

## Reinventing the Picaresque

This course looks at the early modern picaresque figure in conjunction with late-19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century theatrical adaptations of those works. The course will consist primarily of paired units: Grimmelshausen's *Simplicissimus* with Brecht's *Mutter Courage*, Cervantes' *Don Quixote* with Leigh's *Man of La Mancha*, Hogarth's painting series *A Rake's Progress* with Stravinsky's opera, and Voltaire's *Candide* with Bernstein's musical. There will also be stand-alone units on Jaroslav Hasek's *The Good Soldier Svejk* and Ibsen and Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. Students will learn about genre through comparing the adaptation with the original, and examine the historico-technological circumstances that encouraged the telling of each story in a manner appropriate for its time. Themes discussed will include: textual performativity, musical theater, wandering in text and onstage, digression (see Grohmann and Wells), adaptation and genre, audioguides, pedestrian performance. Course taught in English, with readings in other languages encouraged but not required.