

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 27 - October 1
This is an “A” Week

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING NEW FALL PROCEDURES

There will be three links for all classes throughout the semester - one for classes in the Auditorium, one for classes in Classroom 15-17, and one for classes in Classroom 52-53.

The links below will allow you immediate access to each Quest class. *(You no longer need to register for classes.)* You need to simply click on the link to enter. We suggest entering a class *no sooner than 15 minutes* prior to its scheduled start.

If a link fails to work, go to <https://zoom.us> and select “JOIN A MEETING.” You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode. If all else fails, you may enter a session by phone: dial 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID.

All classes (except as noted) are hybrid classes, meaning at-home participants can join in by clicking on the appropriate link. Below are the links:

FOR ALL FALL AUDITORIUM CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH NxbFI4YnRwdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL FALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0Um xTbDRXQ0RDQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL FALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES (there are few of these):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=NUtwb1RUUGMzNG1kV1IRMzBveGtRQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 934336

Most presentations at 25 Broadway will feature a live presenter. However, some classes that will have a live audience at 25 Broadway may feature a speaker presenting from home.

MONDAY, September 27 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS

Room: Auditorium

Album: "Moondance" by Van Morrison

Van Morrison, born and bred in Northern Ireland, has released over 40 albums during a musical career spanning more than 50 years, but "Moondance" is arguably his biggest commercial and critical success. On the album, released in 1970, Morrison combines jazz, soul, rock, Irish folk, and rhythm & blues. The LP sold more than three million copies in the U.S. since its release (that's triple platinum!). Many of the LP's ten songs are now classics, with versions recorded by Ray Charles, Rita Coolidge and Bono (to name a few). Come join us to enjoy the music and hear the stories behind these remarkable songs

Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: HOWARDS END

Room: Classroom 15-17

The reading assignment for *Howards End* is Chapters 3 – 10. Some background information concerning the relationship between England

and Germany at the time of the novel will be presented and connects with the fact of the Schlegel siblings being half-German through their father. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is a major part of Chapter 5. How do the different characters respond to it? How might Helen's imagination of "goblins" stand as Forster's metaphor for the meaning of the music? What do we learn about the new and important character, Leonard Bast? How does a friendship between Margaret and Mrs. Wilcox develop?

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, September 27 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Lillian Hellman

Lillian Hellman was the first woman to be admitted to the *Club of American Dramatists* - writing a hit play when she was 29 - followed by 7 more original plays - 4 adaptations for the stage - at least 8 screenplays - and 4 best selling memoirs. Her love affair with Dashiell Hammett was a scandal and her memoirs were notoriously unreliable. Craving a life she could live fully, aggressively, erotically - HELLMAN was the center stage of her own drama and what a life she had.

When she died in summer of 1984 her death would seem to end the drama - silence the memories - finish the woman - it did NOT - many were relieved - others saddened - some celebrated - some even cheered!

Presenter: Andrea Irvine

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Caroline Thompson

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Welcome to our Contemporary Poetry Class. We invite participants to choose a poem to read aloud, sending a copy in advance to Martha, at mdrezin@aol.com who will create a packet of poems to share on screen. We will ask you to read your poem aloud, including information about the poet's background. We then ask for another reading by a volunteer, followed by class discussion. If we run out of time because of the number of poems brought to class, we will be sure to read your poem at the next session.

Because this is a hybrid class, some participants will be at 25 Broadway in person while others will be on Zoom. If you have a poem to share and will be at 25 Broadway in person, please bring 10 printed copies of your poem to distribute in class. We look forward to this exciting new semester!

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

TUESDAY, September 28 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Nuclear Proliferation Treaty - The NPT and non NPT States

This is more than a story about the nuclear proliferation treaty, but is about the NPT states, the Non- NPT-states, other nuclear control groups and private nuclear suppliers. On July 1, 1968, the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and many other countries signed the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) at ceremonies in Washington, Moscow, and London. India, Israel, and Pakistan have never signed the treaty. All these countries and North Korea too, have nuclear ability.

The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

A warning sign is the continued polarization within the NPT membership, with non-nuclear NPT parties — especially among the non-aligned — concerned that the NPT nuclear powers — particularly the United States and Russia — are not taking their nuclear disarmament commitment seriously. “The Turks have said for years that they will follow what Iran does”.

Learn about the nuclear ability of certain countries but also about the secret sale of nuclear designs and materials to North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

Presenter: David Judlowitz (presenting from home)

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

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Antigone: A Poetic License to Disobey: A new translation by Anne Carson.

