The Age of Shakespeare and Cervantes

6 creds., 2nd semester

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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.

Aims:

1. To provide an integral vision of literature as a cultural and creative phenomenon within the framework of modern critical discourses about literature.

2. To rehearse the applications of this conceptual framework in the practical analysis of linguistic typologies, genres and literary texts produced in English in the context of material and cultural Anglo-Spanish exchanges.

Course Program

1. Political and diplomatic tensions between Spain and England in the Early Modern period.


4. Textual transmission and representations on the stage.

Set Texts for Reading

http://masterenglishstudies.eu
There are two types of set texts for reading:

a) 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.

b) The following works are required readings for the whole course, not specifically for a unit:
   - Miguel de Cervantes, *Novelas Ejemplares*: “La española inglesa” and “La fuerza de la sangre” (They can also be read in an English translation).
   - William Shakespeare, *Henry VIII*
   - Thomas Middleton, *The Spanish Gipsy*
   - *La vida de Lazarillo de Tormes y de sus fortunas y adversidades*

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.

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**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.

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**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, reading of bibliography and its oral exposition: 25%
- Final paper: 75%
  - An abstract of the final paper should be presented to the teachers by the end of the fourth week of class.
  - The final paper must focus on one of the topics of the course using the bibliography provided here.
  - Recommended length: 2500 words.
  - Deadline: two weeks after the end of classes.

**Participation** is highly recommended as it is 25% of the final mark. Those students who find it impossible to attend classes are expected to submit a critical commentary of the set texts on the due date (at least 600 words for each text); if that is your case, please let us know.

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**Bibliography and Resources**


**Schedule**

Information about the schedule is posted on the website.