Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a moving and morally demanding portrayal of race and racism in the American South, won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize. In 1962 Gregory Peck starred in the Academy Award winning movie. More recently, the publication in 2015 of Lee’s *Go Set a Watchman*, penned by Lee prior to writing *Mockingbird* and apparently an earlier version of it, refocused our attention on this remarkable and distressing story. We’ll read *To Kill a Mockingbird* carefully, reflect on the movie, and consider the recent controversies that roiled around *Go Set a Watchman*, as the country returned its gaze to the Jim Crow period in American history; finally, we’ll ask whether *Go Set a Watchman* adds anything to *Mockingbird*’s already towering legacy.

**Readings**


**Instructor**

William Flesch, PhD, is a professor of English at Brandeis. He is the author of *Comeuppance*, one of *The New Yorker* book critic James Woods’ favorite books for 2008. He is the recipient of a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship and multiple teaching awards. Billy has led twenty previous Rapaporte Seminars – all to rave reviews.

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