



Visiting Writer: Joshua Cohen

Joshua Cohen, novelist and story writer, will teach two classes in the MFA program this spring. Cohen is the author of three novels: *Witz* (2010); *A Heaven of Others* (2008, second edition 2010); and *Cadenza for the Schneidermann Violin* (2007). He has also written three story collections: *Bridge & Tunnel (& Tunnel & Bridge)* (2010); *Aleph-Bet: An Alphabet for the Perplexed* (2007); and *The Quorum* (2007). In a review in *The New York Times*, Stephen Burn described the 800+-page *Witz* as “a linguistic extravaganza that negates reader expectations” and called the novel “a brave and artful attempt to explore the limits of the sentence.” Cohen will teach English 751: Fiction Writing III and English 756: Forms: Justification. The latter course will explore the “justification of fictional texts.” Readings will include selections from the Bible and the Koran as well as works by John Bunyan, Sir Thomas Browne, Thomas Carlyle, Rainer Maria Rilke, Thomas Bernhard, Viktor Shklovsky, Paul Metcalf, and William Gaddis.



Joshua Cohen

Publications

Orel, Harold

“*The Dynasts: Hardy’s Contribution to the Epic Tradition*,” *The Ashgate Companion to Thomas Hardy*, ed. Rosemarie Morgan (Farnham, Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2010): 355-70.

Harrington, Joseph

Things Come On: (an amneoir). Wesleyan Poetry. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2011.

Krug, Louise

“The Mother is Often Gone” (short story), *Everyday Genius*, 27 December, 2010.

Accepted for Publication

Krug, Louise

“Luxury Fort” (short story), *Night Train*, February 2011.

Lillis, Kristen

“Maternal Bodies and Posthuman Culture in Nalo Hopkinson’s *Midnight Robber*,” *Caribbean Mothering*. Ed. Dorsia Smith Silva and Simone A. James Alexander

Announcements, Notes, and News

- **Stephanie Scurto** has been selected as the departmental nominee for the University GTA award. Good luck, Stephanie!

Dates to Anticipate

“**Discovering Pluto: An Evening with Michael Byers**,” **Michael Byers**, novelist, 3 February, 6:30 pm, Kansas Union Ballroom.

Humanities Lecture Series, “Pious Hypocrisies: Mark Twain, the Philippines, and America’s Christian Mission,” **Susan K. Harris**, English, 9 February, 7:30 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union.

Poetry Reading by **Rachel DuPlessis**, English, Temple University, 7 March, place and time TBA

John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture, **Rachel DuPlessis**, English, Temple University, 8 March, 7:30 pm, Alderson Auditorium.

External Review Events, 13-15 March.

Hall Center for the Humanities Celebration of Books, 30 March, 4:00-6:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

Hall Center Special Events, “Can Evolution Explain the Arts?” **Brian Boyd**, English, University of Auckland, 31 March, 1:00-2:30 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall; “Nabokov as Psychologist,” 4:00-5:30 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

Humanities Lecture Series, “African American Lives: Genealogy, Genetics, and Black History,” **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Harvard University, 14 April, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium.

Calendar

- M 24 Early Modern Studies Job Candidate Presentation**, “The First Norton Anthology?: Reading Norton and Sackville’s *Gorboduc* in Collection,” **Tara Lyons**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 4:00 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union. Reception follows immediately in the Malott Room.
- R 27 Early Modern Studies Job Candidate Presentation**, “Portia’s Laboratory: *The Merchant of Venice* and Francis Bacon’s New Science,” **Jonathan Lamb**, University of Texas at Austin, 4:00 pm, Centennial Room, Kansas Union. Reception follows immediately in the English Room.
- Big Tent Reading Series**, featuring **Kenneth Irby**, **Natalie McAllister**, and **Daniel Rolf**, English, 7:00 pm, The Raven Bookstore, 6 East 7th.
- F 28 Meghan Kuckelman**, DPR, 12:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (Carothers, Fischer, *Harrington*)

• Ten-Minute Plays by two students from the department are among the six who will be competing at the regional festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Ames, IA, January 16-22. The plays are “Fortune 500” by Saira Khan, and “Mother of the Bride” by Kim Condon. Among the runners-up are two other plays from the department, “Interference,” also by Condon, and “Eggs and Issues” by Kelsey Murrell. The plays were all written in the Spring 2010 play-writing class taught by **Paul Stephen Lim**, who says that the plays were blinded and selected from over 100 which were submitted for the regional competition. **Darren Canady** and Lim will accompany Khan, Condon and Murrell to Ames, where two winners will then be selected to advance to the national KCACTF competition in April in Washington, DC.

• Each summer for the past several years the **University of Kansas Mini College**---a four-day, on-campus event that attracts quite a crowd of alumni and others to “re-experience” their university education--- showcases the teaching and scholarly and creative work of faculty from a wide range of departments, programs, and disciplines. This year’s program (Mon., 6 June--Thurs., 9 June) will feature presentations by four members of the Department: on Monday, **Steve Evans** will hold a session on “The Mainstreaming of American Indian Literature”; Tuesday’s offerings will include **Jerry Masinton** speaking on “Sigmund Freud:

Renegade or Genius?” and **Brian Daldorph** on “Creative Writing: Poetry and Music”; and on Wednesday, **Jim Carothers** will hold forth on “‘Out to the Ball Game’: Reading Baseball in American Literature and Culture.” For a full program and other information relevant to “The Smartest Trip You’ll Ever Take,” visit <http://minicollege.ku.edu>.

KU and Regional Events

• **KU Opera**, *Ruddigore*, by Gilbert and Sullivan, 21-22, 27-29 January, Robert Baustian Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• **Latin American Seminar/Nature & Culture Seminar**, “Claiming Space, Claiming Water: Contested Legal Geographies of Water in South Texas,” Wendy Jepson, Geography, Texas A&M, 27 January, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• **Modernities Seminar**, “Literary Modernism and Cultural Exceptionalism: From Miguel de Unamuno to José Lezama Lima,” Jonathan Mayhew, Spanish and Portuguese, 27 January, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.