

James Joyce's *Ulysses*

English 9014A
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classes: UC 377
Tuesdays 3:30-6:20
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<http://instruct.uwo.ca/english/9014a/>

texts

required:

Dubliners (any edition)
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (any edition)
Ulysses: The Gabler Edition

optional:

Finnegans Wake
Gifford-Seidman, *Ulysses Annotated*
Blamires, *The Bloomsday Book*

course Web site:

<http://instruct.uwo.ca/english/9014a/>

online notes on *Ulysses*

<http://publish.uwo.ca/~mgroden/notes/>

online text of *Ulysses*

<http://www.trentu.ca/faculty/jjoyce/>

concordance text for *Ulysses*

<http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~rac101/concord/texts/ulysses/>

"In many ways Joyce invented
Dublin, and those of us living
there now have to live in it
according to his myopic lens."

Edward Barrington
Irish Ambassador to UK
opening remarks at James Joyce
Symposium, London, June 2000

Ulysses

Ezra Pound (1922): "All men should 'Unite to give praise to *Ulysses*'; those who will not, may consider themselves with a place in the lower intellectual orders."

T.S. Eliot (1922): *Ulysses* has "the importance of a scientific discovery." It is "a step towards making the modern world possible for art."

Ulysses

Shane Leslie (1922): "As a whole, the book must remain impossible to read. . . It is experimental, anti-conventional, anti-Christian, chaotic, totally unmoral."

anonymous review in *The Sporting Times* (Dublin 1922): *Ulysses* "appears to have been written by a perverted lunatic who has made a specialty of the literature of the latrine."

Ulysses

"It is always worth testing out
any literary theory by asking:
How would it work
with Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*
[and *Ulysses*]?"
(Terry Eagleton,
Literary Theory: An Introduction)

James Joyce 1882-1941

1882 born February 2 in Dublin
1888 enters Clongowes Wood College
1891 death of Charles Stewart Parnell
1893-98 Belvedere College in Dublin
1898-1902 begins University College Dublin
1900 "Ibsen's New Drama" in *Fortnightly Review*
1902 BA from UCD, to Paris to study medicine
1904 back in Dublin, death of mother, teaches school,
first *Dubliners* stories, starts novel *Stephen Hero*,
meets Nora Barnacle, they leave - unmarried - for
continent

James Joyce 1882-1941

1905-7 to Trieste - son Giorgio, daughter Lucia - more
Dubliners stories, continues *Stephen Hero*
1905-14 attempts to publish *Dubliners*
1907 *Chamber Music* (poems) published
1910-14 reworks *Stephen Hero* into *A Portrait of the
Artist as a Young Man* - meets Ezra Pound
1914 *Dubliners* published - *Portrait* serialized in *The
Egoist* - starts *Ulysses*, but puts it aside for play *Exiles*
- World War I (to Zurich in 1915; war lasts to 1918)
1916 *Portrait* published

James Joyce 1914-1922

1915-22: writes *Ulysses* (*Little Review* 1918-20 until court
case stops it, book Feb. 2, 1922, Joyce's 40th birthday)
1915-18: in Zurich, Switzerland
1916: Easter Rising in Dublin
1918: play *Exiles* performed
1918: return to Trieste (part of Italy)
1919: Irish War of Independence begins (to 1922)
1920: to Paris
1922: finishes *Ulysses*, published on 40th birthday
(February 2)

James Joyce 1882-1941

Published works:
Chamber Music (poems) (1907)
Dubliners (1914)
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916)
Exiles (play) (1918)
Ulysses (1922)
Pomes Penyeach (poems) (1927)
Collected Poems (*Chamber Music*, *Pomes Penyeach*, and
"Ecce Puer"; 1936)
Finnegans Wake (1939)

