Lewis, Tolkien and Rowling  
*(begins September 6, 2018)*

The place and purpose of human beings are themes shared by C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and J. K. Rowling. All three authors adapt mythological, legendary, and biblical subjects to treat the roles of religion and sin in human experience. For Lewis, human beings are privileged creatures—in God’s image—but also stained or broken aliens who carry original sin. For Tolkien, humans belong in his fantasy world but are marginal and largely extraneous to the main action. Rowling brilliantly merges the mundane and fantastic roles of humans with her categories of Muggles and Wizards.

The ancient division of human peoples into favored shepherds (Abel, the Jews) and un-favored farmers (Cain, the Gentiles) continues to operate. Given that Lewis and Tolkien were writing during, and soon after, World War II, their works are extraordinary re-conceptions of that conflict. Lewis’s space trilogy is perhaps less well known than his other works, but it represents one of his most complete syntheses of biblical and legendary—especially Arthurian—material. Lewis and Tolkien were professional medievalists in the academy, and Rowling has achieved professional and commercial success outside of it.

The seminar will be moderated by James H. Morey, Professor of English at Emory University, and will meet from **6:30pm to 8:00pm** at the Fox Center for four **Thursday evening** sessions during the 2018 fall semester: **September 6, 13, 20 and 27**. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further information and to reserve seating on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at [fchi@emory.edu](mailto:fchi@emory.edu), or call 404.727.6424. Seating is limited.

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