

# IS322 Joyce's *Ulysses*: A Modernist Epic

Seminar Leaders: Laura Scuriatti (coordinator), James Harker, Gavin McCrea, Ross Shields

Group A (Laura), Group B (James): Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:00-10:30 am

Group C (Laura), Group D (Gavin): Tuesdays, Thursdays 10:45-12:15 am

Group E (Ross): Mondays and Fridays, 9:00-10:30 am

Online meetings with instructors by appointment.

Joint Sessions will be held during the 9:00-10:30 Tuesday/Thursday timeslot. Students in Groups C, D, and E will need to plan to attend.

## Course Description

Modernism is generally thought of as a period characterized in literature and art by radical experimentation, by the invention and re-invention of new forms, and an aesthetic that privileged the present, the modern, the new. It was, in fact, a complex constellation of phenomena that saw close interaction between the arts, literature, politics, philosophy, science and economics, and which saw the questioning of the most basic categories of aesthetic, political and philosophical thought, leading also to extreme political conflict.

The course explores a wide range of aspects of modernism, attempting to understand the period in relation to the broader terms “modernity” and “modernization.” The course will focus on James Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922), considered an exemplary, canonical, and yet idiosyncratic “masterpiece.” *Ulysses* is not only a fundamental text of modernism but also a kind of re-writing of foundational texts, such as Homer's *Odyssey*, and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. We will explore questions concerning its historical context as a novel produced in a colonized country, its allegedly totalizing form based on extreme expansion, and its style and defamiliarizing use of language and traditions.

## Requirements

Students are required to attend all classes, and to come to class prepared and with the relevant materials. Participation consists of contributing productively to class discussion in a respectful manner, posting to online forums, and demonstrating a sound knowledge of the reading assigned.

In seminars we will work with printed texts: make sure you have a copy of *Ulysses* in the edition indicated below.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this course will be conducted online through March 31. If permitted, the course will move to an in-person or blended format after that point. Online seminars have the following expectations:

- **Have an adequate internet connection.** If your home has an adequate internet connection, you are welcome to attend class from home. If your home internet connection is inadequate for video conferencing, it is your responsibility to find another suitable location. If needed, you can contact the Registrar to reserve a room on campus from which to participate in the seminar.
- **Have a working camera and microphone.** Keep your camera on during seminar discussions. The camera should be directed so that your face is visible. Lighting should come from the front so that you are visible. (Avoid a set-up with a window behind you.) If needed, you can contact the Registrar to reserve a room on campus from which to participate in the seminar or to make arrangements to use BCB computing resources.
- **Have a physical copy of the reading with you for each seminar.** For most days, that means the 1922 edition of *Ulysses* from Oxford University Press.
- **Participate in online forums.** The participation grade includes assigned posts to a communal classroom resource such as a Google Doc or Padlet. Your instructor will make assignments for your group.

## Textbooks

Students are required to buy the following edition of Joyce's *Ulysses*:

James Joyce. *Ulysses*, the 1922 edition. Oxford University Press  
ISBN-13: 978-0199535675

The campus library owns many copies of this edition, which can be borrowed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Additional resources will be available in electronic format.

## Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. After two absences (that is, two absences from classes of 90 minutes) students who need to be absent for serious reasons or in order to attend a conference should submit the relevant documentation to the instructor in order for the absences to be excused.

Please note that Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused. Students facing the unusual situation of long-term, serious medical or personal emergencies (generally lasting more than two weeks) can request a Leave of Absence, to be approved by the Deans, the Head of Student Life or the Director of Academic Services. The 30% rule applies even in these cases.

Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2021:

Some students might need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

## Assessment and Grade Breakdown

|                                                             |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Participation (including weekly posts totaling 1500 words): | 30% |
| Quiz (500 words):                                           | 10% |
| Exam (1500 words):                                          | 30% |
| Presentation (20 minutes max., 1500 words):                 | 30% |

## Schedule for Groups A, B, C, and D

|                       |                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1                | Introduction and Telemachus                                                             |
| Tuesday, February 2   | Introduction<br><b>Joint Session 9:00-10:30</b>                                         |
| Thursday, February 4  | Seminar on Telemachus (pp. 3-23)<br>Groups A, B: 9:00-10:30<br>Groups C, D: 10:45-12:15 |
| Week 2                | Nestor and Proteus                                                                      |
| Tuesday, February 9   | Seminar on Nestor (pp. 24-36)                                                           |
| Thursday, February 11 | Seminar on Proteus (pp. 37-50)                                                          |

Week 3            Calypso and The Lotus Eaters

Tuesday, February 16            Seminar on Calypso (pp. 53-67)

Thursday, February 18            Seminar on The Lotus Eaters (68-83)

Week 4            Hades and Aeolus

Tuesday, February 23            Seminar on Hades (pp. 84-111)

Thursday, February 25            Seminar on Aeolus (pp. 112-143)

Week 5            Lestrygonians, Scylla and Charybdis

Tuesday, March 2                Seminar on Lestrygonians (pp. 144-175)

Thursday, March 4                Seminar on Scylla and Charybdis (pp. 176-209), QUIZ

Week 6            Wandering Rocks

Tuesday, March 9                Guest Lecture

**Joint Session 9:00-10:30**

Thursday, March 11                Seminar on Wandering Rocks (pp. 210-244)

Week 7:            Sirens and Cyclops

Tuesday, March 16                Seminar on Sirens (pp. 245-279)

Thursday, March 18                Seminar on Cyclops (pp. 280-330)

Week 8:            Nausicaa and Oxen of the Sun

Tuesday, March 23                Seminar on Nausicaa (pp. 331-365)

Thursday, March 25                Seminar on Oxen of the Sun (pp. 366-407)

Spring Break

Week 9: Circe

Tuesday, April 6

Guest Lecture

**Joint Session 9:00-10:30**

Thursday, April 8

Seminar on Circe (pp. 408-565)

Week 10: Eumeus

Tuesday, April 13

Seminar on Eumeus (pp. 569-618)

Thursday, April 15

Lecture: *Ulysses* and its Trials (Laura Scuriatti)

**Joint Session 9:00-10:30**

Friday, April 16

**DEADLINE: PRESENTATION SIGN-UP**

Week 11: Ithaca

Tuesday, April 20

Guest Lecture

**Joint Session 9:00-10:30**

Thursday, April 22

Seminar on Ithaca (pp. 619-689)

Week 12: Penelope

Tuesday, April 27

Seminar on Penelope (pp. 690-732)

Thursday, April 29

Exam

Week 13: Presentations

Tuesday, May 4

Presentations

Thursday, May 6

Presentations

Week 14: Presentations

Tuesday, May 11 Presentations

Thursday, May 13 Holiday