YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ: *DON QUIXOTE*, PART I

Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616) occupies a unique place in Western literature, a spot shared only by Shakespeare. The critic Harold Bloom believes that "context cannot hold" these two, since their creations expand far beyond their mere century. *Don Quixote*, that great leap forward to modernity, is the source in Western literature for what the art of narrative as well as the narration of life will become. The voice of Cervantes becomes submerged in myriad storytellers, some of whom are enlightening, others utterly unbelievable, but it's always difficult to tell the difference. Don Quixote and his squire, Sancho Panza, occupy our collective self and force us to question how we come to know what we claim to know in ways comical, sad, and perhaps even tragic.

The format of the class will be some lecture but primarily discussion. Especially on the first day, I will provide some context regarding Cervantes and his time. There will also be the occasional short readings to be placed in DropBox, but these will be kept to a minimum, given the length of the novel.

It will make life infinitely easier if we are all using the same edition: Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, translated by Edith Grossman, Harper Collins, 2003. Paperback. Available from Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Don-Quixote-Miguel-Cervantes-ebook/dp/B001R1LCKS/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=grossman+quixote&qid=1620671455&sr=8-3). Kindle version pagination is almost the same as the paperback.

I highly recommend reading the entire Part I (to page 449) prior to day 1 so, in preparation for each session, you will be re-reading the novel.

Tentative Reading Schedule (subject to change)

Week:

1	Introduction to course; Prologue-Chapter 5
2	Chapters 6-14
3	Chapters 15-22
4	Chapters 23-30
5	Chapters 31-39
6	Chapters 40-45
7	Chapters 46-52
8	Catch-up time; final discussions

Some questions to consider (hardly an exhaustive list, but it's a start):

What is the difference between "story" and "history"?
What role do reading and telling have in the novel?
Why are there so many narrators throughout the novel? Which ones can we trust (if any)? In other words, is there such a thing as a "reliable narrator"?
What is the role of the reader within as well as outside of *Don Quixote*?

LEADER: Charles Ganelin, professor emeritus of Spanish at Miami University (Oxford, OH), has written on Cervantes as well as on Early Modern Spanish theatre and poetry.

THURSDAYS: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 8 weeks beginning September 30 through November 18

MAXIMUM: 20