

SPA 720-001: Seminar on Early Modern/Baroque Spanish Literature: *Golden Age Comedia*

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Class Meeting time and place: T 3:30- 6:00 PM in POT 1145.

**The course**

This course provides an overview of some of the most relevant works of the Golden Age Theater, *la comedia española*, (certainly the most popular and intensely national of literary genres in Spain) while establishing some basic guidelines for the understanding of this rich period of Spanish culture. The American Empire made Spain the most powerful country in the history of humanity. We will focus on central aspects of the imperial age, such as the relationship between literature and reality, as well as the key trends in politics and religion (the connection between Golden Age culture and the politics of Counter-reformation against Protestants and Muslims). We will also study how this national theater responds to the issues and challenges brought about by the New World and its inhabitants.

**Course Objective**

The course objective is not only to provide the students with the general knowledge about the Spanish national drama, but also to give them the analytical tools to do research in one of the most investigated fields of the Spanish Golden Age literature.

We will read and analyze a minimum of ten plays with the assistance of secondary sources written about them, as well as sources on the genre and the cultural and political period. Most of the dramas are included in the annotated anthology: *Diez comedias del Siglo de Oro* by Martel and Alpern, 2 ed. (submitted to the bookstore as required for your convenience, although you may get these works from other reputed editions).