

The Challenges of Uncertainty

An Introduction to
Seventeenth-Century
Spanish Literature

Jeremy Robbins



Duckworth

Contents

Acknowledgments	7
Author's Note	8
Preface	9
I. Political, Intellectual, and Social Contexts	13
1. The Spanish Decline	16
2. The Catholic Reformation	19
3. The Impact of Classical Philosophy	21
4. The Performative Contexts of Baroque Culture	26
II. Appearance and Reality: (1) <i>Don Quijote</i>	41
1. The Impact of Scepticism	41
2. <i>El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha</i>	46
III. Appearance and Reality: (2) <i>El Criticón</i>	63
IV. An Art of Impact: (1) Arousing the Senses	82
V. An Art of Impact: (2) Challenging the Mind	98
VI. Forming and Performing Identity: Theatre and Court	117
1. Theatre	119
2. Court	131
VII. Conclusion	147
Glossary	149
Index	158