

# MODERN CATHOLIC WRITERS

Winter 2012 Course – UM English Department  
English 230.003: Introduction to the Short Story and the Novel

This class will explore the work of novelists and short story writers whose connections to Catholicism inform their literary achievements. We'll examine how Catholic writers navigate the tension between faith and life in the modern world through fiction.

We'll also consider how the "sacramental imagination" of Catholicism shapes the way these authors address questions of meaning, and provides a rich resource for understanding literary techniques such as symbolism, allusion, voice, characterization, and style.

The themes we will explore include grief and loss, love and longing, suffering and struggle, failure and redemption, conflict and reconciliation. All of this makes for some great reading about the human condition!

## Readings

- Short stories from noted authors including James Joyce, Flannery O'Connor, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Andre Dubus, Ellen Slezak and Tim Gatreux
- Short 'genre' fiction (mystery, fantasy, and sci-fi) from G.K. Chesterton, J.R.R. Tolkien, Gene Wolfe, Walter Miller, and R.A. Lafferty
- Four novels: by British authors Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh, the American Southerner Walker Percy, and Japanese novelist Shusaku Endo

## Details

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Winter 2012
- 3 credits; fulfills Humanities requirement
- GSI: Timothy Green (contact [timgreen@umich.edu](mailto:timgreen@umich.edu) for more info)

