

**Ellen Crowell: SLU Associate Professor of English, Common Core Director**  
**“The Magic of the Broken World”<sup>[SEP]</sup> January 29, 2021<sup>[SEP]</sup>** 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*.

**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**  
An internationally recognized personality of print, film, and television, Superman became an icon as the original protector of “truth, justice, and the American way” in the decades following his introduction in 1938. By the end of the century, Superman had developed into a highly complex signifier for a wide spectrum of social, political, and cultural groups and their agendas both at home and abroad, ranging from a brute enforcer of American cultural hegemony to a closeted alien Other with conflicting public and private identities that closely mirrored the struggle of those marginalized due to racial, gender, and sexual difference. In this lecture, 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?

**Shane Mullens: Left Bank Book Clubs Director**  
**February 21, 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<sup>[SEP]</sup> “Salvage Fiction: Chabon's Imaginary Worlds”<sup>[SEP]</sup> 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 March 25, 2021**  
Eighteen years after Picard’s last on-screen appearance, Michael Chabon has brought him back in the CBS All Access series “Star Trek Picard.”  
**“The Best Captain in Starfleet: Michael Chabon, Easter Eggs, and the Evolution of Jean-Luc Picard”** 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 the most popular character in the Star Trek Universe. 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<sup>[SEP]</sup> April 8, 2021<sup>[SEP]</sup>** Professor Stiles wraps up the Campus Read leading a Q&A about *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*.