After a war, are we obligated to bury the dead...or not? The King says “No” and his niece, Antigone, a very young girl says “Yes.” Thus begins the razor-sharp war of words between the King and Antigone. A play about relationships, sister/sister, sister/brother, father/son, male/female, ruler/subjects. Antigone, a masterpiece about tyranny, resistance, and a woman’s act of civil disobedience. is pure poetic madness: Read by Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer, Martha Drezin, Judy Hampson, Art Spar, Ze'eva Cohen We will be reading [Antigonick \(Antigone\)](#), translated by poet Anne Carson.

Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz

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

TUESDAY, September 28 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS

Room: Classroom 53-53

Subject: Sujet: Le Meilleur Repas de Ma Vie

J'ai choisi ce thème à cause de sa subjectivité. Mon histoire d'un repas mémorable servira comme point de départ pour vos propres mémoires d'un repas extraordinaire — grâce à l'occasion, le lieu, les autres invités ou participants, la cuisine, le chef, la qualité du repas, l'ambiance ou une autre circonstance. C'est la totalité de l'expérience qui conte.

Subject: The Best Meal Ever

I chose this theme because of its subjectivity. My Story of a Memorable Meal will serve as a starting point for your own memories of an extraordinary meal - thanks to the occasion, the place, the other guests or attendees, the cuisine, the chef, the quality of the meal, the ambiance or other circumstance. It is the totality of the experience that counts.

Presenter: Laura Lopez

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, September 28 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY AND SATIRE

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Advent of the Comedy Album

In this first session of Quest's new comedy course, we will explore a unique subgenre of comedy - the comedy LP. Comedy records first appeared in the U.S. in the early 20th Century, but it was not until the late-1950s that sales of comedy LPs began to explode.

This session will profile comedy recording pioneers such as Bob Newhart, Shelley Berman and Allan Sherman (*My Son, the Folk Singer*). We'll also hear recordings of the fondly remembered comedy team of Mike Nichols and Elaine May and discuss one of the most successful comedy albums of all time - *The First Family*. Come listen . . . and laugh.

Presenter: Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

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

Room: Room 15-17

"Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's."

—Stephen King

Please join us and share your writing with our small supportive writing group.

- All levels and writing genres welcome.**
- Please keep prose to approximately 1,000 words.**

- **Class will begin with a ten-minute free-writing exercise, with the option to share with the class.**
- **Email a copy of your writing to Hifein13@gmail.com and Donnaramer1@gmail.com by Sunday, September 26.**
- **A compilation of all work submitted will be sent to you for review before the class.**
- **All writings will be read by the author — in person and on Zoom.**
- **Please bring ten copies for class distribution. The members of the class will provide constructive criticism.**

Coordinators: Hilda Feinstein, Donna Ramer, Helen Saffran

Course: HOUSE OF MIRTH (*In-person only*)

Room: Classroom 52-53

We will discuss chapters 4 through 7 in which Edith Wharton introduces the most significant characters and portrays a society driven by power and competition.

Presenters: Patricia Geehr and Arlene Curinga

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga

WEDNESDAY, September 29 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SLAVERY'S ROLE IN U.S. CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Role of US Slavery in the Foundation of the Industrial and Capitalist Systems

While US slavery has often been identified with with an agricultural system that stood in opposition to industrialization and capitalism, there is a strong case for viewing it as an essential element in the creation of the modern capitalist and industrial systems. This stems from US slavery's fundamental role in the global cotton industry which was a key driver of the Industrial Revolution in the early Nineteenth Century. The primary source for this talk will be historian Sven Beckert's award-winning 2014 book *The Empire of Cotton*, but works of other historians that both bolster and critique Beckert's work will also be discussed.

Presenter: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Diane Crothers, June Zaccone

Course: SHAKESPEARE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: A Midsummer Night's Dream

We will begin our exploration of the play with members of the class reading aloud from Act I.

Discussion will include:

- 1. Shakespeare's mixing of Elizabethan and Greek culture/characters.**
- 2. Medieval Drama anachronisms.**
- 3. The fluidity of the Elizabethan theater.**
- 4. Relationships between fathers and daughters as found in Shakespeare plays, e.g. Romeo and Juliet.**

At our first class, Roy Clary read the "Tomorrow" speech from Macbeth. We will continue this new tradition of reading a favorite selection from Shakespeare with a presentation from Art Spar from the Merchant of Venice.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, September 29 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Women Inventors, Part 2

In Part 1 of Women Inventors, we learned how many of our modern conveniences began from the ingenuity and intelligence of many women.

Now, in Part 2, we'll learn how our 20th and 21st centuries continue to benefit – and develop – in areas as diverse as computer programming, photography, personal safety, and submarine warfare. The inventors being featured come from diverse backgrounds, including not only the expected scientists, mathematicians and engineers, but also nurses and even a Hollywood *femme fatale*.

