

SPAN 451 Early Modern Spanish Studies: The Culture of Insults in Early Modern Spain

Fall 2014

TR 2:30-3:45

Class number: 25555

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The *pícaro* first hit the literary scene circa 1554 with the publication of *Lazarillo de Tormes*. So provocative was the social critique delivered by this mock first-person autobiography, that *Lazarillo* was one of the few texts published in Spanish censured by the Inquisition. The first-person narrators of these fictional autobiographies often are isolated from mainstream society by race, class and profession. These works intensify a predilection for humor and insults already evident in poetry. In order to contrast these characters with the elite classes, we will study paintings that visually depict the powerful.

Course readings will include:

Poetry by Luis de León, Francisco de Quevedo and Lope de Vega

*Lazarillo de Tormes*

Quevedo's *El buscón*

María de Zayas' "El castigo de la miseria"

Course work will include one brief paper, two longer papers, a presentation in small groups and two exams.