

En/H 193 Cervantes, Truth or Dare: *Don Quixote* in an Age of Empire

Studies Cervantes's literary masterpiece, *Don Quixote*, with a view to the great upheavals that shaped the early modern world: Renaissance Europe's discovery of America; feudalism's demise and the rise of mass poverty; Reformation and Counter-Reformation; extermination of heretics and war against infidels; and the decline of the Hapsburg dynasty. The hapless protagonist of *Don Quixote* calls into question the boundaries between sanity and madness, truth and falsehood, history and fiction, objectivity and individual experience. What might be *modern*, perhaps even revolutionary, in Cervantes's dramatization of the moral and material dilemmas of his time? Conducted in English. Instructor: Wey-Gómez.