

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 6 – 9, 2023

This is an “A” Week

Instructions for Zoom Classes

There are three links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, and Classroom 27. Click on the appropriate link below to join a class no earlier than 15 minutes before its start.

Alternatively, you can enter a class by going to the [Zoom Website](#) and selecting “JOIN A MEETING.” You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode. Also, you can attend classes via phone by dialing 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the password.

AUDITORIUM:

Meeting ID: 886 445 6806

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17:

Meeting ID: 821 1094 3310

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27:

Meeting ID: 875 6632 5995

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway and are listed as either “Hybrid” or “In-person.” “Hybrid” classes are available to members attending at 25 Broadway and to members attending from home via Zoom. “In-person only” classes are presented solely at 25 Broadway with no Zoom option.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ROCK & ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: *Pretenders* by The Pretenders (1979)

***Pretenders* is the debut album by this post-punk (Wiki calls them “rock and roll, punk and new wave”) group fronted by Chrissie Hynde. Hynde’s lyrics are slightly abstract and talk of love, belonging, cynicism and social structure. Her vocals and phrasing are inimitable, and her songs are curiously structured but very easy to follow. *Rolling Stone* ranked *Pretenders* the 20th best album of the 1980s.**

Presenters: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: INVISIBLE MAN BY RALPH ELLISON (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

For our first class on Ralph Ellison’s novel, *Invisible Man*, we will be discussing the Prologue and the first two chapters, pages 3 -71, in the Vintage edition. The unnamed protagonist addresses readers. What explanation does he give for saying that he is an invisible man? Chapters 2 and 3 take place several years before the time of the Prologue. What is the meaning of the words said by his dying grandfather? The narrator recalls his high school graduation. What is the “battle royal” he is forced into? Attending with pride a Negro college, what happens when he drives a wealthy, white trustee to a poor, black neighborhood?

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (*In-person only*)

Room: Classroom 15-17

**Subject: His Royal Majesty Oba Moshood Olusomo Bamigboye:
Nigerian Sculptor**

Bamigboye had his first solo exhibition at the Yale Art Gallery in the Fall, 2022. Imagine being greeted with a priestess, seated on her horse surrounded by her entourage and then walking into a room brimming with towering structures. The exhibition provides visitors with a fresh approach from which to contemplate complex 20th century Nigerian sculpture.

Bamigboye worked within the Yoruba tradition, a culture that celebrates the individual contributions to society. A society that equates Visual Beauty with Goodness.

Bring lunch, as we look at some intriguing art and contemplate what masks Bamigboye would have created for Quest?

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz & Andrea Irvine

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Sheryl Harawitz

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY CENTRAL (*Hybrid*)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: The Funniest Decade: The 1930s (Part 2 – Radio)

Could the funniest decade in U.S. history really be the 1930s, a period characterized by bread lines and unemployment? Although the notion may seem counterintuitive, Wayne Cotter will present strong evidence supporting the idea.

This session will explore how radio became the final nail in the coffin of vaudeville. It will also feature video and audio clips from radio

comic geniuses of the era, such as Burns and Allen, Gertrude Berg, Jack Benny, and Edgar Bergen.

Today's class is Part II of a three-part series. Part I, presented last fall, focused on comedy films of the era, while Part III (in the fall 2023 semester) will cover comic *theatre*. Any Quest members who are fans of classic radio comedies are especially urged to attend and share their insights.

Presenter: Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Vince Grosso, Michael Wellner

Course: ELIZABETH GASKELL (*In-person only*)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Book: Mary Barton

We will read and discuss pages 3-69 (Chapter 1-6) in Wordsworth Classic edition of Mary Barton by Elizabeth Gaskell. The opening chapters will establish a number of key relationships and give us a picture of Manchester.

Presenter: Arlene Curinga

Coordinators: Arlene Curinga, Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane

Course: ACTING WORKSHOP II (*In-person only*)

Room: Auditorium

The class will begin to rehearse The Laramie Project.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Art Spar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Italy - Fascism All Over Again

We hear the word “fascist” and shiver. It still evokes the memory of a reign of terror where every aspect of life is dependent on party approval. We think of our neighbors becoming informers and we fear the secret police may come in the night.

That was Italy under Mussolini. The question - is it happening all over again? Last year Italy voted in its first female prime minister. Her name is Giorgia Meloni and she is the head of the neo-fascist party. She is friendly with strongman leaders in Europe, and she is friendly with certain members of our GOP.

Is Meloni a success for feminism or a threat to democracy in Italy? What impact will she have on the European Union?

