Don Quijote de la Mancha
The Quijote (first part 1605, second part 1615) is arguably the most influential piece of literature in the modern world: it initiates the modern novel and, with it, the narrative structure that underlines most of what today passes as fiction. It was also a quite improbable achievement, written in his mature years by what his contemporaries considered a second-rate author (Miguel de Cervantes) who probably wasn't very sure about what he was up to.

In this course we will read the novel in its entirety and discover much about the book and how it came to be conceived and executed, the historical context in which the book was written, the nature of fiction in general, and the philosophical nature of the relationship between literature and reality itself.

Required materials

You must bring the book to every class.

Policy on electronic devices
The use of electronic devices (cellphones, laptops, tablets, etc.) will not be allowed during the course, unless expressly specified by the instructor.

Office hours
If you have questions or concerns about this class, come and talk to me during my office hours. Please do not send email inquiries related to your absence or class materials. It is your responsibility to find out about the subjects covered in your absence and study them.

Attendance and absences
Regular attendance is expected. Absences must be justified with proper documentation (a doctor’s note, for instance, or emergency notification from the dean of students or advisor). A personal email explaining the absence does not count as a justification. More than two unjustified absences will be penalized at the rate of 1% of the final grade per absence.

Persistent and significant lack of punctuality might eventually be penalized as absences.

If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me before the exam and have my consent to your absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment. With the exception of extreme cases there will be no early or make-up exams! You must contact me in advance should an extreme emergency arise.

Food and drink
The only food allowed in class will be coffee, tea, soda, water, etc. and/or any kind of small pastry, NOT other kind of food.

Evaluation
1. Daily quizzes 10%
2. Preparation and participation 15%
3. Journal 25%
4. Midterm essay 10% + 15% (see details below)
5. Final essay 25%

You must come to class prepared—that is, having read the assigned chapters and reflected about them—so that you can participate during class discussions will be evaluated according to the
There will be daily quizzes at the beginning of each class, using personalized Plickers ("paper clickers"). The quizzes are short series of multiple-choice questions that will cover the readings of the day, asking basic questions about them. They are designed to control that you have done the assigned readings. The final grade for quizzes will be evaluated according to the following scale: A: 85-100% of correct answers. B: 70-84%. C: 55-69%. D: 40-54%. F: below 39%.

Each student will keep an up-to-date journal of the class using perforated wide ruled paper. In the journal you must enter notes from the readings, ideas, notes from the class meetings, and keep an overall progress of your learning and of your evolving interpretations of the novel. Leave a good margin where you (and I) can insert notes and observations. I will regularly check the progress of the journal. Not keeping the journal up-to-date will result in a penalization. I will evaluate the insightfulness, originality, depth, reflexivity, and evolution of your views.

Your midterm essay will be first corrected by a peer, who will note your strengths and weaknesses and provide a grade. You will receive your essay back with his or her notes, and you will rewrite it according to his or her feedback. I will then grade the final version: you will receive a grade for it (15%), and your peer-corrector will also receive a grade according to his or her thoughtfulness (10%). (That means that you will also receive a grade as peer corrector).

The final essay will be focused on a topic that you might choose from the list below (or you may discuss any other topic with the instructor). It might be written individually or in groups of two. It will require the use and correct citation of secondary bibliography.

- La locura en Don Quijote (u otro aspecto del personaje)
- Sancho Panza
- La relación entre Sancho y Quijote
- Dulcinea
- Realidad y ficción
- El mundo del libro
- La comedia, lo cómico y la risa en Don Quijote
- Don Quijote y la sátira
- La sociedad y/o el mundo político en Don Quijote
- La nobleza en Don Quijote
- La cultura popular en Don Quijote
- La estructura narrativa
- El lenguaje en Don Quijote
- La(s) mujer(es) en Don Quijote
- La masculinidad en Don Quijote
- El individuo y la sociedad en el siglo XVII vistos a través de Don Quijote
- El pensamiento político de Don Quijote
- El pensamiento político de Cervantes a través del Quijote
- Lo carnavalés en Don Quijote (para estudiantes de mi curso Laughter & Society)
- El cuerpo y lo corporal en Don Quijote (para estudiantes de mi curso Passions of the Flesh)

Grading of the essays will be based upon three criteria:

- **Argument**: A good argument needs to be original, insightful, interesting, and well structured. It needs to make a point (the ‘what’), and it needs to convince the reader that the point matters (the ‘so what’). Choose something that matters to you when you read the novel, that surprises you, that intrigues you, and that we might have not covered enough (or not at all) during the discussions, so that there’s still room for you to say something. Write something insightful about that, and about why you think is important. (Warning: avoid moral judgment. The characters in the novel are not real people, and the author is long dead: moral judgment is therefore utterly pointless. Make literary or historical, not moral criticism).
Support of the argument: An argument is not just an opinion; it needs to be supported by evidence (passages from the novel) and by literary analysis.

- **Prose:** the quality of the language (elegance, amenity, propriety, etc.)

**University Senate Policies**

“Please note that for undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to an AVERAGE of three hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for an AVERAGE student to achieve and AVERAGE grade in the course. For example, a student taking a three credit course that meets for three hours a week should expect to spend an additional six hours a week on course work outside the classroom. This should not be considered a maximum amount, but rather an average amount.”

According to the college-wide policy determined by the University’s Faculty Senate:

- **A** achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- **B** achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- **C** achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- **D** achievement that is worth of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements
- **F (or N)** represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either  
  (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or  
  (2) was not completed and there was not agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (incomplete).

- **IN** (Incomplete) Assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g. hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time.

**Rutgers University-Newark Academic Policies**

- **Academic integrity:** As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University’s educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community.
  - **Academic integrity policy:** [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/)

- **Disability Services:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must complete an intake meeting, and submit appropriate documentation. If your request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), which you should present privately to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive and are effective only upon submission of the LOA to the instructor. Please begin the process by completing and submitting the Registration Form, Applying for Services, which is available at the website below.
  - **Applying for Services:** [http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services](http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services)
  - **Documentation Guidelines:** [http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines](http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines)
  - **Office of Disability Services (ODS):**
Religious Holiday Policy: Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work of exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.

Learning resources

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
  Room 140, Bradley Hall
  (973) 353-5608
  http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc

- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
  Room 126, Conklin Hall
  (973) 353-5847
  nwc@newark.rutgers.edu
  https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter

Note
This syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the instructor, and students will be notified of any changes.
1. Jan. 21 (Tu)  Presentation

**DON QUIJOTE, FIRST PART**

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15. Mar. 10 (Tu) **MIDTERM ESSAY** (in our classroom)

**DON QUIJOTE, SECOND PART**

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-- Spring recess --

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❖ May. 12 (Tu) 3-6 pm **FINAL ESSAY** (in our classroom)

! Long reading (more than 90 minutes audio)
!! Extra-long reading (more than 120 minutes audio)

* Last day for dropping (without a W grade): Jan. 28
* Last day for adding: Jan. 29