

Module Title: Cervantes and the Nature of Fiction

Module Code: HSP303

Credit Value: 15

Level: 6

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

One of the world's greatest writers of prose fiction, Miguel de Cervantes almost single-handedly created a new literary genre in the early seventeenth century.

The course begins by looking at those works which have as their central concern the role of the individual in society, and then proceeds to examine one of Cervantes's recurring themes, the nature of fiction itself. The course consists of a series of seminars and discussion sessions built around (some of) the following texts: the short stories *El celoso extremeño*, *El licenciado Vidriera*, *Las dos doncellas*, *El casamiento engañoso*, *El coloquio de los perros*; the plays: *El retablo de las maravillas* and *El Viejo celoso*; the novel *Don Quijote de la Mancha* (Parts I and II).

By the end of this course you will be able to demonstrate clear knowledge and understanding of Cervantes' texts and the recurring themes in them that have a wider application, such as freedom, the role of the individual, the nature of reality, the problems of the signifier and the signified.