain of the XVI-XVII centuries.
- Knowledge of the main aesthetic keys of Cervantes and the Spanish baroque, in general.
- Knowledge of the appropriate tools for the analysis of Cervantes' works, both from a literary-formal and thematic point of view.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class Participation - 10%
- Classwork - 10%
- Final Essay - 20%
- Mid-term Exam - 25%
- Final Exam - 35%

Class Participation

Class participation is considered essential, both in the debates around the readings and in the sharing of the work entrusted for

each session. For the assessment of this aspect, the student's input will be taken into account in the comments of the texts and / or videos, and / or various materials, analyzed in class, their contribution in the possible group activities, their attention and punctuality, as well as the interest manifested through their questions.

Classwork

Comments and partial work required by the teacher must be delivered by the deadline.

Final Essay

The student will have to write an essay at the end of the course, (turned in on the day of the final exam), about some aesthetic or cultural aspect related to Cervantes or any of his works (8 pages, Times New Roman, 12, space and medium) that demonstrate your critical and investigative capacity. For the assessment of this aspect, the explanatory clarity, linguistic property, analytical skills and the adequacy of your arguments to the chosen topic will be taken into account, which must be previously agreed upon with the teacher.

Mid-term Exam

It will consist of the commentary of one or several topics and / or texts related to the works that are explained throughout the course.

Final Exam

It will consist of the commentary of one or several topics and / or texts related to the works that are explained throughout the course. The specific contents of the partial exam will NOT be included in this.

COURSE CONTENT:**SPAIN CONVULSA DE CERVANTES. INTRODUCTION TO THE GOLDEN CENTURY**

- Politics
- The unified Spain of the Catholic Monarchs
- The forging of an Empire: Carlos V and Felipe II
- The decline: from Felipe IV to Carlos II
- The religion
- The Spain of the three religions: Jews, Moors and Christians
- The erasmista spirituality
- The Counter-Reformation and Mysticism: Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint John of the Cross
- The Beautiful Arts
- Architecture: El Escorial
- Sculpture: religious imagery
- The great masters of painting: El Greco, Velázquez, Ribera and Murillo

Complementary readings:

- Fragments of The Spiritual Canticle, of San Juan de La Cruz, and The Reckless King: The Essential Biography of Philip II, by Geoffrey Parker

THE GOLDEN AGE LITERATURE: MILESTONES AND MYTHS

- What we call the Golden Age
- The two great stages: Renaissance and Baroque
- La Celestina
- The picaresque novel: the rogue
- Don Juan

Complementary readings:

- Fragments of La Celestina, Lazarillo de Tormes and El mocker of Seville

“PUESTO YA EL PIE EN EL ESTRIBO”: LIFE AND WORKS OF CERVANTES

- Main facts of his life
- Childhood and training
- The battle of Lepanto
- His captivity in Algiers
- His periods in jail
- Madrid at the time of Cervantes
- His literary work
- Poetry
- Theater
- His confrontation with Lope de Vega
- Narrative
- The galatea
- Exemplary novels
- Persiles and Sigismunda
- The Quijote

Complementary activities and materials:

- Broadcast of the “Time of Nobles” chapter of the television series The Ministry of Time
- Stroll through the Madrid de los Austrias: visit to the house of Lope de Vega and the convent of Las Trinitarias

CERVANTES, DRAMATIST

- The theater in the Golden Age
- Cervantes Theater
- His comedies on captivity
- The hors d'oeuvres: reading The altarpiece of wonders

Activities:

- Assistance to a representation of the National Classical Theater Company

CERVANTES, NOVELIST

- The novel in the time of Cervantes
- The exemplary novels: reading of La gitanilla
- Society and social minorities in Cervantes
- Women in the narrative work of Cervantes
- Western culture and other cultures

Complementary readings:

- Fragments of the works of Persiles and Sigismunda, by Miguel de Cervantes

DON QUIJOTE AND HIS WORLD

- Reading guide. Fragment Analysis
- The society in Don Quixote
- The first modern novel
- The quixotic universe: great themes
- The madness
- Freedom
- Utopia
- Fiction

Complementary readings and materials:

- Fragments of the television series El Quijote, by Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón
- Reading the story "Pierre Menard, author of El Quijote", by Jorge Luis Borges, and the chapter "La Dulcinea Encantada", by Erich Auerbach

DON QUIJOTE TODAY

- Was Don Quixote crazy?
- Quijotism as a philosophy (around with Erasmus and Cervantes)
- Don Quijote as an anarchist and socialist reference
- Don Quijote as a reality - heroic - alternative
- The projection of Don Quixote in the modern world: from Charles Dickens to Terry Gilliam
- Don Quijote in music
- Don Quijote in paintings
- Don Quijote in literature
- Don Quijote at the cinema

Complementary readings and materials:

- Fragments of Meditations of Don Quixote, of José Ortega y Gasset, and of History of madness in the classical era, by Michel Foucault
- Broadcast of fragments of the documentary Orson Welles in the country of Don Quijote, by Carlos Rodríguez, and of the Soviet film Don Kikhot, by Grigori Kozintsev

REQUIRED READINGS:

- CERVANTES, Miguel de, *Don Quijote de la Mancha* ed. de Francisco Rico, Madrid, RAE-ASELE, 2015. CERVANTES, Miguel de, "La gitanilla", en *Novelas ejemplares*, ed. de Harry Sieber, Madrid, Cátedra, 2005. CERVANTES, Miguel de, "El viejo celoso", en *Entremeses*, Madrid, Cátedra Base, 2012.
- Se podrá acceder a una copia digital en Moodle de las dos últimas obras.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- ALVAR, Alfredo, *Cervantes: genio y libertad*, Madrid, Temas de Hoy, 2004. CANAVAGGIO, Jean, *Cervantes*, Madrid, Espasa-Calpe, 2004.
- REDONDO, Augustin, *Otra manera de leer El Quijote: historia, tradiciones culturales y literatura*, Madrid, Castalia, 1998.
- RILEY, Edward C., *Introducción al Quijote*, Barcelona, Crítica, 2000.