

## **The Novel of Adventure**

John Richetti

Heyman Center Friends Colloquium

Spring 2011

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30

This Colloquium will be led by John Richetti, A.M. Rosenthal Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania. The main tradition of the English novel as it emerges in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries seems to be concerned mainly with domestic life and often enough with courtship leading to marriage. In those years Britain was fast becoming the dominant imperial and commercial European power, but its crucial military, colonial, and commercial experience is only obliquely represented in this fiction. Beginning with Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) and ending with Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* (1900), where those realities are vividly portrayed, we will read a selection of novels from these centuries and seek to understand why the domestic realistic novel and the marriage plot take precedence over the historical actualities of British expansionism.

1/20: Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (Penguin pb)

2/3: Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* (Oxford World Classics pb)

2/17: Austen, *Persuasion* (Oxford World Classics pb)

3/3: Dickens, *Great Expectations* (Penguin pb)

3/24: Kipling, *Kim* (Barnes and Nobel pb)

4/7: Conrad, *Lord Jim* (Penguin pb)

4/21: Make-up (if necessary)