

ENGL 337 Study of a Major Author

James Joyce

Professor Lisa Weihman
lgweihman@mail.wvu.edu
T/Th 2:30 – 3:45 CRN 17395

ENGL 337 Study of a Major Author will introduce you to the life and major works of James Joyce (1882-1941), including *Dubliners*, a collection of fifteen short stories first published in 1914; and *Ulysses*, widely considered one of the most important, difficult, and controversial novels of the 20th century.

Published serially in the magazine *The Little Review* between 1918 and 1920, *Ulysses* was completed in October 1921 and first published in full by Sylvia Beach in Paris on Joyce's 40th birthday, February 2, 1922. Loosely based on Homer's *Odyssey*, *Ulysses* traces the story of two men, Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom, as their paths diverge and then cross in Dublin on a single day, June 16, 1904. Joyce once said of the novel, "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." Controversial from the start and accused of being obscene, the book was banned in the United States until 1934. This class will explore these controversies and provide a guide for reading and understanding this daunting but exhilarating novel.



Learning Outcomes:

- Interpret literary texts within diverse cultural, political, and historical contexts, as well as in connection with other literary or cultural products
- Employ close-reading and analytical skills
- Engage respectfully with peers in a way that encourages collaborative thinking, intellectual stimulation, scholarly community, and individual academic development
- Demonstrate a range of contextually effective writing strategies
- Organize and compose a research project using a variety of source materials