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Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies
Spanish 213: Don Quixote in English Translation
(24319:21:940:213)
Tu & Th, 4:00-5:20 pm, Hill Hall 105
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK
Fall 2021
Published in Spain in the early 1600s, *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes is one of the most influential pieces of literature ever written: it was arguably the first modern, realist novel and, because of it, it underlies most of what today passes as fiction in literature and other narrative media. It also was a quite improbable achievement, written in his mature years by what his contemporaries considered to be a second-rate author, who probably was not very sure about what he was up to. Perhaps because he had nothing to lose that he hadn’t lost already, he felt free and emboldened to do what no one had dared to do before.

Because *Don Quixote* is the first realist novel, it offers not just an insight into the workings of literature, but into the Spanish world of the early seventeenth century. 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. Written in the most entertaining way possible, *Don Quixote* is an invitation to think; in this course we will take up that invitation, while we laugh and weep with the episodes and situations invented by Cervantes.

Although DQ is considerably long, we will read it all in order to understand the magic of Cervantes’s creation, which is sparked in the first part but only fully comes to life in the much-less-read second part. We will develop a very reasonable reading schedule that will make it easy and enjoyable for everyone.

**Course objectives**
1. **Effective reading.** You will learn informed reading and analytical strategies for evaluating implied meanings and discursive structures.
2. **Effective written and oral communications.** You will practice technique and strategies for producing complex, coherent and effective arguments by paying close attention to the structure of your essays and the use of evidence to support your argument.
3. **Critical thinking.** We will discuss and practice interpretive strategies for asking and answering social, cultural, and intellectual questions relevant to the historical period in which *Don Quixote* was written, and also ones that the novel poses to us as modern, 21st-century readers.

**Required materials**
  ISBN: 0060934344

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 15%
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 following scale: 
D: Passive participation (listening in silence). C: Low participation (very occasional remarks). B: Average participation: A: Good participation (frequent and insightful engagement).

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 written **journal** of your reading. 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 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.

The **essays** 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 will require the use and correct citation of peer-reviewed bibliography.
- Don Quixote’s madness (or other aspect of the character)
- Sancho Panza as a character
- The relationship between Sancho and Quixote
- Dulcinea
- Fiction and reality in the novel
- The role of books, literature and reading in the novel
- Comedy and humor
- Satire
- Politics and society
- Nobility
- Popular culture
- Narrative structures in the novel
- Language in the novel
- Women
- Masculinity
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/
• **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)**
  Suite 219, Paul Robeson Campus Center
  (973) 353-5375
  odsnewark@rutgers.edu

**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](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](https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter)

**Masks**
In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: myRutgers Portal.

**Note**
This syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the instructor, and students will be notified of any changes.
SCHEDULE

1. Sep 2 (Th)  Presentation

DON QUIJOTE, FIRST PART

2. Sep 7 (Tu)*  Prol + Ch 1-3  Don Quixote becomes a knight
3. Sep 9 (Th)  Ch 4-6 + pages 53-55  DQ returns to his village. The library is purged
4. Sep 14 (Tu)  Ch 7-11  DQ meets Sancho. Windmills and other adventures
5. Sep 16 (Th)  Ch 12-14  Shepherds’ tragic love story (i)
6. Sep 21 (Tu)  Ch 15-18  More adventures in roads and inns
7. Sep 23 (Th)  Ch 19-21  Knight of the Sorrowful Face. Terrors and prizes
8. Sep 28 (Tu)  Ch 22-24  DQ flees to the mountains and meets Cardenio (ii)
9. Sep 30 (Th)  Ch 25-27  Old friends’ schemes. Cardenio tells his story (ii)
10. Oct 5 (Tu)  Ch 28-31 (!)  A princess convinces DQ to leave the mountains (ii)
11. Oct 7 (Th)  Ch 32-36 (!)  A novel within a novel: The Recklessly Curious Man (iii)
12. Oct 12 (Tu)  Ch 37-42 (!)  A captive’s tale (iv)
14. Oct 19 (Tu)  Ch 48-52  DQ discusses chivalric novels. The End?

15. Oct 21 (Th)  NO CLASS (Work on your fist essay)

DON QUIJOTE, SECOND PART

16. Oct 26 (Tu)  Ch 1-7 (!)  DQ and Sancho in their village. Meet Sansón Carrasco
17. Oct 28 (Th)  Ch 8-11  DQ rides again, visits Toboso and meets the devil
18. Nov 2 (Tu)  Ch 12-15  Adventure of the Knight of the Mirrors
20. Nov 9 (Tu)  Ch 22-28 (!)  The Cave of Montesinos. The puppet master
22. Nov 16 (Tu)  Ch 36-41  (Dukes) Adventure of the Dolorous Duenna
23. Nov 18 (Th)  Ch 42-47 (!)  (Dukes) Sancho. Altisidora’s love for DQ
24. Nov 23 (Tu)  Ch 48-51  (Dukes) Sancho. Adventure of Doña Rodríguez

-- Thanksgiving Recess --

25. Nov 30 (Tu)  Ch 52-57  (Dukes) Sancho, Ricote, Doña Rodríguez and Altisidora
27. Dec 7 (Tu)  Ch 63-70 (!)  DQ in Barcelona. The Knight of the White Moon
28. Dec 9 (Th)  Ch 71-74  Return to the village. The End

* Dec 16 (Th)  FINAL ESSAY

* Last day for dropping (without a W grade): Wednesday Sept. 8
! Long reading (more than 35 pages)
!! Extra-long reading (more than 45 pages)
(i-iv) Secondary plots, inserted stories