

James Joyce's *Ulysses*



Genieve Figgis
Room (2016)

Location—

The Rosenbach
2008-2010 Delancey Pl
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Time—

Thursday 6:00 – 8:00PM
(for dates, see reading
list)

Instructor—

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Contact—

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TEXTS

Required

James Joyce, *Ulysses* (1922). Edition: *Ulysses: The Corrected Text*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler et al. (New York: Random House, 1986)

Recommended Annotations

Don Gifford & Robert Seidmann, *Ulysses Annotated: Deluxe Edition* (Berkeley: University of Calif. Press, 2008)

Aims & Approaches

This reading course will provide a structured opportunity to spend the better part of a year with *Ulysses*, James Joyce's daytime epic, that neverchanging everchanging novel of 1922. Each session will begin with a short framing lecture to communicate historical, political, or literary critical contexts, to stage a set of propositions, provocations, or queries, or to encourage a certain degree of critical mass by suggesting how the reading at hand might deepen previous sessions' discussions. Above all, the course aims to foster an environment in which participants—be they veteran Joyce lovers, first-timers, or perennial partial readers— collaboratively support each others' curiosities about and insights into this text. Famously vaunted, famously maligned, famously difficult, famously famous, *Ulysses* is a novel well served by the lingering pace to which our group will commit.

Our approach will be informed, crossing paths with a number of secondary sources on Joyce's work. It will also be personal, dialogic, and open-ended. *Ulysses*' complexities transform—utterly or incrementally—when approached via attunements aside from the rangy scholasticism and vigilance that seem to be required by its dense referential textures and plot-light experiments. These embattled senses of mastery over intricacy or submission to *Ulysses*' (perceived) demands are precisely what we will aim to provincialize. By noticing, generating, trying on, casting off, exchanging, and sharing discrepant and creative relations to the novel in excess of that limited puzzle-solving approach, participants will explore their senses of themselves as critics and readers of literature, and, of course, get to know *Ulysses* on their own terms in the company of others'.

Date	<i>Ulysses</i> episode(s) & supplementary reading	# of U pp.
10/3	chs. 1 (“Telemakhos”) & 2 (“Nestor”) † + Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books I & II †	27
11/7	chs. 3 (“Proteus”) & 4 (“Calypso”) + Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books III & IV	26
12/5	chs. 5 (“Lotus Eaters”), 6 (“Hades”), & 7 (“Aeolus”) + T. S. Eliot, “ <i>Ulysses</i> , Order, and Myth”*	65
01/2	chs. 8 (“Lestrygonians”), 9 (“Scylla & Charybdis”), & 10 (“Wandering Rocks”) + Hugh Kenner, “The Aesthetic of Delay”*	85
02/6	chs. 11 (“Sirens”) & 12 (“Cyclops”)	73
03/5	chs. 13 (“Nausicaa”) & 14 (“Oxen of the Sun”) + Atherton, “The Oxen of the Sun”*	65
04/2	ch. 15 (“Circe”)	147
05/7	chs. 16 (“Eumaeus”) & 17 (“Ithaca”) + Karen Lawrence, “‘Eumaeus’: The Way of All Language”*	106
06/4	ch. 18 (“Penelope”) + Mark Goble, “Obsolescence”*	37
Key:	“+” = supplementary reading “†” = first session readings: please come to the meeting having done this reading in advance “*” = we will provide pdf files	

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Biography

Morris Beja, *James Joyce: A Literary Life* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1992)
Peter Costello, *James Joyce: The Years of Growth 1882-1915* (New York: Pantheon, 1992)
Richard Ellmann, *James Joyce* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982)
Brenda Maddox, *Nora: The Real Life of Molly Bloom* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988)

Guides

Harry Blamires, *The New Bloomsday Book: A Guide Through ‘Ulysses’* (London: Routledge, 1996)
Laura Heffernan, *Sparknotes Guide to James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’* (Spark Publishing, 2007)
Declan Kiberd, *‘Ulysses’ and Us: The Art of Everyday Life in Joyce’s Masterpiece* (Norton, 2009)
Margot Norris, ed., *A Companion to James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’* (Palgrave Macmillan, 1998)

General Monographs & Essay Collections

Derek Attridge, ed., *James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’: A Casebook* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004)
Frank Budgen, *James Joyce and the Making of ‘Ulysses’* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989)
Richard Ellmann, *Ulysses on the Liffey* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986)
Stuart Gilbert, *James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’: A Study* (New York: Vintage, 1955)
Clive Hart and David Hayman, eds., *James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’: Critical Essays* (Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press, 1977)
Hugh Kenner, *‘Ulysses’* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987)