Unit Description
The early modern period saw the rise of a number of great literary figures that are still widely read and enjoyed nowadays. In the English speaking world, Shakespeare is often regarded as the greatest writer of all times; elsewhere he is often rivalled by his Spanish contemporary, Miguel de Cervantes. Both writers seem to have been influenced by their French contemporary, Michel de Montaigne. This unit will give you the opportunity to use a selection of the works of these three writers as historical sources that shed light upon major themes in early modern intellectual history. Among these are Humanism and its reception; the early modern notion of the self; shifts in the early modern understanding of knowledge; the relationship between language and reality; the discovery of America; and the impact of the Protestant Reformation on European thought.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 2 hour exam (100%)

Essential Reading
Erich Auerbach, Mimesis (1948), chs. 12, 13, 14.
Stuart Clark, Vanities of the Eye (2007).

Further Information
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