Presenter: Linda Rothstein

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried, Glenn Johnston

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Palestinian and Israeli Poetry

This semester’s focus is on Middle Eastern poetry. Our first class features poetry from Israel and Palestine. Peter Dichter will present various Israeli poets writing on the Akedah including the reading from Genesis. Mary Ann Donnelly will turn to the Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish, who the Palestinian American poet Naomi Shihab Nye has said, “....is the Essential Breath of the Palestinian people, the eloquent witness of exile and belonging.”

Presenters: Mary Ann Donnelly and Peter Dichter

Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

Bienvenue au Déjeuner Français ! Ce cours est dédié à la culture française et pays francophones et à la communication en français. Cette semaine sera assez amusant et intéressant comme nous regardons des vidéoclips de la publicité en français. Discuterons la psychologie et le pouvoir de la persuasion (ou pas) de chaque pub.

Welcome to our French Lunch conversation class, which is dedicated to the culture of France, francophone countries and communication in French. This week will be fun and interesting as we watch short videos of French advertisements. We will discuss the psychology and persuasiveness (or not) of each ad.

Presenter: Donna Basile

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOLK MUSIC (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Harry Chapin

Harry Chapin was a gifted songwriter, musician, and singer. He died much too young. Come to Folk Music to listen and sing along to his

hits: Cats in the Cradle, Taxi, Circle, Mr. Tanner, several more, and learn about his extraordinary life as both a performer and as a supporter of charities, including Long Island Cares, an organization he founded to combat hunger on Long Island.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS (In-person only)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Marie Curie

In a 2009 poll carried out by *New Scientist*, Marie Curie was voted the "most inspirational woman in science". She received 25.1 percent of all votes cast, nearly twice as many as second-place Rosalind Franklin. During Curie's lifetime she received two Nobel Prizes, in two different scientific fields, the only person to have done so.

This presentation will cover her life, her family, her accomplishments and her legacy.

Presenter: Jim Brook

Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Marion Schulteis, Judy Weis

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (In-person only)

(NOTE: This class runs until 3 p.m.)

Room: Classroom 27

Explore and enjoy sharing your writing with fellow Questers in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere.

Every class begins with a prompt for ten minutes of writing (sharing is optional). Bring your writing in any genre (fantasy, memoir, romance, mystery, humor, science fiction), in poetry or prose. (Prose should be kept to 750 words or less but longer pieces can be read over several classes.)

Various aspects of writing are discussed, such as dialogue, characterization, setting, openings, using the senses, and vivid description.

Bring a notebook for in-class writing and 10 copies of your piece to share with the class.

Need ideas for a topic? How about your relationship with an animal or something you've been thinking a lot about lately.

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE (*Hybrid*)**

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Performing Regardless of Age and Other Deterrents

Ze'eva Cohen will discuss performing at age 60 after she thought she was done in her late 40's. She will screen and analyze the two duets that she choreographed at age 60 for herself and much younger women. Cohen considers these dramatic and comedic duets, *Negotiations* and *If Eve Had a Daughter*, most probably her most authentic choreographic work. Verbal and visual references to other seminal performers negotiating mature age and other seemingly impossible challenges will also be viewed and discussed.

Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian

Course: **SHAKESPEARE (*Hybrid*)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: Taming of the Shrew

Exploration of this early comedy by Shakespeare will include:

- 1. Singing "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" from Kiss Me Kate.**

2. A presentation by Jim Brook regarding the status of women in Elizabethan times.
3. A clip from the Burton/Taylor film.
4. A presentation by Roy Clary about the play's themes, plus how attitudes toward women and gender roles have changed since the play was written in the early 1590's.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 12:10 – 12:55 P.M.

Course: BOOK CLUB (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 27 (NOTE: Change of classroom)
Book: The Weight of Ink
By: Rachel Kadish

Moving back and forth in time, the novel connects the stories of Ester Velasquez, a Portuguese Jewish female scribe and philosopher living in London in the 1660's, and Helen Watt, a present-day aging historian who is trying to preserve Ester's voice even as she reflects on the course of her own life.

Presenter: Hedy Shulman
Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: QUEST'S CLASSIC MOVIES (QCM) (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium

One of Quest's newest Spring courses is "QUEST'S CLASSIC MOVIES - QCM" which includes a selection of the top 100 films from the American Film Institute. We encourage you to view the films and add your comments after each presentation.

On Wednesday, February 8th at 1 PM Bobbie Gold will lead off with a review and analysis of “THE AFRICAN QUEEN” streaming FREE if you are a subscriber, or at a slight charge on Prime Video, Apple, YouTube or VuDu.

