



## Learning ULYSSES Online

a guide through the deep waters of a difficult novel

Thursdays on Zoom 6-8:00 PM  
Jul 23, Aug 20, Sep 17, Oct, 15, Nov 19, Dec 17

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Required Texts: James Joyce, *Ulysses: The Corrected Text* (Viking, ed. Gabler et al.)  
Don Gifford and Robert Seidmann, *Ulysses Annotated* (U of CA Press)

## GOALS

Students in this class will work together to gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the life and central literary achievements of James Joyce focusing on his best-known work *ULYSSES* (pub. 1922). Secondary readings and class discussions may occasionally dip into Joyce's earlier and later works, but the main goal will be to read this novel together and unravel some (though certainly not all) of its mysteries.

Class meetings will be conducted over Zoom where we will focus on answering questions that arise from the reading. Our hope is to build an interesting conversation for first-time and returning readers as we puzzle our way through some of the novel's enigmas and enjoy its language.

## ASSIGNMENTS

As class meets just once a month students should have ample time to keep pace with complexities of the novel. Reading assignments for each chapter will include working with the Gifford/Seidmann text, so be prepared to discuss what you have read from the start of each class.

But students will also find a great number of additional readings and lectures offered via Google Classroom for those wishing to go deeper into the Joycean waters. These additional readings are meant to supplement the novel and showcase the enjoyment (or bafflement) felt by generations of readers. They are not to be seen as a requirement but as an aid, or a dessert even, to your diet of monthly Joyce.

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## READING ASSIGNMENTS

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### **7/16 First meeting; “a toe-drag in the deep end”**

Please read Episode I “Telemachus” using the Gifford/Seidmann as needed  
Introductions to one another  
Introductions to Joyce

### **8/20 Second meeting; “diving in while you can still see the bottom”**

Please read Episodes II-V, “Nestor”, “Proteus”, Calypso” and “Lotus Eaters” using the Gifford/Seidmann as needed

### **9/17 Third meeting; “getting our bearings and feeling the tide”**

Please read Episodes VI-IX, “Hades”, “Aeolus”, “Lestrygonians” and “Scylla and Charybdis” using the Gifford/Seidmann as needed

**10/15 Fourth meeting; “a quickening tide of conversations and opinions”**

Please read Episodes X-XIII, “Wandering Rocks”, “Sirens”, “Cyclops” and “Nausicaa” using the Gifford/Seidmann as needed

**11/19 Fifth meeting; “a storm of styles to drown us”**

Please read Episodes XIV-XVI, “Oxen of the Sun”, “Circe” and “Eumaeus” using the Gifford/Seidmann as needed

**12/17 Sixth meeting; “the sighting of new land”**

Please read Episodes XVII and XVIII, “Ithaca” and “Penelope” using the Gifford/Seidmann as needed

None of these other texts are required, or even necessary, for your first foray into Joycean waters but many of them sit on my own shelf and I’ve suggested them for students in past classes.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

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)