James Joyce 1882-1941

Posthumous works:
Stephen Hero (early version of *A Portrait of the Artist as a
Young Man*; written 1904-06, published 1944, 1963)
Critical Writings (1959); *Occasional, Critical, and
Political Writing* (2000) - essays and book reviews,
mostly from before 1910
Letters (volume 1, 1957; volumes 2-3, 1966; *Selected
Letters*, 1975)
Giacomo Joyce (short sketch from 1914, published 1968)
translation of Gerhart Hauptmann's 1889 play *Before
Sunrise* (translated 1901, published 1978)

publishing history of *Dubliners*

1904: *Irish Homestead*: "The Sisters" (Aug 13),
 "Eveline" (Sept 10), "After the Race" (Dec 17)
 1905: sends 12 stories to Grant Richards (London)
 1906: Richards accepts book in February
 then (2 stories added) rejects it in September
 1909: Maunsel & Co. (Dublin) accepts full book
 1910: Maunsel pulls proofs but delays publication
 1912: deal collapses; proofs destroyed
 1905-14: 15+ publishers reject book (4 twice)
 1914: Grant Richards accepts *Dubliners* again
 and publishes it in June
 Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated
 June 28, war (World War I) declared July 28

the problem(s)? [also *Dubliners* pp. 186-89]

names real business establishments:
 O' Neill's, Davy Byrne's, Scotch House, Mulligan's
 ("Counterparts," pp. 68, 71, 72, 72)
 refers to public figures:
 -But after all now, said Mr Lyons argumentatively, King
 Edward's life, you know, is not the very
 -Let bygones be bygones, said Mr Henchy. I admire the man
 personally. He's just an ordinary knockabout like you and me.
 He's fond of his glass of grog and he's a bit of a rake, perhaps,
 and he's a good sportsman. Damn it, can't we Irish play fair?
 ("Ivy Day in the Committee Room," p. 102)
 "profanity":
 but Jack kept shouting at him that if any fellow tried that sort of
 a game on with *his* sister he'd bloody well put his teeth down his
 throat, so he would. ("The Boarding House," p. 51)
 -At dinner, you know. Then he has a bloody big bowl of cabbage
 before him on the table and a bloody big spoon like a shovel. . .
 ("Grace," pp. 125-26)

***Dubliners*: from Joyce's letters 1**

"I call the series *Dubliners* to betray the
 soul of that hemiplegia or paralysis which
 many consider a city."

(letter to friend Constantine Curran,
 August 1904)

***Dubliners*: from Joyce's letters 2**

"I think people might be willing to pay for
 the special odour of corruption which, I
 hope, floats over my stories."

(letter to publisher Grant Richards,
 October 15, 1905)

***Dubliners*: from Joyce's letters 3**

"My intention was to write a chapter of the
 moral history of my country and I chose
 Dublin for the scene because that city
 seemed to me the centre of paralysis."

(letter to publisher Grant Richards,
 May 5, 1906)

***Dubliners*: from Joyce's letters 4**

"I have written it for the most part in a style
 of scrupulous meanness and with the
 conviction that he is a very bold man who
 dares to alter in the presentment, still more to
 deform, whatever he has seen and heard."

(letter to publisher Grant Richards,
 May 5, 1906)

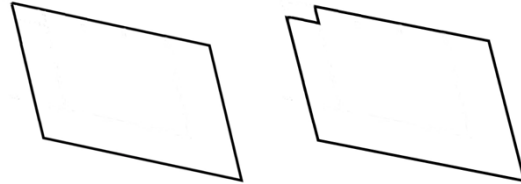
***Dubliners*: from Joyce's letters 5**

"I seriously believe that you will retard the course of civilisation in Ireland by preventing the Irish people from having one good look at themselves in my nicely polished looking-glass."

**(letter to publisher Grant Richards,
June 23, 1906)**

"The Sisters": "gnomon" (1)

"That part of a parallelogram which remains after a similar parallelogram is taken away from one of its corners" (OED)



"The Sisters": "gnomon" (2)

**gnomon (= "indicator,"
"that which reveals") and sundial**



The gnomon is the triangular blade in this sundial

"The Sisters": "gnomon" (3)

gnomon and fractals (self-similarity)

