SPRING 2019
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Number: SPN 379C
Course Title: Capstone Seminar in Literatures and Cultures
Unique #: 45300
Time & Place: Tue-Thu 11:00—12:30 BEN 1.126
Instructor Name: HARNEY, Michael / Instructor Title: PROF
Office hrs: BEN 3.148 MWF 2:00-3:00
Ph / email: 471-4936 / mpharney@xanteum.net

DESCRIPTION: The course focuses on Don Quijote and its author as the core elements of a Hispanic CULTURAL, LITERARY and MEDIA COMPLEX. The latter phenomenon consists of an intricately combined aggregate of artifacts, practices, processes, and activities, cumulatively generated and diversified over time and defined by a common theme or subject matter. The Cervantes complex is reflected in the international publishing industry's countless editions and translations of his works, and its vast production of Cervantine biography, criticism and scholarship; in the ever-growing multitude of works on Cervantine themes in all literary, artistic, and musical genres; in the enormous, multi-media variety of products and artifacts —toys, garments, postage stamps, coins—inspired by Cervantes and his writings; in the numerous festivals, pageants, parades, colloquia, and debates held in his honor; in the multiple journals, institutes, libraries, archives, study centers, blogs, and websites dedicated to him. General topics discussed in connection with this theme will include historical, cultural, sociological, and literary factors in the emergence and development of this complex, the principal example of its kind in the Spanish-speaking world. Class sessions will consist of 2 main components: 1. a discussion of specific relevant topics in cultural and literary history (e.g., FEUDALISM, CHIVALRY, MODERNITY, LITERARY GENRE, CHIVALRIC ROMANCE, CULTURE INDUSTRY, MEDIA CONVERGENCE, TRANSLATION THEORY); 2. close readings of selected passages from Cervantes's Don Quijote. By CLOSE READING is meant an approach that focuses on precise, line-to-line understanding of the text. This component will be consist of frequent translations and/or paraphrases of passages from the text, in conjunction with discussion of relevant literary, linguistic, and cultural topics.


ACADEMIC / LEARNING GOALS: Students will improve their ability to: read, analyze, translate, and discuss a classic literary text in Spanish; write Spanish prose while recognizing, defining, and employing rhetorical, literary, and historical terms; select and develop a specific research topic; construct and defend a central hypothesis in an extended written format using correct Spanish; respond to editorial comments on prospectuses and various drafts leading up to the final research paper; carry out preliminary bibliographic surveys in consultation with instructor; present a paper on a selected research topic and engage in Q&A with fellow class members; acquire practice in oral discussion in Spanish. Student performance to be assessed through evaluation of and commentary on quizzes, exams, essays, bibliographic surveys, research presentations, and in-class participation.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.
GRADING:

TESTS. 2 QUIZZES (5%); 1 MID-TERM with take-home essay component (10%, 1 rewrite of essays); 1 IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM with essay component (20%). MT, FINAL & QUIZZES are open-book essay exams, & include ID's, terminological definitions, and brief essays.

PAPERS. 1 3-PAGE PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS (1 rewrite, 5%); 1 5-PAGE EXPANDED PROSPECTUS (1 rewrite, 10%); 1 12-PAGE FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (1 rewrite, 30%).

PRELIMINARY TOPICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC SURVEY (5%). Survey covers secondary sources (articles, monographs, books, literary critiques, etc.) relevant to student's specific research topic.

1 15-MINUTE ORAL PRESENTATION of RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC (10%).

ATTENDANCE /PARTICIPATION (5%). Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance is taken each class day at the end of the first 15 minutes of class. Three unexcused absences are allowed. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 1% deduction from the final course grade, up to 5%.

Note 1: The prospectus, parts 1 and 2, develops the concept, central hypothesis, bibliography, and analytical structure of the final research project.

Note 2: The 2 bibliographic surveys cover an array of scholarly works on the student's selected research topic.

Note 3: "Excellent" (i.e., A-quality) writing means 3 things: a. error-free Spanish; b. correct style and diction; c. an expository essay that defends a thesis (i.e., that proves a point). Mere book reports do not constitute excellent writing. This applies to exam essays as well as papers.

Note 4: For purposes of this class, 1 PAGE = 250 words.

FLAGS

Writing

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers’ work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Global Cultures

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or
Independent Inquiry

This course carries the Independent Inquiry flag. Independent Inquiry courses are designed to engage you in the process of inquiry over the course of a semester, providing you with the opportunity for independent investigation of a question, problem, or project related to your major. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from the independent investigation and presentation of your own work.

PREREQUISITES: Spanish 327, 328C and twelve hours of upper-division coursework in Spanish.