

## SPAN 441: Special Topics in Spanish Literature and Culture

The Spanish Golden Age: Cultural Patrimony in Contemporary Spanish Cultures

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Monday/Wednesday, 12:30-1:45

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Why does the Spanish government fund the *Instituto Cervantes*, a cultural institution that fosters global appreciation of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures, with millions of euros annually? Why did Madrid's municipal government choose to plaster the walls of many of its Metro stations with the text of *Don Quixote*? How is the small village of Almagro (population 9,000) able to attract more than 60,000 people for its International Classical Theater Festival each summer? This course will examine what all of these examples share in common: a direct claim to the cultural legacy of the Spanish Golden Age (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries), a form of cultural patrimony that is vital to both the Spanish tourism industry (which generates 15% of the nation's GDP) and the cultural identities of Spaniards in a complex political landscape. We will read and study selections of the period's literary classics and then study their adaptations and deployments in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. This course satisfies the 400-level literature requirement for the Spanish minor and the Peninsular Spanish literature requirement for the Spanish major.