

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

### **This is a “B” Week**

**MONDAY, February 22 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: AFRICAN CONTINENT (W)**

**Ethiopia, known as the cradle of humankind, and the country never colonized by Europeans, is also the sub-Saharan country with the best documented history. That starts with Queen Sheba (dubious 44documentation) and an early conversion to Christianity, then continues with a history of kings, princes and emperors from the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After Hailie Selassie there was a difficult period, including the Red Terror, then a move toward democracy, and now a civil war. How did Ethiopia get to where it is now? Can we anticipate its future?**

**Presenter: Ann Goerdt**

**Coordinators: Ann Goerdt, Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss**

**MONDAY, February 22 @ 12:30 – 1:30 P.M.**

**Noontime Knowledge: PowerPoint 101**

**They're here at last — classes in PowerPoint 101!!!**

**In this session – designed for beginners – Zoom Team members Ilene Winkler, Ruth Ward and Wayne Cotter will give introductory lessons in PowerPoint for both PCs and Macs. The trio will explain the**

**mysteries of opening PowerPoint, creating interesting slides with text and images, repositioning your slides, and saving your work so you can always find it. You can learn new techniques and ask questions. Powerpoint 101 has never been so much fun — or so useful!**

**Please note, for those who can't make today's session (or want to attend again), Ilene, Ruth and Wayne will conduct another live session on Tuesday March 2 at 12:30.**

**MONDAY, February 22 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Course: LAW AND ORDER (W)**

**My previous talk was about a challenge to an important NYC gun licensing provision, a Second Amendment issue that was heard by the Supreme Court but had not then been decided. Additionally, I talked about three “sex” discrimination cases involving gay, lesbian, and transgender rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.**

**The Supreme Court issued its decisions in those cases, and I will discuss their majority and dissenting opinions, especially the strong disagreement in the gay, lesbian and transgender cases as to the meaning of the word “sex” as used in the Civil Rights Act.**

**Presenter: David Judlowitz**

**Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz**

**Course: GREAT CONVERSATIONS**

**Subject: *The Smallest Woman in the World* by Clarice Lispector**

**Often referred to as “that rare person who looked like Marlene Dietrich and wrote like Virginia Woolf,” Clarice Lispector has also been called one of Brazil’s greatest 20th century writers and the true heir to Kafka. This short story will give us an opportunity to see her**

**ability to express her often humorous thoughts on issues profound as well as mundane. Its theme - an encounter with something seemingly foreign, turns strange and fantastic. Click on the link below.**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/574dd51d62cd942085f12091/t/5c3a3283cd83667f748e5ae3/1547317891403/The+Smallest+Woman+in+the+World+by+Clarice+Lispector.pdf>

**Discussion leader: Jane Lubin**

**Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Larry Shapiro**

**TUESDAY, February 23 @ 10:30 A.M. - NOON**

**Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (W)**

**Subject: Henri Matisse Cut-Outs**

**In 1941, at the age of 72, Henri Matisse, recuperating from abdominal cancer surgery, became bed- and wheelchair-bound, and replaced the physical challenges of painting and sculpture with his invented art form, paper cut-outs. Until his death in 1954, he used scissors and gouache painted sheets to cut out these sheets into different shapes and sizes, and arrange them into finished compositions.**

**We will examine Matisse's creative techniques and some finished works, and give special attention to two particular Matisse triumphs. Jazz was a book, using double pages and single pages of cut-outs to display 20 distinct images, interspersed with pages of text written by Matisse. Matisse used cut-outs to help design the interior, the stained glass windows, and the religious decorations of a newly constructed chapel, Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence.**

**Presenter: Sol Makon**

**Coordinators: Linda Downs, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian and Ellen Shapiro**

**Course: WOMEN'S VOICES**

**Our four presenters (a Rabbi, a Muslim educator, a Hindu women's and human rights activist, and an Episcopal Priest) will discuss their religious traditions and how women's voices have grown and strengthened in the last 100 years in these traditions. Please join us to learn more about these women, how each raises her voice within her tradition, and how they incorporate social justice into everything they do.**

**Presenters: Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Dr. Debbie Almontaser, Sunita Viswanath and Dr. Rev. Chloe Breyer**

**Coordinators: Sandra Abramson, Diane Reynolds**

**TUESDAY, February 23 @ 12:30 – 1:30 P.M.**

**The Quest Lunchroom is up and running on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 - 1:30. Stop by to talk and meet in small groups, with or without lunch, to chat, to share what you are doing.**

**TUESDAY, February 23 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Course: RUSSIAN HISTORY (W)**

**Topic: Catherine the Great and the 18th Century**

**The 18th century in Russian history was a big one in moving the country towards the modern era, thanks to the energy, wisdom, insights and administrative talents of two of its most brilliant leaders, Peter I, known as Peter the Great, whom we heard about in the past presentation, and Catherine II, known as Catherine the Great, who ruled from 1762 to 1796. Her rule was characterized by many changes in Russian society, both internationally with its**

frequently shifting alliances, and domestically, with her focus on education and cultural activities, and her attempts to reorganize government. Although many of her attempts at modernization were premature, she set an important example, and Russia expanded greatly in many respects under her rule. We will also cover briefly the rulers who came between Peter's death in 1725 and the beginning of Catherine's rule.

