

ENGL 534: Form & Tech in Fiction

Punctuation!

Fall 2014

T 4-5:15

CBW 127

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Hours: M-W 10-2; T 2-4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class that focuses on punctuation—take a deep breath now—you will be writing a novel. A complete first draft of a novel: in this class. Yay!

COURSE GOALS

Through this class, you should expect to achieve the following goals:

1. Develop a complex and sophisticated use of punctuation;
2. Read *Ulysses*;
3. Write a novella¹

REQUIRED TEXTS

Gabler edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*

GRADING RUBRIC

Your grade will be calculated using the following rubric:

Participation	50% ²
Novella completion	25% ³

¹ WAIT: WHAT? Yes, you're right, in this F&T, I'm asking that you not only read *Ulysses*, arguably one of the most difficult texts written in the English language, but also write an effing novella. But it'll be easy. I'll walk you through it. Also: there are quite a few rules, which are:

1. Like *Ulysses*, your novella will take place over a limited period of time. In this case, 13 hours. Much like each episode of *Ulysses* is an hour of the day, so too shall your novel. (I'm imagining your novella will be 13 chapters, as that's the easiest way to organize things, but hey, I'm not telling you how to do things.)
2. Like *Ulysses*, which uses *The Odyssey* as a formal method of organization and overarching metaphor, so too shall your novella. Pick a myth or tale. You can choose anything. I don't want an overt, one-to-one conversion between myth and narrative. I'd like something more nuanced (e.g. let's say you choose the story of Icarus. Your novel could be about someone's fall from grace or maybe "heat" of rising—as metaphor and literal—or maybe a father-son relationship or maybe just hope turned into mourning.).
3. Like *Ulysses*, which takes place in Dublin and in which Dublin becomes a major character, so too shall your novella. You can pick your own place.
4. If you want to be super ambitious—which I strongly advise you be!—build a Twitter page for your protagonist. Tweet for the whole 13 hours. Obviously, choose your 13 hours carefully.

² Obviously.

³ All you have to do is *finish* writing a novella. I am not grading based on caliber of writing or concept.

