This course will introduce students to a relatively understudied, but critical moment in the history of Western European civilization -- the Imperial period of Spanish history known as the *Siglo de Oro*, or Golden Century, a period introduced by the accidental discovery of the New World in 1492. This discovery made Spain the most powerful and wealthiest nation in Europe for more than a century, producing great triumphs as well as spectacular tragedies. We will explore this complex period in Spanish history through a variety of sources, addressing political, economic, religious, and military topics including the conquest of “New Spain”, the religious conflict between Catholicism and emergent Protestantism, the military expansion of Spanish imperial power, and the flowering of culture in the Spanish court.

**Required Reading**

*The following titles are available at the Duckstore; most are also widely available via other book retailers.*


Additional readings indicate by an asterisk (*) are available online via Blackboard or as noted.
Assignments and Grading:

Your course grade will consist of four elements.

1) **Attendance and Participation** in any reading discussions (10%)
2) **Two Primary Source Analyses** (3 - 4 pgs.), each worth 15% (30%)
3) **Midterm Examination** (25%)
4) **Final Examination** (35%)

*A Word about Plagiarism:* Regrettably, I must make a statement regarding the offense of plagiarism. Any violation of the [University of Oregon’s academic policy on plagiarism](#) will result in my taking all necessary administrative action to report the conduct. I take the offense of plagiarism seriously, on an academic and personal level. Serious consequences up to and including failure of the course and expulsion from the University may result from the offense.

**Policy Regarding Late Assignments or Make-up Examinations**

All assignments are due by the end of class on the scheduled date unless I have granted an extension. Late assignments will receive penalties on the following scale:

- Assignment received late on the assigned date: Two-thirds letter grade penalty.
- Assignment received one day late: Full letter grade penalty.
- Assignment received more than one day late: Two (2) letter grade penalty.
- Assignment received more than two days late: No credit.

You must make all requests for extensions or make-up exams in advance. In the case of exams, you must notify me no later than one week prior. Naturally, I will consider emergencies on a case-by-case basis, but be advised that only *verifiable* emergencies will be acceptable.

**Special Needs Note:** If you are a student registered with the Accessible Ed Center as eligible for extra time on exams or for other specific needs associated with the class, please let me know immediately. Remember that it is your responsibility to make any arrangements necessary with the Accessible Education Center for exams or other accommodations.

**Student Conduct:**

**General:** Please refrain from reading materials unrelated to our course during class. Please keep your voice down in the event you need to clarify a note with a neighbor, etc, and please keep any side conversations to a minimum. Never hesitate to ask a question if you need to do so.

**Electronics:** Please put cell phones into silent mode before class begins; no texting or viewing messages during class. Please confine your use of laptops or other devices to note taking, as activities unrelated to the course are distracting to me as well as to others and thus unacceptable (even if you sit in the back row). I reserve the right to prohibit the use of *all* electronics in class at any time.
Schedule of Lectures

Week One:

Roots

Tuesday, April 2
Introduction to the Course; the Idea of Spain
Read: Ruiz, Chapter 1

Thursday, April 4
A Brief History of Medieval “Spain”; the Black Legend

Week Two:

Eve of Empire

Tuesday, April 9
Los Reyes Católicos
Read: Ruiz, 175-178; Cowans #1, “Marriage Concessions of King Ferdinand”

Thursday, April 11
The Origins and Nature of the Inquisition

Week Three:

Clash of Civilizations

Tuesday, April 16
Reformation: The Spanish Monarchs as Defenders of the Faith
Read: Ruiz, 81-91; Chapter 4 (entire).

Thursday, April 18
1492: The End of Convivencia and the Discovery of the New World
Read: Cowans, #4 “Surrender Treaty of Granada”; 
#5 “Decree of Expulsion of the Jews”; 
#6 “The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain”; 
#7 “Letter from Columbus on the New World”
Begin: *Victors and Vanquished*
Week Four

Enter the Emperor

Tuesday, April 23
Conquistadores, Mixed Motivations, and New Spain
Source Paper #1 Due.
Read: Cowans, #8 “The Requirement”; Continue Victors and Vanquished

Thursday, April 25
The Conquest of the Mexica
Read: Complete Victors and Vanquished

Week Five

The Fruits of Empire

Tuesday, April 30
Charles V
Read: Cowans, #10 “Demands of the Comuneros” (46-48)

Thursday, May 2
Midterm Examination

Week Six:

Society and Culture

Tuesday, May 7
Everybody Else: Life for Ordinary Spaniards
Read: Ruiz, Chapter 2; Chapter 9.

