

The Short Fiction of James Joyce and his Contemporaries

- Location: The Rosenbach on Zoom
- Time: Sundays, 4/26, 5/17, 5/31, 2–4 p.m.
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TEXTS

Please purchase: James Joyce, *Dubliners* (1914). Recommended edition: Penguin/Viking, ed. Robert Scholes. ISBN: 978-0140247749.

I will provide pdfs of the other readings.

GOALS

“We are still learning to be James Joyce’s contemporaries, to understand our interpreter.” So begins Richard Ellmann’s celebrated biography of Joyce. But as much as Joyce may have been ahead of his time, he was also the contemporary of his contemporaries, some of whom exhibited a similar impatience with the conventions of short fiction. In this mini-course, we’ll pair stories from Joyce’s *Dubliners* with short fiction by three of Joyce’s cohort of English-language modernist writers, Katherine Mansfield, Rebecca West, and Virginia Woolf. Our gambit: that reading these stories in tandem will reveal both their commonalities and their particularities. Because the texts are brief, we’ll have time to discuss them in immersive detail. Participants don’t have to be familiar with Joyce, or indeed with any of these writers, to enjoy the class.

READINGS

- 4/26 Joyce, “Clay,” from *Dubliners* (1914) + Virginia Woolf, “Solid Objects” (1920)
- 5/17 Joyce, “A Painful Case,” from *Dubliners* + Katherine Mansfield, “The Garden Party” (1922)
- 5/31 Joyce, “The Dead,” from *Dubliners* + Rebecca West, “Indissoluble Matrimony” (1914)