

NEW COURSE IN ENGLISH AND HISTORY

En 180 Special Topics in English – H 161 sec 3 Selected Topics in History



Cervantes, Truth or Dare: Don Quixote in an Age of Empire

9 units (3-0-6); spring 2010-2011; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 AM

We read Cervantes's literary masterpiece, *Don Quixote*, with a view to some of 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; persecution 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?

Class discussion and reading materials in English.
Instructor: Wey-Gomez (nwey@caltech.edu).