

## Mockingbirds and Cuckoos

Three novels and a Nobel Laureate's song lyrics of the 1960s

<b>Course #</b>	19FMK
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator(s):</b>	Jonathan Jay
<b>Co-Moderator:</b>	Anne Rosen
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 9 weeks, starting September 26
<b>Location:</b>	Smith College, Dewey Hall Common
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	18
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, up to 2; need to do the required reading

**Purpose:** We will read and discuss three iconic American novels of the early 1960s and the lyrics of Bob Dylan's early songs, and re-examine their impact on that spirited decade and on our perceptions of it.

**Description:** In the first years of the 1960s, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Catch-22*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and the early songs of Bob Dylan articulated what were to become major themes of that decade: civil rights, the absurdity of war, changing views of what is normal, challenges to authority, and rebellion against the perceived conventionality of postwar American life. The influence of these works was felt throughout the 1960s. Since then, they have become markers in our discussions of that decade of tremendous political and social change and tumult. "Catch-22," "Atticus Finch," and "Nurse Ratched" have become familiar terms in our speech. The novels themselves are considered among the most important American novels of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We will devote two sessions to each of these three novels and to Dylan's early song lyrics, discussing the content, style, relationship to the decade, and our current perceptions of each.

**Role of participants:** All participants will read the same three novels listed below and selected song lyrics of Bob Dylan, and each participant will co-lead the discussion of one of these books or the song lyrics as a whole with another participant. The moderators will provide sample discussion questions for co-leaders.

**Resources:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee; *Catch-22*, Joseph Heller; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Ken Kesey; *100 Songs*, Bob Dylan (recommended; not all of book will be used)

**About the Moderator:** Jonathan Jay, a retired labor attorney and mediator, has moderated three previous 5CLIR seminars, including two with a similar reading and discussion format. Anne Rosen is a retired advocate for affordable health care. Anne has a Master's degree in English and American literature, and Jonathan has a college concentration in literature.