

# Invitation

## Professor, Playwright, Poet Laureate: George Elliott Clarke Reads at the English Department

December 14, 2016  
10 a.m. (c.t.) in ES 131

**George Elliott Clarke** is a poet, playwright, literary critic, and the E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Toronto, Canada. Clarke is currently serving as the Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate. As a writer Clarke has published in a variety of genres: verse collections, *Saltwater Spirituals and Deeper Blues* (1983), and *Lush Dreams, Blue Exile* (1994), a verse-novel, *Whylah Falls* (1990 & 2000), two verse plays, *Whylah Falls: The Play* (1999 & 2000), and *Beatrice Chancy* (1999). He wrote the screenplay for the feature film, *One Heart Broken Into Song* (1999). Clarke continues to publish poetry with *Provençal Songs* (1993 & 1997), *Gold Indigoes* (2000), *Blue* (2001) and *Illuminated Verse* (2005). His *Execution Poems* (2001) won the Governor General's Award for Poetry. Among Mr. Clarke's many other honors are the National Magazine Gold Medal for Poetry (2001), the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award (2004), the Eric Hoffer Book Award for Poetry (2009), appointment to the Order of Canada at the rank of Officer (2008), and eight honorary doctorates. Clarke will read from his "epic-in-progress", *Canticles*.



Prof. Dr. Katja Sarkowsky  
English Department / Chair of American Studies