*Highlights of European Literature:* ***Cervantes***

**Main Focus of Lecture:**

**Don Quixote**

* *Don Quixote* (1605)
  + Cervantes creating model for modern novel
  + Second most translated work outside the bible
  + Famed by Dostoyevsky, Lukacs, Kundera, etc.
    - Lukacs 🡪 Essential to the novel is the ambiguity between meaningless and nihilism (which is essentially invented by Cervantes
    - The Don Quixote is man himself trying to make sense of the world around him
* Age of Crisis
  + Beginning of decline of Spanish Empire and emergence of British Empire (1588 defeat of Armada)
  + Expanding New World
  + Scientific Revolution (Da Vinci, Copernicus, Vesalius)
    - Sun as central to universe
  + Technological Revolutions (printing)
  + Religious Crises and wars
    - 16th century onwards, Catholicism’s place has changed
    - Also note Spain’s prominent Catholicism
  + Place of Literature in life: Humanism vs chivalric Romance
* Cervantes
  + 1547: Born
  + 1569: In Rome as assistant to cardinal
  + 1571: Battle of Lepanto; fighting
  + 1575-1580: Spanish Navy, captured by pirates, kept as slave
  + 1585: *La Galatea* (pastoral novel)
  + 1597-1600: Jail for irregularities with accounts as purchasing agent for the Armada
  + 1605: Part One of *Don Quixote* published, immediate success
  + 1613: *Novelas Ejemplares*
  + 1615: Second part of *Don Quixote* (false sequel by Alonso Fernandez de Avellaneda
    - Cervantes writes a second part in order to reclaim story from the false sequel

**Don Quixote**

* Existing Prose Genres at the Time
  + Chivalric Romance
  + Pastoral Romance
  + Picaresque Stories
  + Novellas
  + Epic
* Novel as New Genre: “invention of the novel”
  + *Don Quixote* mixes these genres in parodic fashion, both thematically and stylistically
  + Parodic reworking of existing genres
  + Plurality of voices
  + Realist interest in the ordinary, the common, the everyday
  + Metafictional Irony
  + Philosophical Complication of:
    - Fiction / Reality
    - Language / Truth
    - Literature / History

**Fe**

**Fernando Pessoa Background**

* Themes

**Alfred Lord Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* (1859-85)**

* What is this?
  + 12 Narrative Poems
  + Reinterprets Arthurian Legend for Victorian audience
  + Dedicated to Albert, Prince Consort
  + Arthur as embodiment of Victorian Ideals who fails to lift his Knights at Camelot to the same ideal level (betrayals of Lancelot and Mordred)
  + Gothic, Dark, Lost World

**Thomas Malory’s *Morte Dartur* (1469)**

* Background
  + Thomas Malory was a Solider (knighted in 1441) and member of parliament (1443)
  + Negative Side: Thief, Kidnapper, and Rapist who was imprisoned in 1452
  + Writes *Morte Dartur* while in Newgate Prison (1469-1470)
* From Manuscript to Print (*The Death of Arthur)*
  + Instead of being written in verse, Malory reworks some of the most famous Arthurian tales into prose
  + Includes translations/interpretations from the *Vulgate Cycle*
  + Supplemented by Malory’s own original material (the Gareth Story)
  + Best-known work of English-language Arthurian literature today
* William Caxton
  + Publisher (possibly the one to have introduced the printing press in England in 1476)
  + 1485 – one of the first gooks published by him is Malory’s text)
* Style
  + Historical Fantasy
  + Historicity questioned
* Popularity wanes until 19th century
  + 1816: *Morte Dartur* reprinted for first time since 1634