

Finnegans Wake

James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* (1939) is one of the most challenging books of the Twentieth century. In "exploded" language, Joyce explores the triumph and sordidness of human nature. (Not surprisingly, perhaps, Princeton's own Thornton Wilder used FW as the basis for his 1942--note the year--play "The Skin of Our Teeth," standing up to the fear of WWII.) We will build a base camp and make determined forays to the summit. Trigger warning: This course may be dangerous to your peace of mind. Be prepared for frustration, anger, and bouts of near-terminal hilarity. You may even fall into a puddle of profundity. Lodz a pun et Funagain's week. Please note: I will not expect everyone to read every word every week. We will find ways to divide and conquer.

Textbooks: 1. James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Most editions have the same 628 pages, so if you already have one, you should be OK. My own preference is the Penguin edition (ISBN 0-14-118126-5), because it has somewhat larger print.
2. Joseph Campbell and Henry Morton Robinson, *A Skeleton Key to Finnegans Wake*. Available in many editions (and also free online). This first handbook to FW as been superseded by many newer works, but it is still one of the most useful and approachable.

Date	Tentative Assignments
Sept 25	Introduction. No assignment, no need to read ahead, but bring FW.
Oct 2	Book 1, Chapters I, II, and III
October 16	Book 1, Chapters IV, V, VI, and VII
October 23	Book 1, Chapter VIII; Book 2, Chapters I and II
October 30	Book 2, Chapters III and IV
November 6	Book 3, Chapters I and II
November 13	Book 3, Chapters III and IV
November 20	Book 4, Chapter I

Leader: Lee Harrod, professor emeritus at the College of New Jersey, taught James Joyce and modern literature for many years.

Wednesdays: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., 8 weeks: September 25 through November 20 (no class on 10/9)

Location: Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, Maximum 30 seats