

HL4033
Major Author Study: James Joyce
Please print only when necessary



“I’ve put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant, and that’s the only way of insuring one’s immortality” (Joyce, qtd in Ellmann, 251)
“Where do you begin in this?” (Stephen Dedalus in Joyce, *Ulysses*, 25)

James Joyce is “the giant of modernism, the genius, the law unto himself” (Williams, 119) and his 1922 text *Ulysses*, set on one day (and night) in June 1904, is “the greatest novel of the [twentieth] century” (Burgess, n.p.). In addition to a focus on *Ulysses*, **Major Author Study: James Joyce** covers Joyce’s work in the contexts of Irish history, European culture, and literary modernism. The course takes an episode by episode approach to *Ulysses*, examining the Homeric parallels and intertextual connections of the text, the individual styles of the work (such as ‘Gigantism’, ‘Hallucination’, and ‘Catechism’), the presentation of the workings of the human body and the city, the developments of the central characters, and the internal networks and structures of the work. Special emphasis is placed the ingenious textual tricks and techniques Joyce creates in order to meet the demands of the various sections.

Ulysses is a considerable challenge for the reader, a “chaffering allincluding mostfarraginous chronicle” (Joyce, *Ulysses*, 402), consisting of “enormous bulk and more than enormous complexity.” (Joyce, *Letters*, 146). However, it is also moving, profound, very funny, and extremely rewarding. For Stephen Dedalus, literature contains “the eternal affirmation of the spirit of man” (Joyce, *Ulysses*, 620). **Major Author Study: James Joyce** offers an odyssey through one of the great achievements of European culture.

References:

- Burgess, Anthony. Cover quote, Joyce, James. *Ulysses* (Penguin Modern Classics edition). London: Penguin, 2015.
Ellmann, Richard. *James Joyce*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.
Joyce, James. *Letters*. Edited by Stuart Gilbert. New York: Viking, 1957.
Joyce, James. *Ulysses* (The 1922 Text). Edited by Jeri Johnson. 1922 text. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.
Williams, Trevor L. *Reading Joyce Politically*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1997.

Seminar Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Week one	Joyce's early work, Ireland, and Modernism
Week two	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Telemachus' and 'Nestor'
Week three	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Proteus' and 'Calypso',
Week four	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Lotus Eaters' and 'Hades'
Week five	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Aeolus' and 'Lestrygonians'
Week six	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Scylla and Charybdis'
Week seven	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Wandering Rocks' and 'Sirens'
Week eight	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Cyclops' and 'Nausicaa'
Week nine	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Oxen of the Sun'
Week ten	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Circe'
Week eleven	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Eumaeus' and 'Ithaca'
Week twelve	<i>Ulysses</i> : 'Penelope'
Week thirteen	Revision, brief introduction to <i>Finnegans Wake</i>

Core text

Students are requested to purchase the Oxford World's Classics edition of *Ulysses*, the '1922 Text', edited by Jeri Johnson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993). Further reading material will be made available on Blackboard.

Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

Class participation: 15%

Essay (3500 words): 35%

Final 2.5-hour written examination: 50%

Please note that Generative AI cannot be used for assignments on this course.

Course co-ordinator

Associate Professor Richard Alan Barlow (rbarlow@ntu.edu.sg)

Suggested further reading / resources

Websites

[U22 The Centenary Ulysses Podcast](#)

ulyssesguide.com

Books

Attridge, Derek (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Birmingham, Kevin. *The Most Dangerous Book: The Battle for James Joyce's Ulysses*. London: Head of Zeus, 2015.

Bulson, Eric. *The Cambridge Introduction to James Joyce*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Crispi, Luca. *Joyce's Creative Process and the Construction of Characters in Ulysses: Becoming the Blooms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Duffy, Enda. *The Subaltern Ulysses*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 1994.

Ellmann, Richard. *James Joyce* (rev. ed.). New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.

———. *The Consciousness of Joyce*. New York and Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1977.

———. *Ulysses on the Liffey*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972.

French, Marilyn. *The Book as World: James Joyce's Ulysses*. Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1976.

Gifford, Douglas and Seidman, Robert J. *Ulysses Annotated – Notes for James Joyce's Ulysses*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

Hart, Clive and Hayman, David (eds). *James Joyce's Ulysses: Critical Essays*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1974.

Hastings, Patrick. *The Guide to James Joyce's Ulysses*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022.

Kenner, Hugh. *Ulysses* (rev. ed.). Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987.

Kiberd, Declan. *Ulysses and Us: The Art of Everyday Living in Joyce's Masterpiece*. New York and London: Norton, 2009.

- Killeen, Terence. *Ulysses Unbound: A Reader's Companion to James Joyce's Ulysses* (rev. ed.). London: Penguin, 2022.
- Latham, Sean (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Ulysses*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Lawrence, Karen. *The Odyssey of Style in Ulysses*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981.
- MacCabe, Colin. *James Joyce and the Revolution of the Word*. New York: MacMillan, 1978.
- McCourt, John (ed.). *James Joyce in Context*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Seidel, Michael A. *Epic Geography: James Joyce's Ulysses*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976.
- Slote, Sam; Mamigonian, Marc A.; Turner, John. *Annotations to James Joyce's Ulysses*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- Tymoczko, Maria. *The Irish Ulysses*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994.
- Weir, David. *Ulysses Explained*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.