

Peter Jackson's Aragorn and the American Superhero Monomyth

Public Lecture

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by

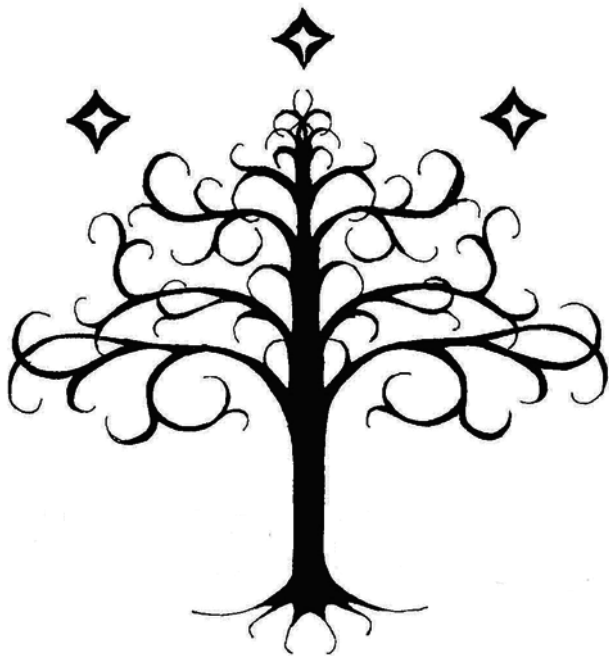
Janet Brennan Croft

University of Oklahoma

Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

University Honors Forum

(Student Health Center Building, Ground Floor, Room 21)



Even the most ardent fan of Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* movies must admit, if they have any familiarity at all with J.R.R. Tolkien's original books, that Jackson made many changes to the characters Tolkien created. Whatever one's opinion of these changes, the question of why Jackson made them is an interesting one. Part of the answer may lie in the uniquely American re-visioning of Joseph Campbell's heroic "monomyth" described in John Shelton Lawrence and Robert Jewett's *The Myth of the American Superhero*, and its worldwide influence through exported American cultural products. In this talk, Croft will examine the character of Aragorn in particular and how this "American superhero" myth may have influenced Jackson's interpretation of the character.

This lecture is free and open to the public

For more information, contact UNM Hobbit Society at tolkien@unm.edu, call Dr. Leslie Donovan at 277-4313, or visit the UNM Hobbit Society website at www.unm.edu/~tolkien