

## **THEOLOGICAL THRILLERS 2018-2019: Fall Schedule**

All sessions will be held on Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00 in the (old or new!) parish house.

### **C. S. Lewis's "space trilogy"**

**September 22, October 20, December 1, December 8**

*Larry Poston and Mary Lou Smith, co-leaders*

In three novels, *Out of the Silent Planet* (September 22), *Perelandra* (October 20), and *That Hideous Strength* (December 1), the author of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (which initiated our programming in 2016) tries his hand at a different sort of fiction, in his words a sort of fairy tale for adults. The results have also been called science-fiction (there's a spaceship, to be sure), but without the technical gadgetry characteristic of much of that genre. Lewis recreates the Biblical drama of the Fall in a new key, for though the trilogy dates from the 1940s, an apt introduction to it comes in the words of the more recent Eucharistic Prayer C: "At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home."

*Lewis's novels are available in the standard Simon and Schuster paperback and easily obtainable from such sources as Amazon and Barnes and Noble – not infrequently, in local bookstores as well. Participants do not need to commit to all three sessions but may drop out, or, if they hear good things, join late! The only requirement is, as usual, that they do the reading for whatever sessions they do attend. December 8 is tentatively scheduled in case we need a second session for That Hideous Strength, the longest of the novels, as well as time to look back over the sequence as a whole.*

### **D. H. Lawrence, "The Escaped Cock"**

**November 10**

*Bill Boehler, leader*

Though D. H. Lawrence abandoned the Christianity of his childhood, his fiction shows a continuing preoccupation with Christian themes that obsessed him much of his writing life. This, his last work of fiction—really a long story or "novella," not a novel, as it has sometimes been called—offers his idiosyncratic reworking of the Resurrection story.

*Editions of this work are available but not as common as is the case with other fiction by Lawrence. Check early with Bill Boehler about available texts.*

### **Coming in 2019 (dates to be announced shortly)**

**Epiphany:** This year's "winter classic": Last year it was **Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein***, this year it's by an author who was one of her contemporaries: **James Hogg**, whose somber and satiric thriller, ***Confessions and Memoirs of a Justified Sinner***, is an exploration of extreme Calvinism in which the protagonist believes he is one of the elect and can therefore sin at will.

**Lent:** We'll stretch the term "theological thrillers" a bit for a discussion of **Gerard Manly Hopkins'** portrayal (in poetic form) of the struggles of a believer. *Bill Foltz* will serve as leader.

**Easter or Pentecost:** A work of modern American fiction, probably **Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead***.