

**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.  
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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%

### Course co-ordinator

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

## Suggested further reading

- Atherton, James S. *The Books at the Wake*. London: Faber and Faber, 1959.
- Attridge, Derek (Ed). *The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Attridge, Derek and Ferrer, Daniel (Eds.). *Post-Structuralist Joyce*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.
- Beckman, Richard. *Joyce's Rare View: The Nature of Things in Finnegans Wake*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2007.
- Beja, Morris and Norris, David (Eds). *Joyce in the Hibernian Metropolis*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1996.
- Birmingham, Kevin. *The Most Dangerous Book: The Battle for James Joyce's "Ulysses."* London: Head of Zeus, 2015.
- Bowen, Zack. *Bloom's Old Sweet Song: Essays on Joyce and Music*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995.
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- Cairns, David and Richards, Shaun. *Writing Ireland: Colonialism, Nationalism and Culture*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1988.
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- Connolly, S.J. (Ed.). *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
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- Deane, Seamus. *Celtic Revivals: Essays in Modern Irish Literature 1880–1980*. London: Faber and Faber, 1985.
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- Ellmann, Richard. *James Joyce* (Revised Edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.
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- Fairhall, James. *James Joyce and the Question of History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Fargnoli, A. Nicholas and Gillespie, Michael Patrick. *Critical Companion to James Joyce: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work*. New York: Infobase, 2006.
- Flynn, Catherine. *James Joyce and the Matter of Paris*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Fogarty, Anne and Martin, Timothy (Eds.). *Joyce on the Threshold*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2005.
- Foster, R. F. *Modern Ireland 1600 – 1972*. New York: Penguin, 1988.
- French, Marilyn. *The Book as World*. Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1976.
- Friedman, Susan Stanford (Ed.). *Joyce – The Return of the Repressed*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.
- Garvin, John. *James Joyce's Disunited Kingdom*. Dublin: Gill and MacMillan, 1976. Gibson, Andrew. *Joyce's Revenge*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
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- McCourt, John. *The Years of Bloom: James Joyce in Trieste 1904 – 1920*. Dublin: Lilliput, 2000.
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Seidal, Michael A. *Epic Geography: James Joyce's Ulysses*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976.

Thurston, Luke. *James Joyce and the Problem of Psychoanalysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Tymoczko, Maria. *The Irish Ulysses*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994.

Weir, David. *Ulysses Explained*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

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