

QUEST CURRICULUM



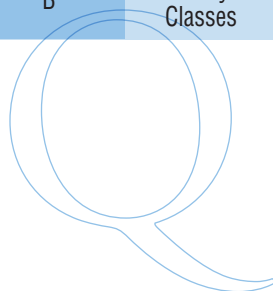
Fall 2021

The CCNY
Lifelong
Learning
Community



FALL 2021 CALENDAR

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
September 13	A	A	A	Yom Kippur No Class
September 20	B	B	B	B
September 27	A	A	A	A
October 4	B	B	B	B
October 11	A	A	A	A
October 18	B	B	B	B
October 25	A	A	A	A
November 1	B	B	B	B
November 8	A	A	A	A
November 15	B	B	B	B
November 22	A	A	No Class	Thanksgiving No Class
November 29	B	B	B	B
December 6	A	A	A	A
December 13	B	B	B	Last Day of Classes



A Week

FALL 2021 SCHEDULE

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Classic Rock Albums	Foreign Affairs	Slavery's Role US Capitalistic Development	Antisemitism: Past, Present, Facts, Myths
	Howards End	Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Shakespeare	Reading Black Lives

Lunch

Conversations
en français

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Movers & Shakers	Comedy & Satire / The Fabulous 50's	Inventions that Changed the World	Mozart's Women
	Contemporary Poetry	House of Mirth	Reading the Rabbis	Contemporary Short Stories (2:00–3:30)
		Creative Writing Workshop (1:00–3:00)		Acting Workshop

B Week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Borders & Boundaries	Artists & Their Work	Fascinating Non-Fiction	Science & Scientists
	Race Relations in American Political Thought	The Rise & Fall of the British Empire	Literary Heroines	Point of View

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Law & Order	Mythology	Distinguished Guest Lecture Series	African Continent
	Great Plays / Presenter's Showcase	Contemporary Opera		Explorations in Philosophy / Great Conversations
				Poets' Workshop (1:00–3:00)

COURSES BY CATEGORY

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

- Acting Workshop
- Artists & Their Work
- Classic Rock Albums
- Comedy & Satire **NEW**
- Contemporary Opera
- Great Plays
- Mozart's Women **NEW**

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- African Continent
- Borders & Boundaries
- Distinguished Guest Lecture Series
- Foreign Affairs
- Law & Order
- Point of View
- Presenter's Showcase
- Reading Black Lives

HISTORY

- Antisemitism: Past, Present, Facts, Myths
- The Rise & Fall of the British Empire **NEW**
- The Fabulous Fifties **NEW**
- Race Relations in American Political Thought **NEW**
- Slavery's Role in US Capitalist Development **NEW**

LITERATURE

- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Conversations en français
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Fascinating Nonfiction
- Great Conversations
- The House of Mirth **NEW**
- Howards End **NEW**
- Literary Heroines **NEW**
- Mythology **NEW**
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- Shakespeare

SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY

- Explorations in Philosophy
- Inventions that Changed the World
- Reading the Rabbis **NEW**
- Science & Scientists

SOMETHING EXTRA

- Creativity: Lunch and Learn
- Friday Museum Tours



FALL 2021 COURSES

ACTING WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Marilyn Rosen, Panny King, Roy Clary, John Spiegel

The class will continue with new and interesting exercises and improvisations that further the understanding of acting. There will also be an emphasis on the importance of building a character through scene study. Members will also gain a better understanding of stage movement and direction.

A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss

In the fall semester we will add to the information that we provided about Africa in the spring. As we present specific countries, including Zimbabwe, Namibia and Tunisia, we will continue to address their history, economy, health, education, and social aspects. We will also present overviews of Africa that may focus on specific groups of countries as we address topics such as the relations between African countries and their former colonizers and the influence of China on the continent.

B WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

ANTISEMITISM: PAST, PRESENT, FACTS, MYTHS

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Marian Friedmann, Bob Reiss, Rick Salter

This course will explore antisemitism from ancient times to its current manifestation. It will be interesting to anyone of any faith, race, or background who wants to understand fully the magnitude of hatred toward a people and how it can distort and destroy both soul and society.

