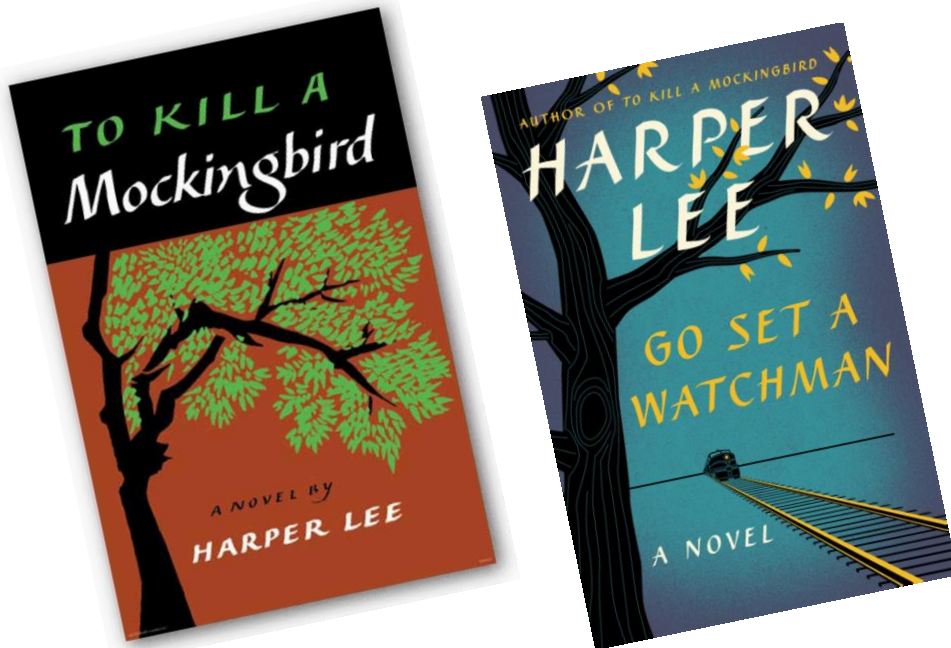


**The Bill and Carol Fox Center
for Humanistic Inquiry
Emory University
2017-2018 Great Works Seminar**



Atticus Finch: The Biography

The publication of *Go Set a Watchman* in 2015 forever changed how we think about Atticus Finch. Once seen as a paragon of decency, he was reduced to a small-town racist. How are we to understand this transformation?

This seminar considers this question in light of new research on Harper Lee's father, who provided the central inspiration for each of her books. A lawyer and newspaperman, A. C. Lee was a principled opponent of mob rule, yet he was also a racial paternalist. We will read both *Go Set a Watchman* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* to examine how Harper Lee wrote her two novels out of the ambivalence she felt both toward her father and the changes that were sweeping the South. We will also consider how the character of Atticus evolved in the film adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and how the incredible success of both the novel and the film contributed to discussions of race and morality in civil rights-era America.

The seminar will be moderated by Joseph Crespino, Jimmy Carter Professor of History at Emory University, and will meet from **7-8:30pm** at the Fox Center during the 2018 spring semester on the following **Tuesday** evenings: **Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1**. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further information or to reserve seating, please email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu, or call 404.727.6424.

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