James Joyce's Ulysses

episodes 1–3:
"Telemachus"
"Nestor"
"Proteus"

English 4520F
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James Joyce from 1914 to 1922
since 1905: in Trieste (Italian city in Austria)
1914: Dubliners published, Portrait finished (Egoist
1914-15, book 1916), starts Ulysses
1914-18: World War I
1914-15: writes play Exiles (performed 1918)
1915-22: writes Ulysses (Little Review 1918-20 until
court case stops it)
1915-18: in Zurich, Switzerland
1916: Easter Rising in Dublin
1918: return to Trieste (part of Italy)
1919: Irish War of Independence begins (to 1922)
1920: to Paris
1922: published Feb. 2, 1922, Joyce's 40th birthday

The Odyssey
"Mr. Joyce's parallel use of the Odyssey has a great
importance. It has the importance of a scientific discovery.
. . . In manipulating a continuous parallel between
contemporaneity and antiquity, Mr. Joyce is pursuing a
method which others must pursue after him. . . . It is simply
a way of controlling, of ordering, of giving a shape and a
significance to the immense panorama of futility and anarchy
which is contemporary history."  T.S. Eliot in 1923
"These [Homeric] correspondences are part of Joyce's
mediaevalism and are chiefly his own affair, a scaffold, a
means of construction, justified by the result, and justifiable
by it only."  Ezra Pound in 1922

one-minute audio version of The Odyssey
(from "Ten Classics in Ten Minutes")

Dublin: fictional and real

"I want to give a picture of Dublin so complete
that if the city one day suddenly disappeared
from the earth it could be reconstructed
out of my book."  
Joyce to Frank Budgen,
quoted in Frank Budgen,
James Joyce and the Making
of Ulysses (1934), pp. 67-68

Telemachus: Martello Tower 1
Telemachus: Martello Tower 2

Telemachus: Martello Tower 3

Telemachus: Martello Tower 4

Telemachus 1) Stephen-Mulligan

gloomy artist + mocker

*Odyssey*: Penelope's suitors

question of characters' freedom

key (1:720)

"usurper" at end (1:743)

Telemachus 2) mother-father

mother's death (emotional)

compare *Portrait*: mistake for eternity

"missing" father (intellectual)

*Hamlet* (1:555-57)

Jesus + Catholic church & theology

*Odyssey*

Telemachus 3) Haines-England

Ireland-England

politics

postcolonial

"the cracked lookingglass of a servant"

(Stephen at 1:146)

History

"fall into the hands of German jews"

(Haines at 1:667)
Nestor: Deasy’s school

Deasy: money, order, horses, wisdom
Nestor in Odyssey: master of horses

"History . . . is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." (2:377)
God: "a shout in the street" (2:386)

Proteus: Sandymount Strand

1) nature of Stephen's thoughts - his dilemma as he sees it
2) relationship to Proteus
3) sea, drowning, mother, father
4) Joyce to Frank Budgen: "I haven't let this young man off very lightly, have I?"
5) example: 3:310-30

the EU 10 Euro commemorative coin

Ulysses: start of episode 3:
Ineluctable modality of the visible: at least that if no more, thought through my eyes. Signatures of all things I am here to read, seaspawn and seawrack, the

Hamlet:
To be or maybe not to be, that is the question