

R410 Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*
OLLI Winter Session 2012 - Reston
Kay Menchel

When Waugh completed his best-known novel he described it as his magnum opus, and yet only five years later he confessed to Graham Greene that on re-reading it he was "appalled". Despite Waugh's second thoughts, this novel has remained incredibly popular. It was adapted into a TV series in 1981 and a movie in 2008. Both Time Magazine and the Modern Library have included it on their lists of the top 100 novels of the century.

I will address a different aspect of the novel at each of our four sessions together. I will begin each class with background information and thoughts on the topic of the week, and intend to leave plenty of time for discussion and questions.

If anyone wants to contact me in between classes, my email address is: kaymenchel@gmail.com

Thursday 26 January – The World of Brideshead.

In this session we will attempt to situate the novel in its cultural and social context, and look at the English class system as depicted by Waugh.

Thursday 2 February – No Sex Please. We're British

Relationships, love, sex, marriage, and divorce in the novel.

Thursday 9 February – Save a Prayer

Religion and morality: how and why Catholicism and discussions of religion dominate this novel.

Thursday 16 February – Sebastian and Charles go to the Movies.

A look at the adaptations of the novel, plus a word or two on how *Brideshead Revisited* changed the world, and perhaps an answer to the question of why Waugh was appalled by his masterpiece.