

Seminar III: Reading Ulysses

This class will be devoted to the in-depth reading and analysis of one of the central texts of Anglophone literature and one of modernism's landmark achievements: James Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922). Throughout the semester we will read and discuss the novel chapter by chapter to approach its complex structure, imagery, and allusions. Close readings of specific scenes, images, and literary techniques will be underpinned by broader historical and aesthetic contextualisations of the text, which include international modernist aesthetics, urbanization, gender relations, as well as Irish, British, and imperial politics of the time. We will also follow the novel's manifold intertextual resonances: to the 19th century novel, to Shakespeare, to music, and most notably to Homer's *Odyssey*, the epic on which it is ostensibly modelled and which gives it its title (from the Latin name for Odysseus: Ulysses). Among the theoretical approaches that I plan to mobilize for our readings are ecocriticism, infrastructuralism, gender studies, poststructuralism, and postcolonial theory. In tandem with the parallel course in American Studies taught by Prof. Rohr this class shall provide you with substantial knowledge of some classic texts of transatlantic Anglophone modernism and a solid understanding of modernism's styles, politics, and intellectual contexts.

Course requirements: Regular and active participation in the seminar (no more than two missed classes), excellent knowledge of the assigned text passages, oral presentation or participation in an expert group, term paper.