Presenter: Pete Weis

Coordinators: Pete Weis, Jim Brook

Course: READING THE RABBIS

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: How Much For an Eye

We will jump into a reading of a Talmudic text, [*Lex Talionis in Talmud*](#), with this discussion of how the Sages handle the biblical concept of the lex talionis ('an eye for an eye'). The passage is a good insight of the interplay between Scripture (Written Torah) and Oral Torah. Fasten your seat belts.

Presenter: Paul Golomb

Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

THURSDAY, September 30 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ANTISEMITISM: PAST, PRESENT, FACTS, MYTHS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Holocaust

The Nazi Holocaust is one of the most momentous events in human history. Yet it remains on many levels a baffling and unfathomable mystery. The Holocaust was the ideological and systematic state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of European Jews (as well as millions of others including Romani people, the intellectually disabled, dissidents, and homosexuals) by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. This talk will focus on harbingers, who, why, where, what and when. Transmitting understanding of the Holocaust is about connecting with all humanity. It is a struggle to perpetuate the memory of a tragedy which the world is all too ready to forget.

Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein

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

Course: READING BLACK LIVES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Whose History is American History?

This semester we are reading and discussing excerpts from *Four Hundred Souls, A Community History of African American, 1619-2019*, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. We begin with this question: What is American History? Is it the history we learned in school about the founding of our country, its ideals and our democracy? What did we learn about slavery and the experiences of Black Americans?

The *New York Times* 1619 Project publicized the work of many scholars today who contend that our country needs to fundamentally revise our understanding of American history by centering the history of slavery and the Black struggle for equality. In reaction, the right wing has demonized this idea as “Critical Race Theory,” and several states have passed laws outlawing the teaching of white racism. How do we make sense of all this?

Readings:

**[Four Hundred Souls Intro and Nikole Hannah-Jones](#)
[Frederick Douglass 4th of July](#)
[States Banning Critical Race Theory](#)**

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

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

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

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

Room: Auditorium

In a creative and fun environment, the class will engage in simple exercises that help develop a sense of working together, emphasize the need to be observant, and stress the importance of relating to objects. Class members are asked to bring paper and pencil to this initial class.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, John Spiegel

Course: MOZART'S WOMEN

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Anna Maria and Nannerl, Mozart's mother and sister

I'll begin with a course overview and a reply with music to the question "Why focus on the women in Mozart's life?". Then we'll turn to Mozart's childhood and his mother, Anna Maria, his sister, Nannerl, and his first love, cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart, "The Bäsle." From early childhood Mozart was viewed as a miraculous being, but what was this miraculous childlike as a son and brother, and why does this matter to understanding his achievements? How can we explain the fate of his sister, who was also a gifted musician? This will lead us to consider opportunities in music for women in the 18th century.

Presenter: Larry Shapiro

Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Linda Downs

THURSDAY, September 30 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

(Zoom only - use Auditorium link to enter session)

NOTE: Because this class is Zoom only, the start time is one hour later than other Quest afternoon classes

We will be reading and discussing the following two stories:

1. *Bulldog*, by Arthur Miller

Presenter: Donna Basile

Author Arthur Miller (1915 –2005) needs no introduction.

2. *Seventeen Syllables* by Hisaye Yamamoto

Presenter: Gloria Peropat

Hisaye Yamamoto (1921 –2011) was an American author known for the short story collection *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories*. She was one of the first Asian American writers to earn literary distinction after World War II with highly polished short stories that illuminated a world circumscribed by culture and brutal strokes of history.

If you have any questions or a story to present, please email Nancy at nancyrye@earthlink.net

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

CultureQuest Virtual Tour

Friday, October 8th, 11 AM – 12 PM

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

“THE MEDICI: PORTRAITS AND POLITICS”

We invite you to join our virtual tour of the exhibit **THE MEDICI: Portraits and Politics, (1512-1570) at the Metropolitan Museum. The show is about the powerful Medici family and its impact on the art of Renaissance Florence; the guide will focus on the content of the exhibit and contextual historical information as time allows. The Medici family used the arts to glorify the Medici name as one of the most vibrant, enlightened dynasties in history. If you missed the exhibit at the MET or even if you saw it in person, this is your chance to explore it with an expert.**

40 PARTICIPANTS

The first 40 persons who send an email to me, Madeleine Brecher, at madbrech@gmail.com will be placed on the tour list. Those on the list will be sent instructions on how to participate in the tour several days in advance. After we reach 40, you will join the waitlist.