

Campus Read Book Talks

***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon**

Bradley Bailey: SLU Art History Associate Professor, Program Director

"O Superman: the Many Faces of the Man of Steel"

July 30, 2020 and April 1, 2021

In this lecture, Professor Bailey will both show and discuss a selection of contemporary artworks and performances in which Superman is featured as a signifier will be used to illustrate the broad range of responses that this most familiar of all superheroes has elicited, as we ask the question: is Superman the icon truly immortal, or is his invulnerability ultimately dependent on the strength of the belief system that he upholds?

Ellen Crowell: SLU Associate Professor of English, Common Core Director

"The Magic of the Broken World"

January 29, 2021

Professor Crowell takes a key passage about loss in the novel and uses it to explore Chabon's juxtaposition of wonder and trauma in *Kavalier and Clay*.

Shane Mullens: Left Bank Books' Event Coordinator and Book Club Coordinator

February 18, 2021

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay will be discussed through a queer lens. The discussion takes a deep dive into the characters and their historical counterparts, the creators of Superman. Is Superman a hero for queer people and is this a queer novel?

Nancy Berg: Washington University Professor of Jewish, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

"Salvage Fiction: Chabon's Imaginary Worlds"

March 4, 2021

Professor Berg will discuss the fictional worlds Chabon creates from remnants and ruins, from disconnected bits and disparate pieces.

Ken Haller: SLU School of Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics

"The Best Captain in Starfleet: Michael Chabon, Easter Eggs, and the Evolution of Jean-Luc Picard"

March 25, 2021

In 1987, Jean-Luc Picard became the captain of the USS Enterprise-D on "Star Trek The Next Generation." Through 178 television episodes and four feature films, Picard became, arguably, the most popular character in the Star Trek Universe. Eighteen years after Picard's last on-screen appearance, Michael Chabon has brought him back in the CBS All Access series "Star Trek Picard."

In this one-hour discussion, Dr. Haller will discuss how Chabon has taken this already rich, complex character and added further shading, employing the entire history of one of the most storied franchises in filmed fiction.

Anne Stiles: SLU Associate Professor of English

April 8, 2021

Professor Stiles wraps up the Campus Read leading a Q&A about *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*.