James Joyce’s *Ulysses*

English 9014A  
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classes: UC 377  
Tuesdays 3:30-6:20  
Sept. 11, 2012  
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*

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**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/

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“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

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**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.”

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**Ulysses**  
Shane Leslie (1922): “As a whole, the book must remain impossible to read... It is experimental, anti-conventional, anti-Christian, chaotic, totally immoral.”  

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*)

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**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

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**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 1 (to Zurich in 1915; war lasts to 1918)
1916 *Portrait* published

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**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)

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**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)
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 Sisters”: “gnomon” (3)

gnomon and fractals (self-similarity)