

Sophister Module Description Template 2026-27

Full Name: Ulysses

Short Name: Ulysses

Lecturer Name(s) and Email Address(es): Sam Slote slotes@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught MT/HT: MT

Year JF/SF/JS/SS: JS

Module Content:

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: *Ulysses*, episodes 1 and 2, 'Telemachus' and 'Nestor'

Week 3: *Ulysses*, episodes 3 and 4, 'Proteus' and 'Calypso'

Week 4: *Ulysses*, episodes 5 and 6, 'Lotus Eaters' and 'Hades'

Week 5: *Ulysses*, episodes 7 and 8, 'Æolus' and 'Lestrygonians'

Week 6: *Ulysses*, episodes 9 and 10, 'Scylla and Charybdis' and 'Wandering Rocks'

Week 7: Study week

Week 8: *Ulysses*, episodes 11 and 12, 'Sirens' and 'Cyclops'

Week 9: *Ulysses*, episode 13 and 14, 'Nausicaa' and 'Oxen of the Sun'

Week 10: *Ulysses*, episode 15, 'Circe'

Week 11: *Ulysses*, episodes 16 and 17, 'Eumæus' and 'Ithaca'

Week 12: *Ulysses*, episodes 17 and 18, 'Ithaca' and 'Penelope'

Learning Outcomes:

- Be familiar with the overall structure and styles of *Ulysses*.
- Be able to articulate the major themes of *Ulysses* and their interrelationships.
- Be familiar with the major debates concerning the interpretation of *Ulysses*.
- Be able to articulate the evolution of Joyce's linguistic and stylistic sensibilities.
- Be able to articulate how Joyce texts mediate issues of history and representation.
- Have a clear sense of how *Ulysses* participates within contexts of Modernism and Post-Modernism

- Be prepared to engage in the practice of interpreting complex (and perhaps “unreadable”) texts at an advanced level

Learning Aims:

The general theme for the class will be the evolution of Joyce’s artistic sensibility contrasted with Joyce’s *representation* of that evolution. But that will not be an exclusive focus, we will also approach the texts from a variety of perspectives: Joyce as an “Irish writer”; Joyce as an “English writer”; Joyce as a “European writer”; the poetics of style and form; the politics of style and form; style as humour/humour as style; modes of ideology (race, religion, gender, and nation); framing a literary tradition; the production and reception of Modernism; etc. We will also discuss the composition of *Ulysses* as is indicated on the NLI *Ulysses* drafts.

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: 1
- Name/Type of Component(s): end-of-term essay
- Word Count of Component(s): 4000 words
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 100

Preliminary Reading List:

- James Joyce, *Ulysses*, ed. Hans Walter Gabler (London: the Bodley Head, 1993).

Useful secondary texts

Derek Attridge, ed., *James Joyce’s “Ulysses”: A Casebook* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Richard Ellmann, *James Joyce* (rev. ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982).

Ian Gunn and Clive Hart, *James Joyce’s Dublin* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2004).

James Joyce, *Occasional, Critical and Political Writings* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

[See in particular Joyce’s essay “Ireland, Island of Saints and Sages.”]

Hugh Kenner, *Joyce’s Voices* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978).

Sam Slote, Marc Mamigonian, John Turner, *Annotations to James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Terence Killeen, *“Ulysses” Unbound* (London: Penguin, 2022).

Please note:

- **Curricular information is subject to change.**
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**