

ENG 102: Inquiry into Evil
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“Nothing is easier than to denounce the evildoer; nothing is more difficult than to understand him.” Fyodor Dostoevsky’s quote presents a challenge to understand those whom society deems as evil, a challenge this class will undertake. What exactly defines evil? Does evil exist? What myths govern our concepts of evil, and by opposition, of good? By investigating the construction of evil, we will analyze a wide range of texts, historical and contemporary, visual and literary, to determine evil’s construction in literature, politics, media, and our lives. A few of the writers we will read include Immanuel Kant, Shirley Jackson, and Alan Moore; some movies we will analyze are *Star Wars*, *In the Bedroom*, and *Hotel Rwanda*. Through hands-on research and traditional research methods that will culminate in three essays, we will gain comfort with the concept of inquiry as a process for learning.