

Hispanic Studies

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Character Exemplarity in Cervantes's <i>Novelas Ejemplares</i>
Code	SPU33133
Semester	1
ECTS credits	10
Pre-requisite	2 years university-level Spanish or B1 level of Spanish

Module Content

Early modern Spanish readers expected literary characters to think, speak, and act according to stereotypes of identity based on their social class, gender, race, religion, profession, age, etc. Throughout his collection of short stories, *Novelas ejemplares*, Cervantes creates characters who both typify and defy these traditional categories. In this module, we will read a selection of these stories with a focus on their characters and characterizations, in order to understand how they both conform to and transcend their categorical boundaries, and demonstrate that identity can be fluid and that individuals are able to define themselves.

Aims

This module will introduce students to the basic concepts of literary characters shared by early modern Spanish readers and writers. It will consider contemporary concepts of imitation, verisimilitude, and decorum, in comparison to modern ideas about realism and psychological complexity. It will then read a selection of Cervantes's *Novelas ejemplares* in light of those concepts in order to identify the ways in which the author both accepted and challenged them in his fiction, thus creating characters who both exemplify and defy essentialist notions of personal identity.

Assessment

Continuous assessment (100%)