

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
18 Agassiz Circle
Buffalo, NY 14214

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities
Course Number: ENG 435
Course Title: Major Literary Figures: James Joyce
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: ENG 110 and one literature class at the 200 level

A. Catalog Description of Course (Proposed)

An intensive study of the works of James Joyce. A student may take ENG 435 more than once for credit under different literary figures.

B. Goals

- to enrich students' cultural lives and their awareness of the scope and impact of James Joyce's work.
- to encourage close reading of and discussion about Joyce's fiction in particular, and build students' close reading skills generally
- to explore the interrelationships between Joyce life and his works
- to discuss and reflect upon issues of representation, language, history, and the intellectual tradition raised by Joyce's works

C. Objectives

Students will be able to:

- identify the major periods and themes of Joyce's work
- recognize Joyce's relationship to longstanding literary and intellectual traditions
- be familiar with the concepts of Modernism and Postmodernism and comprehend significant examples of each of these in Joyce's works
- discuss and interpret the work studied, as demonstrated through written essays which show sensitivity both to primary texts and to issues raised by literary criticism

D. Outline of Course Content

- I Joyce's background
 - A. Ireland and Irish politics at the turn of the 20th century
 - B. Modernism
 - 1. influence of new discoveries in psychology
 - 2. influence of new discoveries in physics
 - 3. influence of innovations in Modern painting
 - 4. influence of experiments and innovations of Modernist contemporaries in literature

- II Literary tradition and Joycean innovation
 - A. short fiction and the epiphany
 - B. realism before and after Joyce
 - C. techniques: interior narration, stream of consciousness, self-reflexivity, style and artifice, etc.

- III Reading and study of Joyce's major works
 - A. Dubliners
 - B. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
 - C. Ulysses
 - 1. close reading
 - 2. parallels with Homer's Odyssey
 - 3. historical themes
 - a. parallels between the Irish and other conquered peoples: ancient Greeks and Modern Jews
 - b. Vico's cyclical history and its influence on Ulysses

E. Suggested Texts

Joyce, James. The Portable James Joyce. New York: Penguin. Includes Dubliners, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, and excerpts from Ulysses and Finnegan's Wake.

-- -. Ulysses: The Corrected Text. New York: Random House, 1986.

Blamires, Harry. The New Bloomsday Book: A Guide Through Joyce's Ulysses. New York: Routledge, 1996.

-OR-

Norris, Margot, ed. A Companion to James Joyce's Ulysses. New York: Bedford, 1999.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction

Lecture, Discussion, Class presentation, Close Reading, perhaps supplemented by a film (i.e., The Dead, dir. John Huston, 1987, 83 mins.)

G. Instructor References

Eliot, T.S. The Wasteland. 1922. Facsimile and Transcript Edition. Ed. Valerie Eliot. New York: Harvest/HBJ, 1971.

Ellmann, Richard. James Joyce. New York: Oxford UP, 1982.

Faulkner, William. The Sound and the Fury. 1929. Norton Critical Edition. New York: Norton, 1987.

Homer. The Odyssey. New York: Norton, 1990.

Isaak, Joanna. The Ruin of Representation in Modernist Art and Texts. U of Michigan, 1986.

Joyce, James. Dubliners. 1916. New York: Penguin, 1968.

- - -. Finnegan's Wake. 1939. New York: Penguin, 1982.

Knowlton, James. Damned to Fame: The Life of Samuel Beckett. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Norris, David, and Carl Flint. Introducing James Joyce. New York: Totem Books, 1997.

Pompa, Leon. Vico: A Study of the "New Science." Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1975.

Pound, Ezra. The Literary Essays of Ezra Pound. New York: New Directions, 1968.

Stein, Gertrude. The Selected Writings of Gertrude Stein. Ed. Carl Van Vechten. New York: Random House, 1972.

Thornton, Weldon. Allusions in Ulysses: an Annotated List. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1968.

Woolf, Virginia. Mrs. Dalloway. 1925. New York: Harvest/HBJ, 1984.