Thursday, May 9
A Culture of Honor: Men, Women, and Propriety
Read: Ruiz, 239-244; Cervantes, “The Deceitful Marriage”; “The Jealous old Man from Extremadura”

Week Seven

Splendor

Tuesday, May 14
Imperial Spain and the Renaissance
Source Paper #2 Due.

Thursday, May 16
Literacy and Education
Week Eight

A New Order

Tuesday, May 21
Phillip II Meets the World
Read:  Cowans, #19 “Portrait of Philip”;  
       #23 “Situation in the Low Countries”;  
       #26 “Events in Antwerp”

Thursday, May 23
The Armada
Read: Cowans #29, “Exhortation for the Soldiers”, #30 “On the Causes of the Armada’s Defeat”.

Week Nine

A Waning Moon

Tuesday, May 28
Philip IV: a Captive Monarch
Read:  Cowans #38;

Thursday, May 30
A Society in Decline?
Read:  Cervantes, “The Dialogue of the Dogs”; “Rinconette and Cortadillo”.

Week Ten

Tuesday, June 4
   Source Paper #3 Due.
      The Glory and Ignominy of Imperial Spain

Thursday, June 6
      Wrap-up and Review

Final Examination:
8:00 AM, Tuesday, June 11

Congratulations to all Graduates, and Happy Summer to all!
Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Choose two (2) of the following three (3) paper assignments.

Assignment 1 (Due Tuesday, April 23)

Write a three (3) to four (4) page paper comparing and contrasting the experiences of Jews and Muslims as revealed in the “Surrender Treaty of Granada,” the “Decree of Expulsion of the Jews,” and “The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain.”

Considerations: The question is a loaded one, so you may proceed with the assumption that there was a distinction between the experience of Jews and Muslims as revealed in these documents. Focus on any similarities you can see, then on the clear differences, using examples from the sources to help make your points.

Assignment 2 (Due Tuesday, May 14):

Write a three (3) to four (4) page paper analyzing the presentation of gender roles in The Jealous Old Man from Extremadura.

Considerations: Remember, Cervantes is deliberately satirizing elements of Spanish society in his stories. Think about how Cervantes describes male and female behavior in this piece. What traits does he ascribe as positive or negative to each gender? What broader point do you think he is making with the story?

Assignment 3 (Due Tuesday, June 4):

Write a three (3) to four (4) page paper analyzing Cervantes’ presentation of religion and the common man as revealed in Rinconete and Cortadillo.

Considerations: Cervantes is not out to deliberately satirize religion in the story, but his presentation of how religion and the common man intertwine reveals many ironies. Think about how Cervantes describes the anti-heroes (picaros) we meet in the story, the Church officials we hear of, and how each rationalizes their decisions and actions.

General Instructions:

Citation: Your paper must make use of direct evidence from the reading in support of your argument. You may use a parenthetical with page number alone to indicate the location of your reference.

Example: (18).

NOTE: The purpose of the assignment is to use the source material to answer the question at hand. Do not include any other sources. Naturally, you may refer to information you have gleaned from lecture or from the class readings, but your paper should focus on the source material for this assignment.
Format:

- 1” Margins Top/Bottom/Left/Right
- 12 pt. Times New Roman Font
- Double-spaced
- Page Number Bottom Center
- Carefully Spellcheck your work, as failure to do so will result in a severe grade penalty.
- No External References.

Submission:

**Please submit your paper to me via email.** Please save the file as an .RTF file (or WORD if you are using PC; choose a compatible WORD save if using MAC.) See the following instructions if you do not know how to do this.

**Saving documents in Rich Text Format (*.rtf)**

Saving documents in Rich Text Format (rtf) makes it easy for others to open and read your document regardless of the platform and software they employ (PC/MAC, Word/Wordperfect, etc.) This is why you should consider this format when forwarding attached documents to others.

**Here are two links to saving files this way using Word and WordPerfect.**

**Link to save WORD document as rtf**

http://198.85.71.81/blackboard/richtext.html

**Link to save WordPerfect as rtf**

http://www.noblesoftwaresolutions.com/Tips_And_Tricks/Email/Word_And_WordPerfect_Emails.htm

**Broken Links:**

If you find the links do not work, simply make a GOOGLE search for “Convert document to RTF format”. You will have no problems finding hundreds of pages that will provide all the necessary information.