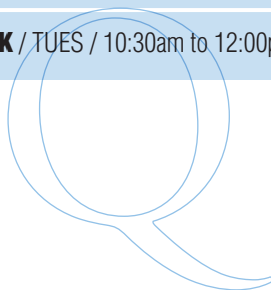
A WEEK / THUR / 10:30pm to 12:00pm

ARTISTS & THEIR WORK

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

Presentations will focus on international multicultural artists throughout the centuries with a particular emphasis on sculptors for the fall semester.

B WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm



FALL 2021 COURSES

BORDERS & BOUNDARIES

*Coordinators: **Stephen Baker,**
Pete Weis*

Defining a nation-state and its subnational components requires physical delineation acknowledged by those within and beyond its geographic limits. Establishment of boundaries is vital, and borders and boundaries are a key component of history. We will discuss boundary formation for our 13 original states and for newer states in which boundaries were formulated before non-indigenous populations settled in them. Then, we will discuss our national borders and the problems engendered by COVID restrictions. Next, we will present pertinent historical and contemporary boundary issues in a survey of examples from all continents. Finally, we will consider map lines delineating seas and oceans for their emerging ecological significance.

B WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm



CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS

*Coordinators: **Steve Koenig,**
Wayne Cotter*

Each session will focus on one album by a band or solo artist and be enriched by related tracks from the band's career or works by others that shed light on the album. Our definition of "rock" will be inclusive, containing branches of reggae, soul, folk, and country. This term we might include Melanie, Joe Jackson, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Isaac Hayes, The Smiths, Tracy Chapman, and Devo.

A WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

COMEDY & SATIRE NEW

*Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter,**
Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner*

This course will explore why, when, and how we laugh. It will feature writers, performers, and artists who brought us laughter over the years and explore the extent to which their humor reflected the times in which they lived. We think now more than ever is the time to enjoy a good laugh together.

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

CONTEMPORARY OPERA

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Victor Brenner, Frieda Lipp

At each session, we view a different opera and engage in a lively discussion of its text, staging, medium, and historical and cultural background. This semester might include Douglas Cuomo's *Doubt*, Samuel Barber's *Vanessa*, Harry Somers' *Louis Riel*, Carlisle Floyd's *Susanna*, Britten's *Billy Budd*, and *Brexit: The Opera*.

B WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Coordinators: Betty Farber, Martha Drezin, Sheryl Harawitz, Frieda Lipp

Contemporary poetry enriches the lives of its readers. Participants are invited to email coordinators their favorite poems several days ahead of class, so we can create a packet to distribute. In class or on Zoom, participants will introduce the poets, read the poems aloud, and engage the class in rich discussion about content and poetic elements. No previous experience with poetry is necessary.

A WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

At each session, one or two class members present background and other information about a story they have selected, followed by a lively class discussion.

A WEEK / THUR / 2:00pm to 3:30pm

CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

If you speak some French, join us for conversations on subjects of interest to our participants. The class is conducted in French. Members have the opportunity to present mini-lessons and to lead group discussions on topics of their choice.

A WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Hilda Feinstein, Donna Ramer, Helen Saffran

Workshop your writing in a warm and supportive setting. We welcome all genres, from prose and poetry to script writing, fiction, even op-eds. Participate in class writing exercises and discuss writing approaches and styles.

A WEEK / TUES / 2:00pm to 4:00pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY

*Coordinators: Steve Allen,
Larry Shapiro*

Our focus will be on how philosophy approaches particular issues as opposed to an in-depth analysis of specific philosophers. A short reading will be assigned as preparation for each week's discussion, but each class will start with a brief summary of the reading to allow some participation by "drop-ins."

B WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

THE FABULOUS FIFTIES **NEW**

*Coordinators: Michael Wellner,
Ellen Gottfried, Bob Gottfried*

It's safe to say that every one of us at Quest clearly remembers the Fifties. If there is any single word that describes that decade it has to be *transformative*. Politically, it began with President Harry Truman, born in 1884, and ended with JFK, the first elected President who was born in the twentieth century. The Fifties saw development of the first computers, the beginning of the information age, and the introduction of the commercial jet plane. It changed the way we live, shop (with the rise of the suburbs and shopping malls), and travel. Join us as we examine the highlights of the Fifties, including the Korean War, Senator Joe McCarthy, Elvis Presley, Rock 'n Roll, cars with big tail fins, and so much more.

