

"A Low Dishonest Decade"

Welcome to "A Low Dishonest Decade"--a course devoted to British writing of the 1930s. The title comes from a poem by W. H. Auden, called "September 1, 1939." The first five lines of the poem go this way:

"I sit in one of the dives

On Fifty-Second Street

Uncertain and afraid

As the clever hopes expire

Of a low dishonest decade:"

Auden, Spender, and Isherwood in the thirties

The following books will be used in the course.

- Graves/Hodge **The Long Weekend**
- Auden **The English Auden**
- Lawrence, T. E. **Seven Pillars of Wisdom**
- Huxley **Point Counter-Point**
- Waugh, E. **Vile Bodies**
- Orwell **Homage to Catalonia**
- Orwell **The Road to Wigan Pier**
- Greene, G. **The Confidential Agent**
- Smith, S. **Novel on Yellow Paper**
- Isherwood **Berlin Stories**
- West, R. **Black Lamb & Grey Falcon**
- Woolf, V. **Diary 1936-1941**

One of the central events in Europe during this period was the Spanish Civil War. Auden's poem on the subject, will be read in its proper place during the course: