

**Tennessee Tech University**  
**Department of Foreign Languages**

Fall 2021 (TR)

Special Topics in Spanish: Cervantes as Cultural Critic  
SPAN 4810.001 (8/19/21-12/15/21) TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. OKLY 219 (3crs)

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In-person or Zoom Office Hours: MWF 10-11 a.m. or by appointment

Prerequisites

SPAN 3010.

COVID-19 University Protocols

1. Each student must take personal responsibility for knowing and following the university's COVID-19 protocols. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech on its official COVID-19 webpage: [Covid Protocols at Tech](#).
2. As conditions related to the pandemic change, the university's COVID-19 protocols are also likely to change. Students are expected to monitor the university's official COVID-19 webpage to stay up to date on all university COVID-19 protocols.
3. If the university's COVID-19 protocols include the wearing of face coverings inside campus facilities, then face coverings must be worn covering the mouth and nose. Protocols will apply to all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19 to Tennessee Tech's Health Services by following the student link at the following website: [Covid reporting](#) . The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.
6. Students can get a COVID-19 vaccine on campus at Tech Health Services. Call ahead to schedule at (931) 372-3320. COVID-19 vaccines are given free of charge daily, as well as testing.
7. Per CDC guidelines, you are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, OR
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Required Texts

Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de. *Don Quijote*. Ed. Tom Lathrop. Dictionary Edition. Newark, DE: LinguaText, 2018.

---. *Cervantes' Entremeses*. Ed. Carolyn Lukens-Olson. Newark, DE: European Masterpieces, 2010.

---. *Four Stories from Cervantes' Novelas ejemplares*. Ed. Michael J. McGrath. Newark,

DE: European Masterpieces, 2008.  
 ---. *Novelas ejemplares, II*. Ed. Frances Luttikhuizen. Newark, DE: European Masterpieces, 2011.

### Course description

SPAN 4810 Special Topics. (Lec. 3. Credit 3.), “Special topics in Spanish language, culture and literature.” In this course students will read a selection of Cervantes’ literary works, think critically about how he viewed his society, and compare it to what is happening around us today.

### Student learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will have learned

- to appreciate the literary and creative genius of Cervantes;  
[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)]
- the socio-historic context in which *El Quijote* was written;  
[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)]
- the literary and cultural terms necessary to analyze *El Quijote*;  
[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)]
- to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Spanish;  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen)]  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen)]  
[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)]
- how to analyze an advanced literary work in preparation for future graduate study;  
[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)]  
[Cultures (Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives)]
- the important role literature plays in the recording and preservation of the human condition.  
[Cultures (Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives)]  
[Comparisons: Cultural Comparisons (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)]

### Methodology

To optimize student learning, the course is taught using a variety of methods, including but not limited to lecture, discussion, group work, artistic interpretation, debate, etc. While some lecture is needed to provide background, the goal of the course is to broaden our students’ analytical abilities. Hence, the course aims to be as student centered as possible.

### Evaluation

The following grade criteria will be used to determine the final grades for this course:

A: 90-100    B: 80-89    C: 70-79    D: 60-69    F: 59 and below

GRADING BREAKDOWN: The course grade will be determined as follows:

(2) Exams = 50%                      Homework / Quizzes = 9%  
 (2) Participation = 16%              Research project = 25%

Exams

The exams will be given on the dates and cover the literature as stated in the course calendar.

Participation

There are two participation grades and are given to the students on their graded exams. Participation in class needs to be active and consistent. The professor evaluates the participation of students in class on a daily basis. Unexcused absences strongly affect the participation grade.

Homework / Quizzes

Pop quizzes ensure that students are keeping up with their daily reading. Any homework grades will be assigned in class.

Research project

Students will compare an aspect from a Cervantine literary work episode to today's society or something from their own personal experience. See the attached explanation sheet and the due dates in the course calendar. Five points will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

Student Academic Misconduct Policy

Maintaining high standards of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The student academic misconduct policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing academic misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view Tennessee Tech's policy 217 – [Academic dishonesty policy](#)

Expectations

Advanced Spanish courses always imply that students must take on responsibility. In these courses students must

- Attend all of the classes;
- Prepare the readings BEFORE class;
- Participate actively in classroom discussions;
- Turn in all assignments on time;
- Be respectful in class.

Student Engagement

Attendance is necessary and expected. Students actually learn by just absorbing the Spanish heard in class. Hence, unexcused absences will severely affect the day's participation grade.

An excused absence is one that occurs due to illness, injury, or death in the student's immediate family. The student must verify these circumstances with official letters as soon as they return to class. No excuses will be accepted one week after the circumstance occurred.

Please note: Students who know they will be absent due to one of the excused reasons above may attend the class remotely, do classroom exercise, and receive full credit for attending the class. Students must let the professor know one full day in advance so he can set up the Zoom meeting. This option is only available for students anticipating an EXCUSABLE absence, not as an option to take the class remotely without cause.

Please also note: If you are participating in any university-sponsored event in which you must be absent from class, an official letter from a Tech faculty or staff member must list these dates and be presented to the professor at the beginning of the semester.

#### Disability Accommodation

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the accessible education center (AEC). An accommodation request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The AEC is located in the Roaden University Center, room 112; phone 931-372-6119. For details, view Tennessee Tech's policy 340 – [Accommodation policy](#)