**Presenter: Caroline Thompson**

**Coordinators: Caroline Thompson, Steve Allen**

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**WEDNESDAY, February 24 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (W)**

**Subject: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents***

By Isabel Wilkerson

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

The Pulitzer Prize winning best-selling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. Beautifully written, original and revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, is an eye-opening story of people and history and a reexamination of what lies beneath the surface of American life.

Linking the caste systems of America, India and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more.

**Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein**

**Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss**

**Course: EXPLORING WHITE PRIVILEGE AND BARRIERS TO EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT**

**This presentation will focus on bringing together CUNY students and Quest members in an open discussion that focuses on White Privilege and its effects on people of color who attempt to interact in a system that has been founded in white privilege and the maintenance of the status quo. This is a chance to hear from the next generations and listen to the challenges they face in navigating the educational and career path systems. At the same time Quest members will share their experiences navigating barriers they have had to confront in their educational and career choices.**

**Presenter: Pereta Rodriguez, Sandra Abramson, Diane Crothers  
Coordinators: Diane Crothers, Sheryl Harawitz, Diane Reynolds**

**WEDNESDAY, February 24 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER SERIES (W)**

**Speaker: Harold Holzer on *Monument Man: The Life and Art of Sculptor Daniel Chester French***

**On the evening of January 19, 2021, then President-elect Joe Biden stood inside the Lincoln Memorial to launch his Administration in the shadow of America's greatest president and most famous statue. As we approach its 100th birthday, the sculpture reigns as the most popular tourist attraction in Washington as well as the backdrop for national expressions of protest and patriotism.**

**Yet its creator, Daniel Chester French, has been neglected – even though his great works once made him the most famous sculptor in America. Now French's biographer, historian Harold Holzer, presents an illustrated talk that opens a window onto the artist's extraordinary accomplishments, his unusual personal life, and his major impact as the creator of American icons that define our past and light the way to the future.**

**Harold Holzer is the Jonathan F. Fanton Director of The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, a post he assumed in 2015 after 23 years as Senior Vice President for External Affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is the author, co-author or editor of more than 50 books on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. He spoke to us three years ago on *Lincoln and the Power of the Press* and Fake News. He has won numerous awards and lectures nationwide. He and his wife live in Rye, NY.**

**Please join us for this special presentation.**

**Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer, Phyllis Weiss**

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**THURSDAY, February 25 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (W)**

**Subject: Tools of Discovery (Parts I and II)**

**We live in a vast, intimidating universe. For most of human history the universe lay undiscovered. Looking at the sky was fertile ground for superstition and mythology. In 1500, if you had asked an educated European about the Universe, the answer would have been similar to what the Greeks had said before the days of Christ: *A static Earth is at the center of everything; the moon, sun and planets revolve around it in perfect orbits, and the stars sit at the limit of space, closing the cosmos. Outside are God and the elect in a timeless existence.***

**The invention of the telescope at the start of the 17th century revealed the true nature of the cosmos for the first time. From Galileo's early instruments through the development of larger and more telescopes, more accurate pictures of the universe emerged.**

**With the addition of spectroscopy, expanded wave length instruments and photography, humans began delving deeper into the mysteries of the cosmos. We were able to put telescopes above the blurring effects of Earth's atmosphere and launch missions to other planets.**

**Just 400 years ago Galileo faced censorship from the Roman Inquisition; in 1616 Cardinal Bellarmine convinced him to abandon his opinions about a sun-centered cosmos — which he did, temporarily.**

**Now here we are, pursuing mysteries at the cutting edge of knowledge. Though we can't know where the search for answers will lead, our cosmic views will face grand new revisions in the near future. This is what makes science so exciting. Let's look at some milestones in the history of the tools of discovery and what might lie ahead. This is a two-part presentation with Part 2 in two weeks.**

**Presenter: Michael Hamburg**

**Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen**

**COURSE: POINT OF VIEW**

**Join us for an interactive discussion class in which the class coordinators bring in short opinion pieces taken from current publications (editorials, op-ed pieces, reviews, etc.) for discussion that day. We will all have an opportunity to comment and argue our viewpoints.**

