

Don Quixote, clave española

Prof. Hernán Sánchez M. de Pinillos
Classes: 17:00-18:30
Alcalingua (Calle Escritorios, 4)
Alcalá de Henares

Office Hours: Mondays (Group Office Hours)- Wednesdays (individualized Office Hours) 18:30- 19:30

Widely acknowledged as the first modern novel and repeatedly chosen the best work of fiction in prose ever written in polls among novelists all over the world, *Don Quixote* tells the story of a middle-aged Spanish gentleman who obsessed with the chivalrous ideals found in romantic books, decides to take up his lance and sword to defend the helpless and destroy the wicked. Seated upon his naggy horse Rocinante and accompanied by his loyal squire Sancho Panza, Don Quixote sets out on the roads of Spain seeking adventure and glory.

We will study *Don Quixote* in his historical context but with an attempt to relate his work to Spain's history, culture and mentalities. Moreover we will discuss in within *Don Quixote* and Spain's history at large, such concepts, events, institutions and concepts as the Spanish Empire, Chivalry, Honor, Catholicism, the caste system ("old" versus "new" Christians), the struggle with Islam, the concept of justice, the social pyramid, etc

On the other hand we will discuss Don Quixote as an artistic achievement, i. e. as a novel. If according to the American critic Lionel Trilling every work of fiction in prose is a variation on the theme of *Don Quixote*, many were the lessons created and passed on by Cervantes to later novels: the antihero as protagonist and a new understanding of heroism; the novel as a symbol of human existence and its reading as a journey and growth of the soul; the conflict between inner conscience and the outside world; the antithesis between imagination and the pragmatic, or between poetry and prose; the inclusion of all social levels of language and the renewal of rhetoric through the omnipresence of spoken language; the fusion of travel and dialogue as a commentary, both critical and compassionate, on humanity; the alternation of adventure and experience, and of humour and philosophical depth; the truth of fiction vs. the fictitious appearance of reality; the "literaturization" of every aspect in life; the novel as a self reflecting genre through irony, playfulness and parody, and the development of Metafiction; the art of capturing a person's fate in a single phrase; the celebration of freedom through the poetics (author, narrators, characters, reader) and anthropology of the novel; the invention of a myth that springs from the core of a culture, etc.

In summary, the course is basically a chapter by chapter commentary of *Don Quixote*. The novel will be commented at the literal and historical levels, as well as in its philosophical and widely anthropological dimensions. We will attempt to establish a dialogue between *Don Quixote* and the history and cultural traditions of Spain. We will test the continuity and vitality of the previously mentioned Quixotic principles throughout Spain's literary and artistic traditions. Furthermore from a wide anthropological perspective we will attempt to contrast Spain's mentalities and culture,

as are described and dramatized in *Don Quixote*, to (US) American mentalities and culture.

Visits to several cities (Madrid, with special attention to the Prado Museum, El Escorial or Toledo, Cádiz or Sevilla, Salamanca or Barcelona) are contemplated.

Mandatory Texts

Cervantes, *Don Quijote*. Edición de Martín de Riquer

Suggested Bibliography

Julian Marias, *Cervantes, clave española*

Antonio Feros Carrasco, *España en tiempos del Quijote*

Manuel Rivero Rodríguez, *La España de Don Quijote. Un viaje al Siglo de Oro*.

Requirements

Requirements for the course are as follows: attendance; close and reflective reading of *Don Quixote* in relation to the history and culture of Spain; participation in class discussions (30%); 1 oral presentation (10-15 minutes), on the topic “Don Quixote and Spain”(20%), as work in progress culminating in a 10-15 page final essay-diary to be handed on the day of the Final Exam (20%). 1 Midterm (“Open book”) (After completion of commentary of *Don Quixote 1605*. (15%). 1 Final Exam (On the first Monday, 1 week after classes) (15%). (“Open book”)

Calendar

14 weeks of classes

15 lective weeks

January 7 (1st Class)

Spring Break: 6-13 April

Last day of Classes: April 20

Final Exam (Open book) (April 27)

	del bosque. II, 16-18. El caballero del verde gabán. Aventura de los leones. II, 19-21. Bodas de Camacho. Velázquez y Las Meninas.
Séptima semana	II, 22-23. La cueva de Montesinos.
Octava semana	II, 24-29. Aventura del rebuzno. El retablo de Melisenda. Ginés de Pasamonte. Aventura del barco encantado.
Novena semana	II, 30-31. Encuentro con los duques. II, 32-34. II, 35-40. Azotes de Sancho. Carta de Sancho a Teresa. Historia de la dueña dolorida.
Décima semana	II, 41-45. Aventura del Clavileño. Consejos de D. Q. a Sancho. Juicios de Sancho. II, 46-53. El doctor Pedro Recio. El labrador de Miguel Turra. Doña Rodríguez. Sancho en su gobierno. Cartas de D. Q. y Sancho. Cartas de Teresa Panza.
Undécima semana	II, 54-58. Sancho y Ricote. El lacayo Tosilos. Altisidora. II, 59-61. El <i>Quijote</i> de Avellaneda. Con los bandoleros.
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Duodécima semana	En Barcelona. II, 62-63. La cabeza encantada. En la imprenta. Ana Félix. II, 64-67. El caballero de la Blanca Luna. D. Q. vencido. D. Q. pastor. II, 68-71. La cerdosa aventura. Aventura de Altisidora. Regreso.
Decimotercera semana	II, 72-73. Regreso y entrada en la aldea. II, 74. Agonía y muerte de D. Q.
Decimocuarta semana	Conclusiones. España y el <i>Quijote</i> .
Final exam	