THE AGE OF SHAKESPEARE AND CERVANTES
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COURSE INFORMATION
Credits: 6
2nd Semester (17 February-11 March)
Timetable: Thursdays and Fridays 16:00-19:00

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
This course intends to explore the rich relations between Spain and England in the 16th and 17th centuries, a period when war and religious strife were central to the way they saw each other, but that also witnessed a cultural golden age in both countries. The towering figures of Shakespeare and Cervantes are the two major representatives of the literary achievement of the period, but other examples of English and Spanish literature will also show the mixture of interest and mistrust that characterizes the relations. We will examine echoes, references, imitations and mixed voices in all sort of texts, including libels, works of controversy and translations as well as more canonical works of fiction.

COURSE CONTENTS
1. Political and diplomatic tensions between Spain and England in the Early Modern period
2. Religious confrontations: recusants, exiles and martyrs
3. Translations
4. The play house and the “corral de comedias”

METHODOLOGY
The students will be expected to take an active role in the course and learn by reading the set texts and recommended bibliography attending the lectures, participating in class with well thought opinions and prepared oral expositions.
ASSESSMENT
The students will be evaluated on a combination of their class attendance and participation, their reading of bibliography and a final paper.

• Class attendance and reading of bibliography: 25%
• Oral exposition: 25%
• Final paper: 50%

Participation is highly recommended as it is 25% of the final mark. Those students who find it impossible to attend are expected to submit a critical commentary of the set texts on the due date (at least 600 words for each text).

SET TEXTS FOR READING
- Miguel de Cervantes, Novelas Ejemplares: “La española inglesa” and “La fuerza de la sangre”
- William Shakespeare, Henry VIII
- Thomas Middleton, The Spanish Gipsy
- Thomas Middleton, A Game at Chess
- La vida de Lazarillo de Tormes y de sus fortunas y adversidades

Prior to the starting of the course the students will receive a list of texts, a selection of articles and documents, and a calendar specifying the dates when the texts will be discussed in class. It is essential that all these set texts are read before the established dates.

Students unfamiliar with the historical context of Spain and England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are encouraged to supplement their knowledge of this period with prior reading.

FINAL PAPER AND ORAL EXPOSITION
An abstract of the final paper should be presented to the teachers by 11th March. The distribution and topics of the oral exposition will be established on the first day of class. The final paper must focus on one of the topics of the course using the bibliography provided here.

  Recommended length: 1500 words
  Deadline: June 3rd

BIBLIOGRAPHY


