

TERM: Spring 2027

COURSE TITLE: SS: James Joyce's *Ulysses*

COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 4698.01

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: M/W 9:55-11:35 am

INSTRUCTOR: Dermot Ryan

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

A semester-long exploration of James Joyce's masterpiece *Ulysses*, one of the most important (and hilarious) novels of the twentieth century. We will look at the historical, cultural, and literary contexts that helped shape Joyce's novel as well as review some of the important critical readings of Joyce's work. We will use Joyce and the theoretical and critical debates around his status as an Irish writer and a European modernist as an occasion to explore the meaning of the related terms of *modernity*, *modernization*, and *modernism* (with a briefer discussion of the related concepts of postmodernism and postmodernity). We will discuss why scholars understand Joyce as the quintessential modernist or postmodernist and then consider why Irish critics have sometimes challenged the framing of Joyce as a modernist engaged with the characteristics of European modernity. What are the relationships and tensions between literary and cultural nationalism and literary and cultural modernism? How do Joyce's texts take on these relationships and tensions? More broadly, how might Irish history and culture present unique challenges to critical discourse around modernity and modernism? One of the goals of this class is to develop not only a robust understanding of Joyce's novel, but also the various critical discourses around modernity and modernism.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- You will understand key literary historical terms and concepts related to modernism.
- You will learn how to integrate critical discourse/theory, argumentation, persuasion, and research in a clear, grammatical, and logically sound manner
- You will generate compelling and original analysis of a literary text

REQUIRED TEXTS

Ulysses (Gabler Edition) (Vintage Books) 0-394-74312-1

Don Gifford, *Ulysses Annotated: Notes for James Joyce's Ulysses* 978-0-520-25397-1

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

- Class participation: 20%
- 1 close analysis (900-1400 words): 10%
- Annotated Bibliography (6-8 secondary sources): 10%
- Literature Review (2-3 pages) and Proposal (250 words): 10%
- Research Paper (9-13 pages excluding notes/works cited): 30%
- Significant revision of Research Paper: 20%

This course fulfills the following English Major requirement:
Upper-Division Elective