

James Joyce's *Ulysses* • Monthly Reading Group at the Rosenbach • Syllabus

- Location: The Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia
2008-2010 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103
- Time: 2–4 p.m. (for dates, see reading list on the flip side)
- Instructor: Paul K. Saint-Amour, Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania
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TEXTS

Required

James Joyce, *Ulysses* (1922). Preferred 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)

GOALS & APPROACHES

James Joyce was one of the twentieth century's most complex, influential, paradoxical, irreverent, domineering, problematic, and rewarding writers; *Ulysses* (pub. 1922) is, if not Joyce's most difficult work, certainly his most beloved and consequential one. This reading group aims to acquaint first-time readers with *Ulysses* and to give those already familiar with the novel the opportunity to deepen their engagement with it. Although I'll begin most of our meetings with mini-lectures for the sake of framing and activating the day's reading, the heart of our reading group will be our discussions.

Over the course of our nine monthly sessions together, we'll try to sustain the high level of serious play—or “jocoseriousness,” as Joyce put it—that *Ulysses* itself exhibits. At the same time, we'll be stopping at points to consider not only the strangeness of our own proceedings but also the massive network of professional coteries, publishing fiefdoms, feverish exegesis, literary estates, pop-cultural commodities, and mass-cultural references that together constitute the loose, baggy monster known as the “Joyce Industry.” We'll talk about what else we're doing when we read Joyce besides “simply reading Joyce.” And we'll try to inhabit a wide range of attitudes—scrutiny, ambivalence, mastery, submission, neutral distance, resistance, indifference, bafflement, outrage, and besottedness—in respect to Joyce's work, life, and legacy.

| Date | <i>Ulysses</i> episode(s) & supplementary reading | # of U pp. |
|-------------|---|------------|
| 10/14 | chs. 1 (“Telemakhos”) & 2 (“Nestor”) † + Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books I & II † | 27 |
| 11/18 | chs. 3 (“Proteus”) & 4 (“Calypso”) + Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books III & IV | 26 |
| 12/09 | chs. 5 (“Lotos Eaters”), 6 (“Hades”), & 7 (“Aeolus”) + T. S. Eliot, “ <i>Ulysses</i> , Order, and Myth”* | 65 |
| 01/13 | chs. 8 (“Lestrygonians”), 9 (“Scylla & Charybdis”), & 10 (“Wandering Rocks”) + Hugh Kenner, “The Aesthetic of Delay”* | 85 |
| 02/10 | chs. 11 (“Sirens”) & 12 (“Cyclops”) | 73 |
| 03/10 | chs. 13 (“Nausicaa”) & 14 (“Oxen of the Sun”) + Atherton, “The Oxen of the Sun”* | 65 |
| 04/14 | ch. 15 (“Circe”) | 147 |
| 05/19 | chs. 16 (“Eumaeus”) & 17 (“Ithaca”) + Karen Lawrence, “‘Eumaeus’: The Way of All Language”* | 106 |
| 06/09 | ch. 18 (“Penelope”) + Margot Norris, “Risky Reading of Risky Writing”* | 37 |
| Key: | “+” = supplementary reading “†” = first session readings: please come to the meeting having done this reading in advance “*” = we will provide hardcopies/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)