Golden Age Drama: Lope de Vega’s text and performance. This is an introduction to early modern Spanish theater through Lope de Vega Carpio’s works, the most influential Spanish play writer of the XVII century. We will focus on text analysis and performance as two fundamental elements in the understanding and appreciation of Spanish comedias. Students will have access to the plays from different angles: 1) as texts that need to be studied analytically; 2) as cultural and historical exponents of a specific period; 3) as objects of literary and theatrical research; 4) as would-be productions waiting to be staged. After an introductory account on early modern Spanish theater and comedia performance then and now, classes are organized around three phases resembling those of theater production: text analysis, pre-production workshop, and staging. Attention: Please note that by the second part of the semester the students will need to schedule additional time outside the classroom periods in order to rehearse and complete the production of a short play for the stage.