James Joyce
A Critical Guide
Lee Spinks

February 2009
Pb 978 0 7486 3836 9  £16.99
248pp 234 x 156 mm
Hb 978 0 7486 3835 2  £60.00

A thorough introduction presenting detailed textual analysis of James Joyce’s major works

Description

James Joyce: A Critical Guide presents a full and comprehensive account of the major writing of the great modernist novelist James Joyce. Ranging right across Joyce’s literary corpus from his earliest artistic beginnings to his mature prose masterpieces Ulysses and Finnegans Wake, the book provides detailed textual analysis of each of his major works. It also provides an extended discussion of the biographical, historical, political and social contexts that inform Joyce’s writing and a wide-ranging discussion of the multiple strands of Joyce criticism that have established themselves over the last eighty years.

The book’s combination of sustained close reading of individual texts and critical breadth makes it an ideal companion for both undergraduate students and the wider community of Joyce’s readers.

Key Features

- An extended discussion of Joyce’s life, times and historical milieu
- Detailed close readings of each of Joyce’s major literary works
- A thorough critical introduction to the style, plot and characterisation of Finnegans Wake
- A comprehensive guide to the critical reception of Joyce’s work

Selling Points

- James Joyce is a central figure on undergraduate English degrees - probably second most studied after Shakespeare
- The book is based on Lee Spinks’ successful undergraduate teaching

The Author

Lee Spinks is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of Friedrich Nietzsche (Routledge, 2003), and has published widely on modern and postmodern literature and culture, post-colonial writing and theory, and modern American poetry and fiction.

Readership

Literary Studies

Students and lecturers taking courses on James Joyce, Modernist Literature, Irish Literature, Twentieth-Century Literature, The Modern Novel
Courses

James Joyce is taught on most undergraduate degrees in English Literature on courses on Modernist Literature and on Irish Literature.

Specific courses include:

- Reading Joyce’s Ulysses, BA Honours course, Birkbeck College, University of London
- James Joyce’s Ulysses, BA Honours course, University of Leeds
- Joyce, Modernism and the Body, MA course, University of Leeds
- James Joyce - e.g. the author's own 4th year Honours course, University of Edinburgh
- Irish Author Studies, BA course, University of Ulster
- James Joyce: A Critical Survey, option course, Centre for Irish Studies, Charles University, Czech Republic
- James Joyce and Modernism, BA course, University College, Dublin
- Modern Irish Fiction, MA course, University of Ulster
- James Joyce's Ulysses, option course, MA Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, University College, Dublin
- Modern Irish Writing, MA, Queen’s University Belfast
- James Joyce, Modernism and Irish History, MA option course, Royal Holloway
- Irish Studies, MA, Bath Spa University
- Irish Studies, MA, University of Liverpool

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements
Abbreviations and Referencing
Introduction

1. LIFE AND CONTEXTS:
   (a) Introduction
   (b) Childhood
   (c) The University Years 1898-1902
   (d) Historical and Political Contexts
   (e) Literary and Cultural Contexts
   (f) A First Version of Exile
   (g) A Year of Living Dangerously
   (h) Nora
   (i) A Dubliner in Europe
   (j) Towards a Portrait of the Artist
   (k) Breakthrough
   (l) Zurich
   (m) Paris
   (n) The Scandal of Ulysses
   (o) The Road to Finnegans Wake
   (p) Last Days

2. WORK: Introduction
   Chamber Music
   Dubliners
   A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
   Exiles
   Ulysses
   Finnegans Wake

3. CRITICISM: Introduction
   First Responses
   Ulysses and After
   The Reception of Finnegans Wake
   The Post-War Critical Scene
   Post-Structuralist Joyce
   Joyce and Feminism
   Psychoanalytic Criticism
   Political Joyce
   Chronology
   Bibliography
   Index