

The Dept. of RGRLL Presents:

“Cervantes’s Metamorphosis of Ovid: *Don Quijote* and the Transformation of Narrative.”

Dr. Vincent Martin, California State University, San Diego

This talk examines Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* not as a source of myths, but rather as a model of discourse for Cervantes’s *Don Quijote*. While the content of Cervantes’s masterpiece obviously engages with more contemporary literary (and visual) models, the author’s craft of storytelling and omnipresent textuality clearly dialogue with Ovid’s narrative technique. Both writers take great pains to focus the reader’s attention on the art of narrative; both turn their characters into readers, listeners, and/or narrators whenever possible; and both present a complex layer of narrative voices that serve, among other things, to draw attention to the art of fiction itself. Cervantes also takes up Ovid’s use of the trope of metamorphosis as a vehicle for changing not only forms and characters, but also language, texts, readers, and the very genre of his own writing. And both writers are careful to provide multiple points of view on their various transformations, which challenge their “readers” to interpret their experiences in one way or another, or even to merge both possibilities.

Date: April 24

Place: AS 384

Time: 7-8pm

***space is limited.**

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