**We will be discussing the following articles at our first meeting. Please read them before class.**

**<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/07/opinion/covid-biden-economy-stimulus.html>**

**<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/11/opinion/biden-economic-plan.html>**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/29/opinion/false-confessions-police-interrogation.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/09/opinion/capitol-attack-racism-america.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/14/opinion/trump-impeachment-trial-republicans.html>

**Discussion Leader: Barbara Gordon**

**Coordinators: Terri Hicks, Barbara Gordon, Bob Hartmann,**

**Course: A SAMPLING OF ISRAELI LITERATURE**

**Subject: Ghassan Kanafani**

**Ghassan Kanafani (1936-1972) remains a prominent Palestinian voice today. In 1948, when he was 12, his family became Palestinian refugees settling outside of Damascus. Kanafani was a prolific writer, journalist and political activist seeking justice for Palestinians until his untimely death in 1972. Kanafani's fiction lasers in on the Palestinian experience following 1948. Realism, emotions, and the natural world factor into the power of the stories we will discuss.**

**Following are links to four stories and a novella:**

[http://www.nobleworld.biz/images/sad\\_orange.pdf](http://www.nobleworld.biz/images/sad_orange.pdf)

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/31937>

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/kanafani/1956/letterfromgaza.htm>

<http://hparabictranslation.blogspot.com/2015/08/the-falcon-by-ghassan-kanafani.html>

<https://pij.org/articles/1189/returning-to-haifa>

**Presenter: Mary Buchwald**

**Coordinators: Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Art Spar**

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**THURSDAY, February 25 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Course: BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES (W)**

**Demarcating the non-original states: For one hundred and twenty years, the United States was challenged with delimiting the boundaries of the states within its continental expanse, typically defining borders when these separate entities were barely populated. The governing principles were a balance of slave and free states until 1861 and throughout the 19th century, the formation of states of similar size, and rectangular configuration**

**Presenter: Stephen Baker**

**Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis**

**Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY**

**Topic: Free Speech**

**In the class following this one, on March 11, Sandy Kessler will lead a discussion of the free speech issues that have been raised by Facebook, Twitter, and other internet companies. As background for his discussion, I want to focus in this class on the more traditional free speech issues that arose in the era of public speaking, newspapers, radio, and TV. I believe this will put us all in a better position to appreciate just what new issues have been raised by the internet and why they are different from the traditional ones. As background for our discussion I suggest you read three attachments to this schedule. They are (in order of importance): (1) excerpts from John Stuart Mill's "On Liberty", (2) excerpts from judicial opinions of Hugo Black, and (3) the Stanley Fish essay "There's No Such Thing as Free Speech". If you don't read these, you can still participate fully in the discussion – the class will begin with a summary of key points in these articles.**

**Discussion leader: Steve Allen**

**Coordinators: Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro**

3 attachments — [Download all attachments](#)



John Stuart Mill on Liberty Excerpts.docx  
32K [View as HTML](#) [Download](#)



Hugo Black Excerpts .docx  
1700K [View as HTML](#) [Download](#)



Stanley Fish There's No Such Thing As Free Speech And It's a Good Thing, Too by  
Stanley Fish (z-lib.org).pdf  
472K [View as HTML](#) [Download](#)

**THURSDAY, February 25 @ 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**Course: POET'S WORKSHOP**

**Write a poem using the cue word "wrinkle" or a word of the poet's choice. Each author will read a poem and then share that poem with the class through screen share. A discussion of the poem will follow.**

**Presenter: Judith Winn**

**Coordinators: Judith Winn, Helen Neilson, Helen Saffran**

**CultureQuest Virtual Museum Tour  
Friday, February 26th, 2:00 – 3:30**

**Winterthur Museum**

**Winterthur, the former country home of Henry Francis du Pont (1880-1969), houses the world's premier collection of Euro-American decorative arts of the pre-Civil War period. Within its 9 stories, rooms are filled with architecture salvaged from houses built along the eastern seaboard prior to 1840, each displaying the American-made furniture and imported accessories that du Pont felt best complemented the surroundings. Du Pont intended Winterthur to be a museum almost from the time he inherited it in 1928, but great country houses were built for entertaining, and most weekends saw the place filled with guests who enjoyed the hospitality HF and his wife Ruth lavished upon them amid the elegant surroundings of rooms that du Pont himself personally decorated.**

**After a short powerpoint presentation to position Winterthur and the du Ponts within a historical context, you will follow in the footsteps of du Pont's own guests as you explore one floor of the house he built for your enjoyment.**

**100 participants**