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FASCINATING NON-FICTION

*Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein,
Bob Reiss*

At each session the presenter will tell you about a book you always wanted to read or about a book you never heard of, but will be glad that you now have. Selections range from transit maps to Mt. Everest expeditions, American politics, Western women's diaries, young Ernest Hemingway, black migration, the sinking of the Lusitania, Frank Sinatra, American restaurants, the evolution of mankind. Every semester an eclectic array of fascinating non-fiction awaits its audience.

B WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

In this course we investigate worldwide issues. The presenters will select an issue of importance to discuss. There will be time for class discussion.

A WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

GREAT CONVERSATIONS

*Coordinators: Jane Lubin,
Larry Shapiro*

Great Conversations offers works by both contemporary and classic authors across many genres and disciplines, ideal for promoting discussion among readers. We will use the next book in the series, Great Conversations, Book 5. Authors include Euripides, Keats, Hawthorne, Richard Wright, Simone Weil, and Doris Lessing.

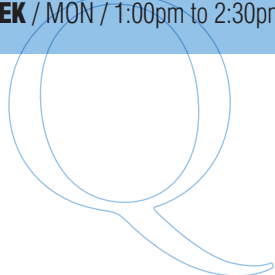
B WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

GREAT PLAYS

*Coordinators: Roy Clary,
Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp*

Leading American and European plays are presented. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright followed by a “stage reading” of the play. The audience is encouraged to share their insights.

B WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm



DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

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

The bimonthly Guest Lecturer Series enhances the Quest program experience by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present on varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions of global policy and political science, anthropology, literature, theater arts, social science, and music.

B WEEK / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

THE HOUSE OF MIRTH **NEW**

*Coordinators: Patricia Geehr,
Arlene Curinga*

Edith Wharton, the first woman to win a Pulitzer, is known for depicting the “tragedies and ironies” of life among members of the middle class and aristocratic New York society in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will read *The House of Mirth*, her first literary success. Through themes of gender, class, love, and friendship, Wharton depicts the destructive results of the pursuit of wealth and misplaced values that are still evident today. Recommended text: Scribner, paperback edition 2020.

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

HOWARDS END **NEW**

Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

E. M. Forster was a distinguished writer of novels, short stories, and essays whose career spanned several decades. During the fall semester the class will read one of his acclaimed novels, *Howards End*. Forster's book sensitively explores conflicts of class and culture, politics, human relationships, and personal responsibility in a pre-World War I society that questions traditional English values as three families struggle to understand each other.

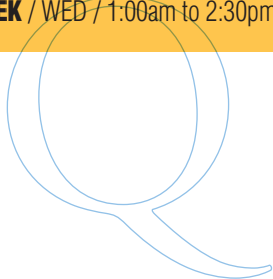
A WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Coordinators: Pete Weis, Jim Brook

This course continues with that which has become familiar in our everyday lives, for better or worse. The history of these inventions, as well as the impacts on our lives and on our planet, will be presented. And new this semester: inventions by women.

A WEEK / WED / 1:00am to 2:30pm



LAW & ORDER

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

It is not just a TV crime series; it's a topic that has galvanized every segment of our society. Black Lives Matter, Blue Lives Matter, white supremacy, reparations for over 200 years of slavery, statues of Confederate leaders, crime in all its forms. What to do about the police? What's happening in the courts? Guns, guns and more guns? Surveillance? Is justice available to all? America is divided internally about many of these matters. Join us as we discuss these subjects in depth.

B WEEK / MON / 1:00am to 2:30pm

LITERARY HEROINES **NEW**

Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

Why have some female characters stayed with us long after the last page? Do we still admire them? We'll revisit favorite literary characters from our early reading years, for example, Nancy Drew and Scout Finch. Discussions will be based on excerpts, stories, novels, films and articles, available in advance of class meetings. Some classes may be thematic, such as "female detectives" or "Elizabethan heroines," while others will focus on a single character. Discussions will include reflections from our own lives as well as thought-provoking questions concerning the heroic, touching on issues of culture, ethnicity, and gender.

B WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

MOVERS & SHAKERS

*Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**,
Caroline Thompson*

We will examine the lives and accomplishments of outstanding people whose ideas and actions have had a lasting influence on our society, whether for good or evil. Subjects covered in past talks have included Dmitri Shostakovich, Larry Page and Sergey Brin (founders of Google), Isaac Bashevis Singer, Winston Churchill, and Martin Luther.

A WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

MOZART'S WOMEN **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**,
Linda Downs*

We think of Mozart's father as the dominant influence in his life, but there's more to the story. Inspired by Jane Glover's book of the same title, *Mozart's Women* will look beyond the stereotype of a child genius shaped by his father to discuss how Mozart's life and music developed through the guidance, inspiration and support of women, from his first efforts as a child composer through his career struggles and culminating in the great "dark comedy" operas: *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan Tutte*. The course will blend biography, history, and music.

A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

MYTHOLOGY **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Donna K. Ramer**,
Sheryl Harawitz*

Myths are more than mere stories; they are sacred, timeless tales that guide us to understand how cultural norms and values were established. As mere mortals, we will first delve into the psychology of mythology then look through the eyes of the Titans, Tricksters and Warrior Gods; Mother Gods; the Gods of Sensuality, Nature, Luck, Underworld and Afterlife; as well as myriad other gods and goddesses of cultures around the world.

B WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

*Coordinators: **Art Spar**, Roy Clary,
Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz*

In a fun, creative, and supportive environment, poetry will come alive as participants read it aloud and interpret it. Class leaders will introduce an engaging list of poets. Study topics will include meter, rhyme, alliteration, and other prosodic elements that influence a poem's "sound meaning" as we explore how to enrich a poem by reading it aloud.

A WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

POETS' WORKSHOP

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

The focus is on reading aloud and sharing your own poems in a supportive environment where you will get detailed feedback. You are encouraged to experiment, to explore language, and to address all aspects of the craft in order to develop your own distinctive style and voice.

B WEEK / THUR / 12:30pm to 2:30pm

POINT OF VIEW

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

This is an interactive discussion class in which both the coordinators and class members bring in short opinion pieces—editorials, op-ed articles, reviews, etc. A vote is taken on which pieces to discuss that day and individuals argue their views.

B WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE

*Coordinators: Joyce West,
Steve Allen, Palma Mahl*

Quest members have diverse interests and experiences. Each session is a chance to encounter something new or an encore of a talk that will be new to many. As a presenter, you have free rein to develop a subject otherwise not covered in the curriculum. As an audience member, you may find a fresh interest or learn more about a topic you always wondered about.

B WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT **NEW**

*Coordinators: Sanford Kessler,
Bob Gottfried*

We will explore the controversial subject of race relations in America by considering some classic and contemporary writings by American political thinkers such as Thomas Jefferson, George Fitzhugh, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Isabel Wilkerson, and Glenn Loury. Questions for discussion include: Why was slavery a "monstrous injustice," as Lincoln called it? How did Southerners defend the institution? What is the legacy of slavery? How does it shape American life today? How can we now best achieve racial justice and reconciliation?

B WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

READING BLACK LIVES

*Coordinators: **Diane Crothers**
Barbara Barnes, Penelope Pi-Sunyer,
Ilene Winkler*

By reading and discussing historical and contemporary accounts of Black Lives, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of those lives and the current condition of all Americans. We will explore Black lives through readings on individuals, social and political movements, and other topics. Possible readings for this semester may include new books by Bettina Love, Eddie Glaude Jr., Martha S. Jones, Heather McGhee, Ibram X. Kendi, and Les Payne.

A WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

READING THE RABBIS **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Paul Golomb,**
Bob Reiss*

The Talmud is the opus magnum of Judaism as we understand it today. It is a massive work – over 2700 folio pages – representing more than 600 years of comprehensive Jewish thought. The course will introduce the world of Talmud and engage in a close reading of selected texts on such topics as Authority, Women, the Land of Israel, and Jewish relations with non-Jews, particularly Christians.

A WEEK / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Judy Hampson,**
Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer*

At its zenith, Great Britain owned territories across the world and yet, during the 20th century, the empire started to crumble and now little of it is left. What happened? We'll talk about the key events that led to Britain's worldwide dominance, such as the growth of her rule in India, the African colonies, Canada, Australia, the Americas, and the Middle East. Then we'll address the events that led to the fall of her once-great Empire, including social changes after World War II, Indian independence, the Suez crisis, the loss of African colonies, and so on. What lessons can we learn from all of this today?

B WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm



FALL 2021 COURSES

SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

*Coordinators: Steve Allen
Jim Brook, Judy Weis*

Advances in science uncover wonders that transform our lives and deepen our understanding of humanity, life, and the world around us. Science literacy is the key that opens doors to the extraordinary beauty of our natural world. This course will explore various pathways of scientific inquiry, their impacts and limits, and highlight some of the men and women responsible for ground-breaking research. In the fall 2021 term, with the *Across the Universe* course on a one-term break, we will be including several talks that address Earth's immediate neighborhood and the further reaches of the observable universe. Prior knowledge or technical expertise in math or science is not required. Just bring your questions and sense of wonder.

B WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

SHAKESPEARE

*Coordinators: Roy Clary,
James Brook*

The class will read aloud and discuss *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It is a delightful comedy filled with exquisitely lyrical verse, a diverse cast of characters, and fairy magic. The play unfolds through an elaborate plot that combines four groups of individuals in artful, imaginative, and fun ways. The Folger Library Edition is the preferred text.

A WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

SLAVERY'S ROLE IN US CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT **NEW**

*Coordinators: Richard Byrd,
Diane Crothers, June Zaccone*

It is impossible to understand our country without incorporating the role of slavery in its history. Slavery helped shape its institutions, legal and voting systems, labor and foreign relations, social welfare, and much else. This course will first look at that history, assess Black strategy and response, and examine the extent of the remaining injustice to the descendants of those enslaved.

A WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2021 COURSES

SOMETHING EXTRA

FRIDAY MUSEUM TOURS

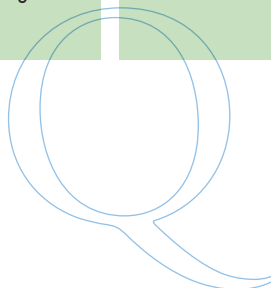
*Renee Woloshin, Linda Downs,
Bob Reiss*

Quest offers tours of the latest museum exhibitions throughout the New York area every month on selected Fridays on a sign-up basis. Before the shut-down, in-person guided tours through exhibitions were given. In the fall there will be a hybrid of online and in-person guided tours, depending on museum plans.

CREATIVITY: LUNCH AND LEARN

Beth Callender, Mary Ann Donnelly

Creativity Lunch and Learn Sessions are held to provide an informal setting for Quest members to share their talents in the arts, crafts, literature, music, drama, or other unique areas. We *know* our Quest members are creative and this is a great way for members to showcase their interests and for all of us to enjoy and learn.



QUEST CURRICULUM

QUEST is a New York City based Community for Lifelong Learning.

Founded in 1995 by a small group of active retirees, Quest operates in the Bowling Green facilities of the City College of New York (CCNY).

Our mission is to provide an intellectually stimulating program for mature adults who want to learn, exchange ideas, meet new friends, and develop new interests. We offer a peer-learning environment whose membership includes retired and semi-retired individuals who want to share their experience, knowledge, and passions with each other.

Today we are a vital part of the CCNY family, with 265 members. We design our own curriculum, publish an annual literary and art magazine, *Q Review*, and offer about forty peer-taught courses each semester. Subjects range from literature and history to science, politics, current affairs, philosophy, and the arts. We also feature a Distinguished Guest Lecture Series that invites prominent people in a wide variety of disciplines to discuss their careers and life experiences. In this stimulating, participatory community, there are no attendance requirements, no exams, no grades, and very little homework. People of all backgrounds are welcome to teach and to learn.

QUEST is administered by a member-elected 11-member Council. All work is carried out by our member-volunteers and one administrative employee. Our success is wholly dependent on the voluntary participation of our members in many different areas, including the selection and development of the curriculum. No matter how members choose to participate, all find that QUEST provides a rewarding experience that enriches both their intellectual and social lives.

There are three semesters each year: Fall (September through December), Spring (February through May), and a Summer Session (June and July). Except for the summer, when classes are held from 10:30–noon Tuesdays and Thursdays only, we meet Monday through Thursday for morning (10:30AM–12:00 noon) and afternoon (1:00–2:30PM) sessions. Most courses run for at least two semesters, and many can continue for several years. There is a modest annual fee which covers all expenses. We encourage prospective members and guests to spend a day with us and see firsthand how a lifelong learning community can enrich their lives. To schedule a visit, please call or email for an appointment.

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education

The City College
of New York

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