

U3A

Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



Series 3 2013

HOW TO READ 'ULYSSES'

Dates: Tuesday September 3 and 10 and Tuesday October 1 to 22

Time: 2:15pm – 4:15pm

Venue: Salmond College, Knox Street, North East Valley

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 25

Course Fee: \$40.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Sue Harvey (478 0057)

Course Assistant : Bill Wilson (477 2282)

.....
You may apply to enrol in more than one course. If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preferences on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 14 August, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 23 August.

Any questions about this course after 23 August should be referred to Marjan Lousberg, U3A Dunedin, telephone 473 8224 or on email at courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

HOW TO READ 'ULYSSES'

Course Presenter: Professor Chris Ackerley, Department of English, University of Otago.

Course Dates: Tuesday September 3 and 10. Then a two week gap to allow participants time for reading and preparation. Then four consecutive weekly sessions from Tuesday October 1, 8, 15 and 22.

James Joyce's masterpiece (1922) is by broad consent the most important novel of the Modernist movement, which revolutionised the understanding of literature in the first half of the twentieth century. Joyce wrote the book to celebrate the eternal presence of the mythic (Homer's *Odyssey*) in everyday life (the world of Dublin, on June 16th 1904). It is also one of the most democratic of books, reflecting Joyce's conviction that the ordinary is extraordinary, the commonplace uncommon, and that the ordinary, commonplace aspects of life might be the subject of great artistry. The tragedy, then, as true now as when the novel first appeared, is that so many would-be readers have not (with the best of will) been able to engage with it adequately.

This U3A course offers an introduction to the novel, with an emphasis on how to read it; that is, of how to cope with its complexities without letting these be an impediment to what should be a rewarding and exciting reading experience.

The first two classes will offer an introduction to the two "worlds" of the novel: that of Stephen Dedalus, with an emphasis upon Chapter I ('Telemachus'); and that of Leopold Bloom, with a close reading of Chapter 4 ('Calypso'). The intention would be both to offer an introduction to these two worlds and to indicate how they interact as the novel unfolds. **There will then be a two-week break**, which may allow the opportunity to put some of the reading principles identified into practice.

The final four weeks of the course will consider some of the more significant elements of the novel. The precise emphasis will depend on what the group feels most needs attention, but **the third class**, after the break, will focus on Chapter 6, 'Hades', in which the mythic and the everyday come together most compellingly.

The mode of teaching will be pragmatic. That is, each session will centre about a series of deceptively simple questions, wherein the obvious answer opens up more complex ones. This is intended to reflect a Joycean process of reading where the initial emphasis is (and should be) on the straight-forward and everyday, and only then upon the ways that the ordinary shades itself into the extraordinary.

Most editions of *Ulysses* should suffice, but those taking the course should prepare for each session by relating in advance the questions asked to the pagination of their version (which is not in itself a bad way of beginning to think about some of the issues involved, if only to consider why these particular questions should have been asked).