Vince Grosso will follow by examining “THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES” and you can watch it FREE if you are a subscriber, or at a slight charge on Apple Prime or YouTube.

We’ll end the session with Howard Salik unraveling STANLEY KUBRICK’S perplexing “2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY” (with HAL...I am a robot) FREE if you are a subscriber, or for a slight charge on Apple, Prime, HBO MAX or VuDu.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE MOVIES

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold, Vince Grosso

Course: **UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES (*In-person only*)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

America is at a crossroads, as different visions of what the United States should stand for at home and abroad directly compete in the national dialogue. Even basic principles upon which American society was founded – the peaceful transformation of power, freedom of speech, the right to vote– are being questioned, and, in some cases, outright rejected by segments of society. Beyond the sharp divisions in political value systems often expressed most clearly in our Red and Blue States division, this course will focus on momentous social issues likely to have a major impact on the nation’s future. This week we will begin by focusing the discussion on the current state of U.S. Democracy – the greatest threats posed to its continued existence and prospects for the future.

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: AGING (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Invisibility

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The concept of INVISIBILITY dates back to the societies of Ancient Greece and that of early Christians. We'll explore INVISIBILITY in our society past and present with emphasis on its relationship to AGEISM using examples from film, literature, social science and class participants.

Presenter: Gloria Peropat

Coordinators: Art Spar, Bryn Meehan, Larry Shapiro

Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE (In-person only)

Classroom: Room 27

In the opening session of the Science Clubhouse, we'll talk about some of the latest science news, share some tips on how to follow the latest science developments, and organize upcoming sessions. A particular focus in our first session will be all of the recent newspaper articles and opinion pieces about the latest developments in artificial intelligence and ChatBots.

Discussion Leaders: Steve Allen, Marion Schultheis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: WATER (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: Moving in the Water Part 1. Aquatic Animals Swimming

The diversity of living things is much greater in water (oceans and freshwater) than on land. Likewise, the ways they move through a medium that is much denser than air are also very diverse: from paddling, to wriggling, to flapping, to jet propulsion and more. With the aid of many videos, we will look and wonder at the many ways that aquatic animals get to where they want to go.

Presenter: Judy Weis

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Stories to read for Thurs, February 9 at 1 pm

1. “Chac Mool” by Carlos Fuentes Presenter: Donna Basile

Carlos Fuentes (1928 -2012) was a Mexican short-story writer, novelist, essayist, diplomat and political writer whose works are a mixture of social protest, realism, psychological insight, and fantasy. He garnered international acclaim for his works.

2. “The Other Party” by Matthew Klam Presenter: Ellen Rittberg

Matthew Klam (born 1964). His fiction has been described by the New York Times as “Funny, maddening and defiantly original gifted at discussing complicated themes... Klam’s prose is so clean, so self-assured, that it feels a little like a miracle... Klam has won numerous prizes and accolades including Robert Bingham/PEN Award, a Whiting Writer’s Award, and a National Endowment of the Arts grant. The New Yorker described his fiction as “wondrous.”

Links for the two stories will be sent in a separate email to all Questers via QuestBusiness.

A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the lunchroom.

Any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye@earthlink.net

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

ALEX KATZ: GATHERING CultureQuest

Virtual Tour at the Guggenheim Museum

Friday February 17th at 11 am



The Farmer's Almanac predicts cold and inclement weather on Friday, February 17th, so make sure to stay cozy and tune in to the virtual tour from the Guggenheim, Alex Katz: Gathering! The talented Ellen Edelman, Gallery Educator who led us for Pollock and Kandinsky, will guide us through. This exhibition is a retrospective spanning the totality of the artist's astonishingly long and robust career which may finally make this artist more recognizable. Born in 1927, we will look at this artist and his work at 95.

Katz's paintings are divided into genres of portraiture, landscape, and printmaking. Since the 1960's, he has painted views of New York (especially his immediate surroundings in Soho) and landscapes of Maine, as well as portraits of family members, artists, writers, and

New York society protagonists. His paintings are defined by their flatness of color and form, their economy of line, and their cool but seductive emotional detachment.

Katz achieved great public prominence in the early 1960's influenced by films, television, and billboard advertising. He began painting large-scale paintings often with cropped faces. In 1977, Katz was invited to create a public work to be produced in billboard format above Times Square. If you were living in the city at that time, you may remember seeing the billboard that extended 247 feet along two sides of the RKO building. It consisted of a frieze composed of 23 portrait heads of women.

**Plan to join us Friday February 17th at 11:00am
for the only VIRTUAL tour this spring
e-mail dena@kerren.us
to reserve your spot!
We will send you access a day or two before the tour.**