



Instructor: Richard Greene

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Course Number: ENG471H5F

Course Title: Greene and Waugh

Course description: Graham Greene (1904-1991) and Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966) are generally regarded as the outstanding British novelists of the mid-twentieth century. They were contemporaries at Oxford, and both became Catholics. As the years passed, however, Waugh's outlook could best be described as conservative and orthodox, while Greene inclined to the political left and spoke of himself as believing in God intermittently. Both authors are deeply concerned with the problems of belief, but they are also social satirists who share stylistic ideals and fundamental convictions about the uses of the novel form. Both achieve a marriage of theological concern and political or social commentary through the complex use of allegorical figures, such as the pilgrim and the questing knight. Both refuse to sever ethical concerns from the task of entertaining and amusing and are, in this sense, resistant to the influence of the high Modernists. Moreover, by refusing to examine sensibility in isolation from external action, they explicitly repudiate the influences of Joyce, Woolf and Forster.

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Required Reading:

Evelyn Waugh:

Decline and Fall (1928)

Brideshead Revisited (1945)

The Loved One (1948)

Officers and Gentlemen (1955)

Graham Greene:

Brighton Rock (1938)

The Power and the Glory (1940)

The End of the Affair (1951)

Our Man in Havana (1958)

The Comedians (1966)

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

Decline and Fall (1928)

Brideshead Revisited (1945)

The Loved One (1948)

Method of Instruction: Lectures and discussion.

Method of Evaluation:

9 reading tests (equally weighted)	30%
Term paper	50%
In-class-essay	20%

	100%