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

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“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 studying the entirety of Ulysses, Major Author Study: James Joyce covers Joyce’s masterpiece 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:
**Seminar Schedule (subject to minor changes)**

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<th>Week One</th>
<th>Joyce’s early work, Ireland, and Modernism</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Telemachus’ and ‘Nestor’</td>
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<td>Week Three</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Proteus’ and ‘Calypso’,</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Lotus Eaters’ and ‘Hades’</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Aeolus’ and ‘Lestrygonians’</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Scylla and Charybdis’</td>
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<td>Week Seven</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Wandering Rocks’ and ‘Sirens’</td>
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<td>Week Eight</td>
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<td>Week Nine</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Oxen of the Sun’</td>
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<td>Week Ten</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Circe’</td>
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<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Eumaeus’ and ‘Ithaca’</td>
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<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td><em>Ulysses</em>: ‘Penelope’</td>
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<td>Week Thirteen</td>
<td>Revision, brief introduction to <em>Finnegans Wake</em></td>
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**Core text**


**Assessment**

Students will be assessed by:

1. Class participation: 15%
2. Essay (3500 words): 35%

Final 2.5-hour written examination (50%)
Further reading


