

Major Authors: James Joyce

Last Updated: Fri, 01/02/2026

Course prefix: LMC

Course number: 3226

Section: B

CRN (you may add up to five):
35309

Instructor First Name: Blake

Instructor Last Name: Leland

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

This section of 3226 will focus on the work of James Joyce, one of the most important writers of the 20th century. We will begin with some of Joyce's short stories (*Dubliners*), then quickly read his first novel (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*). This will prepare us to tackle *Ulysses*, a famous, and famously challenging, novel. I strongly suggest you take a look at it, sampling different chapters (you can find the text online easily enough – although you will have to buy a hardcopy). For those who engage with it on its own terms, this novel can be an experience of extraordinary linguistic and intellectual and emotional energy. If you are willing and able to put in the **substantial time and effort** required, then I think you will find *Ulysses* among the most remarkable novels you will ever read.

You should, however, realize that it is set in Dublin, Ireland, in 1904. The novel as a whole proposes a (bittersweet) morality of tolerance and acceptance, but the characters are realistic, which is to say flawed, and sometimes express racist, misogynist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic attitudes common to the time. It was also considered to be offensively explicit about sex and sexualized fantasies, to the point where it was for some time banned as obscene.

Course learning outcomes:

Students will read and effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of one of the 20th century's most significant literary texts.

Required course materials:

Required:

Ulysses Annotated, D. Gifford, U of California Press,

ISBN: 0520067452 (paper) or ISBN-13: 978-0520067455

OR the 20th anniv. Deluxe edition: ISBN-10: 0520253973 ISBN-13: 978-0520253971

The Portable James Joyce, J. Joyce, H. Levin (ed), (you will find in this volume *Dubliners* (Joyce's short story collection) and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Joyce's first published novel) and other work by Joyce.

Viking, ISBN: 0140150307 (ppr) ISBN-13: 978-0140150308

Ulysses, the corrected text, J. Joyce, H. Gabler (ed) <-GET **THIS EDITION**

Random House, ISBN: 0394743121 (ppr) ISBN-13: 978-0394743127. Cheap electronic editions will not have page numbers keyed to the *Annotated* notes or to the extensive archive of Joyce scholarship.

Grading policy:

GRADING: Two exams during class time, and a third exam during exam period. These *tests stress identification of passages from the text* and comprise 75% of your grade. 25% of your grade will depend on a series of brief exercises/assignments that will have something to do with the day's reading (these *graded Assignments will have numbers* attached to them). **I will accept late work, but will take points off for lateness. Note: if an Assignment has essentially been answered in class before you turn it in, I will take off at least 40% of the points.**

Attendance policy:

Attendance: I want you to succeed, therefore I want you in class, so *starting with your fifth, each absence (without documented illness) will lower your final grade by 2 points.*

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence