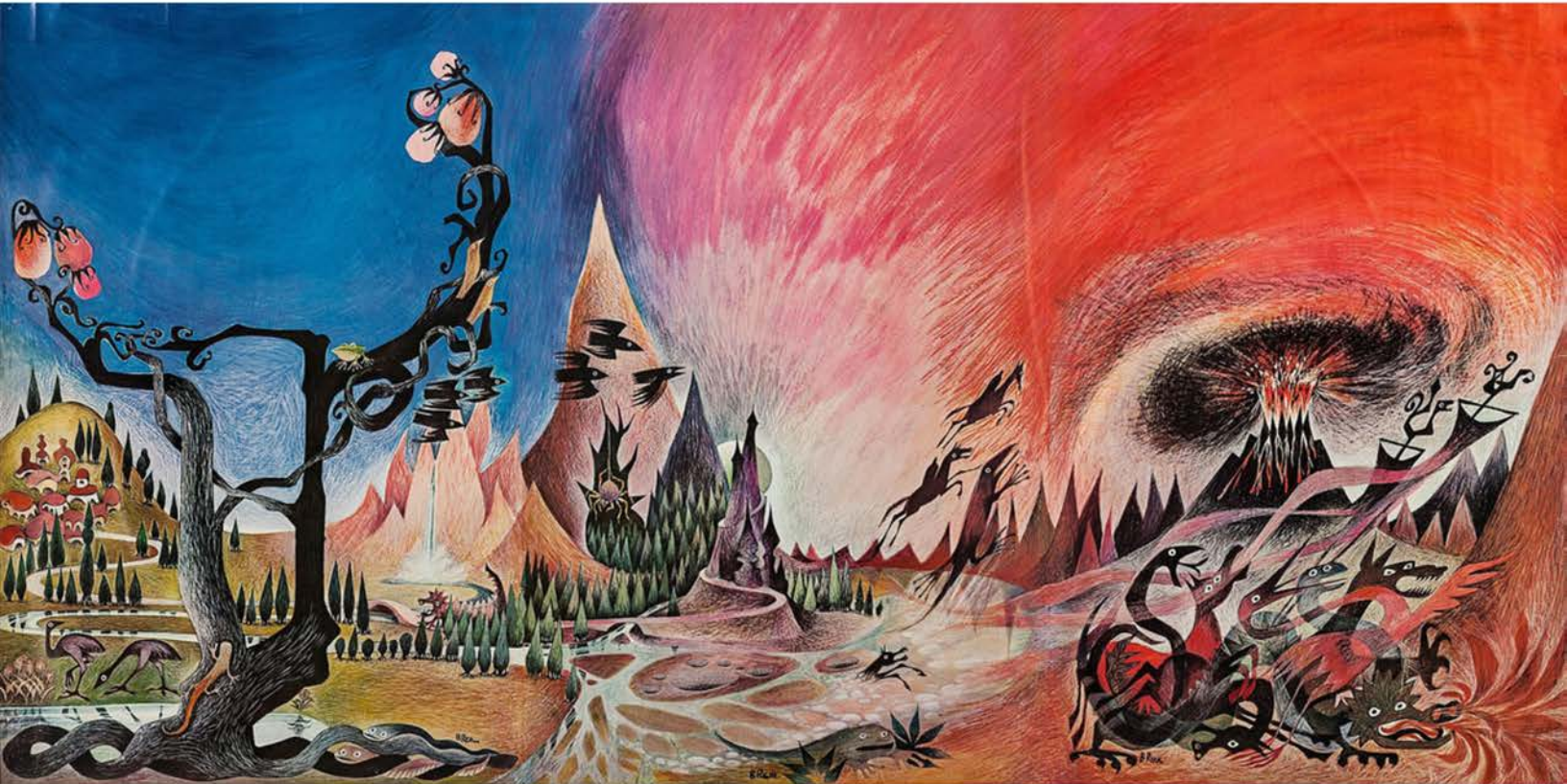


JRR Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings"

Contemplative Action, the Natural World and the First Silence in Middle-Earth

Spring 2026 Seminar (HUMC 394-01)



The Lord of the Rings by Barbara Remington (Ballantine Books, Late 1960s). Promotional Poster (37" X 72"). Imaged by Heritage Auctions.

Spring 2026 Seminar: HUMC 394-01

Dates: Tuesday at 2:30-3:50 p.m.
February 10 through May 5
No class held on March 31 or April 7

Instructor: Jason Crum, PhD
Department of English
jason.crum@sandiego.edu

Details: One (1) unit of credit
Pass/fail only
No prerequisites required.
Open to all upper division students.



In this humanities seminar, students will read through JRR Tolkien's foundational fantasy novel, *The Lord of the Rings*. We will explore the novel for the concept of silence, including silence as inaction, silence as negative space/absence in the natural world, silence as original sin and silence as peace.

No previous knowledge or readings are required. Professor Crum will provide context, knowledge and background for the read through, including from Tolkien's drafts, other works and theoretical frameworks. Students should be prepared to read approximately 85 pages of fantasy fiction in advance of each meeting.