Course title: Cervantes' Don Quijote
Course code: SPAN 4004 BASP
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

This course presents an approach to Miguel de Cervantes’ Don Quijote de la Mancha, one of the most important books ever written in the history of universal literature. No other book in the world, except for the Bible, has been translated into more languages or has undergone more publications and reprints. Don Quijote has been enormously influential on writers as diverse as Charles Dickens, Vladimir Nabokov, Jorge Luis Borges, Gustave Flaubert, Herman Melville or William Faulkner among many others. This course has been designed to facilitate a close reading of Don Quijote in the artistic and historical context of renaissance and baroque Spain.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Interpret an important text of Spanish and world literature.
- Differentiate literary sources from the text (chivalric and pastoral literature, picaresque novels, sonnets, odes, ballads).
- Recognize Don Quixote’s interaction with other works of art.
- Analyze the historical period, Spanish culture of the time and the most relevant literary aspects of Cervantes' work.
- Produce essays and oral presentations that demonstrate critical thinking.

Course Prerequisites

6 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent).

Methods of Instruction

Students will receive theoretical classes on historical, cultural and literary aspects visible in the work of Cervantes. These classes will alternate with other practical classes in which the professor will guide the group discussion of the previously indicated readings.

During the Cultural Week (Semana Cultural) there will be a visit to locations in Barcelona mentioned in Don Quijote.

Some scenes of the series made by Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón for Televisión Española will be viewed.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 25%
2. Final Exam 30%
3. Essay 10%
4. Oral Presentation 25%
5. Participation 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam
Final Exam

The exams will consist of the discussion of a text fragment from the chapters previously analyzed in class and the development of three topics chosen from four possible ones.

Essay

A 4-5 pages essay on one or several topics covered by the professor in class.

Oral Presentation

Presentation in class that includes the delivery of the script and bibliography used, on a topic to choose from among the following: a. Different female types in Don Quixote; b. Evolution of the issue of justice throughout Don Quixote; c. Frequent travelers in Don Quixote.

[Other topics suggested by the students will be accepted as long as they have previously presented a reasonable working outline]

Participation

Participation in class will be evaluated from the proactive attitude of the student in relation to the proposed tasks.

CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day’s class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 6 class sessions, students’ final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 6 absences).

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.

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N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class:
- Session I: Presentation of the course. How to read an old book? Biography of Cervantes (1).
- Session II: Biography of Cervantes (2). Introduction to some basic concepts of 16th-century Spanish.

Week 2
Class:
- Session IV: Session IV: The Spain of Cervantes (1). Renaissance /v/ Baroque

Week 3
Class:
- Session V: Commentary on chapters 3 and 4.
- Session VI: The Spain of Cervantes (2).

Week 4
Class:
- Session VII: Chivalric literature and other Cervantes sources (1).
- Session VIII: Commentary on chapters 5, 6 and 7. Reading: Edward C. Riley, "Literatura y vida en el Quijote", in RICO, 667-673.

Week 5
Class:
- Session IX: Chivalric literature and other Cervantes sources (2).
- Session X: Metaliterature. The construction of the text.

Week 6
Class:
- Session XI: Commentary on chapters 9 and 10. Reading: Leo Spitzer, "Cervantes, creador", in RICO 674-678)

Week 7
Class:
- Session XIII: Images of Don Quixote. The film adaptation by Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón.
- Session XIV: Midterm exam.

Week 8
Class:

Week 9
Class:

Week 10
Class:

- Session XIX: End of the first part. Commentary on chapters 45, 52 and reading of the corresponding pages of the dossier.
- Session XX: Don Quijote of 1615. Differences between the first and second parts. Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4. (From now on the numbering refers to volume II). The world upside down. The "enchantment" of Dulcinea and the baroque mirrors, chapters 9, 10 and 14.

Week 11
Class:

- Session XXI: Episodes of the Dukes (1). Chapter 35. Reading of the corresponding parts of the dossier.
- Session XXII: Episodes of the Dukes (2). Chapters 41 and 42. Reading of the corresponding parts of the dossier. Reading: Martín de Riquer, “La variedad estilística del Quijote, in RICO, 697-701.

Week 12
Class:

- Session XXIII: Don Quijote in Barcelona. Chapters 60, 61 and 62. Reading of the corresponding parts of the dossier.
- Session XXIV: The return. Chapters 64, 68 and 74. Reading of the corresponding parts of the dossier.

Week 13
Class:

- Session XXV: Cultural Week: Don Quijote’s Barcelona.
- Session XXVI: Cultural Week: Dialogues (The reading of El Quijote during the Franco regime).

Week 14
Class:

- Session XXVII: Oral presentations.
- Session XXVIII: Oral presentations.

Week 15
Class:

- Session XXIX: Final exam.
- Session XXX: Course evaluation.

Course Materials
Readings

Articles of literary criticism about Don Quixote contained in "History and Critique of Spanish Literature" (Dir. Francisco Rico), Crítica, Barcelona, 1988, p.p. 620-702

Articles by Américo Castro, Edward C. Riley, Leo Spitzer, Cesare Segre, Juan Bautista Avalle-Arce, Francisco Márquez Villanueva, Martín de Riquer y Ángel Rosenblat.
Note: All the readings are available on Canvas and in CIEE Barcelona’s Sala de Lectura, in the Philology Library at the UB, and in the majority of municipal libraries across the city.

Bibliography


CANAVAGGIO, J.: Cervantes, en busca del perfil perdido, Espasa-Calpe, Madrid, 1992

CASALDUERO, J.: Sentido y forma del Quijote, Insula, Madrid, 1958

CASTRO, A.: El pensamiento de Cervantes, Crítica, Barcelona, 1987


EISENBERG, Daniel: Estudios cervantinos, Sirmio, Barcelona, 1991

MARAVALL, J.A.: Utopía y contrautopía en el Quijote, Pico Sacro, Santiago de Compostela, 1976

MARQUEZ VILLANUEVA, F.: Personajes y temas del Quijote, Taurus, Madrid, 1975

PFANDL: Introducción al siglo de oro (Cultura y costumbres del pueblo español de los siglos XVI y XVII, 1994

RILEY, E.: Teoría de la novela en Cervantes, Taurus, Madrid, 1966

RIQUER, M. de: Aproximación al Quijote, Teide, Barcelona, 1989

ROSENBLAT, Ángel: La lengua del Quijote, Gredos, Madrid, 1995 (1975)

VILANOVA, A.: Erasmo y Cervantes, Lumen, Barcelona, 1989

WILLIAMSON, E.: El Quijote y los libros de caballería, Taurus, Madrid, 1991