

## Sophister Module Description Template 2025/26

Full Name: *Ulysses* in Contexts (I and II)

Short Name: *Ulysses*

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Sam Slote; slotes@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10 and 10

Semester Taught: MT + HT

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* and *Finnegans Wake* participate 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:

Because *Ulysses* rewards careful attention to detail, the main focus of this class will be a slow, patient, and close reading of Joyce's novel. We will begin with *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* before moving into *Ulysses*. The year will end with a few classes that present an introduction to *Finnegans Wake*. 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.

**Both modules are designed to form a single year-long class: students who sign up are strongly encouraged to take both modules. *Ulysses* I will only cover less than half the text of *Ulysses* and is not a self-contained module.**

Content:

Assessment Details:

1 essay MT, *Ulysses* I

1 essay HT, *Ulysses* II

Preliminary Reading List if Available:

*Ulysses I*

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.

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

*Ulysses II*

James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake* (excerpts)

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

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.