

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

OCTOBER 4 - 8
This is a “B” 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.

Meeting IDs and passcodes for each link will remain the same throughout the semester.

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=c0ZVbm5lRGEvbG9WWH NxbFI4YnRwdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL FALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0UmxBDRXQ0RDQT09>

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: 252525

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. "Point of View" class will be Zoom only for the semester.

The weather is getting cooler and time is getting shorter.

QReview is calling for your Poetry, Prose, and Art.

Let the brisk autumn breezes rouse your creative energies.

Do you like to write prose or poetry? Do you enjoy creating art?

As our November 1st deadline approaches, QReview, our annual literary magazine, is looking for your work.

Now is the time! Email your prose (800 word maximum) to our prose editor Donna Ramer donnaramer1@gmail.com and your poetry (38 line maximum including the spaces between

stanzas and 64 characters per line) to our poetry editor Mary Ann Donnelly madonne1645@aol.com. If you are submitting artwork, contact our art editor Paul Adler (adlerworks@verizon.net) for details.

MONDAY, October 4th @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Determining the location, extent and boundaries of the continental state

After the Revolutionary War, the establishment and conformation of the relatively underpopulated increasingly westward states was determined by tandem admission of free and slave territories, relative similarity in size and orientation of adjacent entities and less than expected attention to geologic distinctions that are typically border forming.

Presenter: Steven Baker

Coordinators: Steven Baker, Pete Weis

Course: RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICANT POLITICAL THOUGHT

Room: Classroom 15-17

In our second class, we shall first consider selections from the writings of John C. Calhoun and George Fitzhugh, two prominent Southerners who defended American slavery as a positive good during the pre-Civil War period. We will then discuss the first eight chapters of The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845) which is perhaps the most famous and authoritative first-hand account of the terrible evils of this institution. We will also begin to consider the character of Frederick

Douglass himself who became the most prominent African-American statesman of the 19th century.

The following are suggested readings for this class:

- [**Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglas**](#)
- [**Fitzhugh on Slavery**](#)
- [**Calhoun, Speech on the Reception of the Abolition Petitions**](#)

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinator: Bob Gottfried

MONDAY, October 4th @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GREAT PLAYS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Triangles for Two by David Wiltse

Two one act comedies about the difficulties inherent in relationships between men and women will be presented.

The presentation will be at 25 Broadway and not available through Zoom.

Cast: Roy Clary and June Jacobson

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Freida Lipp

Course: LAW AND ORDER

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Legalization of Recreational Drugs: Pros and Cons

Since the 1960's there has been a division in American society concerning the use of recreational drugs. In this presentation, there will be a discussion on the history of drug laws in the USA, the War on Drugs both on the Federal and State levels, the legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use, an overview of the state laws regarding

the use of Marijuana, the current federal drug laws, an examination of Colorado's and Oregon's legalization, and a brief look at how New York has dealt with these issues. There will be plenty of time to share your stories and to state your views on this rapidly changing area of the law.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, October 5th @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Classical Greek Sculpture

In the 5th and 4th centuries B.C., Greek artists completely revolutionized their approach to sculpture, no longer imitating rigid Egyptian stone statues but creating human figures of great beauty that were both anatomically accurate and also idealized. These sculptures remain today among the most admired and revered in the world. After an overview of these superb works, this presentation will focus on the crowning achievement of the Greek Classical Period, what many consider the world's most perfect building, the Parthenon and its magnificent sculptures.

Presenter: Lynnel Garabedian

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

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Rise of the British Empire in India

It's not unusual for historians to say that without India there would have been no British Empire. But how did this small island nation come to rule a country thirteen times its own size? We'll look at some of the factors leading to its dominance with a specific focus on the British East India Company. How and why did the Company become so important? Why did the Indian Rebellion in 1857 lead to the beginning of its demise? Why did the British Government take over from the Company in 1858? It's a fascinating tale of greed, violence and corruption.

Presenter: Jennifer Jolly

Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, October 5 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CONTEMPORARY OPERA

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Carlisle Floyd's WILLIE STARK [Act 2]

Power, passion, and politics collide in Carlisle Floyd's opera of ambition, betrayal, and violent tragedy, based on the life of the corrupt, populist Louisiana governor Huey Long. Willie Stark, the great demagogue of America's political fiction, springs to life as an unforgettable stage character.

Sung in English, with English subtitles.

Presenter: Steve Koenig (Zoom), Frieda Lipp (25 Broadway), Victor Brener (25 Broadway)

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, Victor Brener

Course: CULTURAL MYTHOLOGY

Room: Meeting Room 15-17

Class: Creation Myths

In the beginning there is total emptiness; or, in the beginning there is limitless expanse of water; or, in the beginning there was an egg containing potential for everything. Sometimes there is chaos, sometimes a single god or many gods, but always a story of how things came to be. These are stories that have been told and retold, between peoples of a specific culture and shared across others. It's time to create some new ones: if you're so inclined, write a creation myth of your own and join us post-class as we share our creativity.

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz & Ellen Shapiro

Coordinators: Donna K. Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

WEDNESDAY, October 6th @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Room: Auditorium

Subject: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Eric Larson

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Poland and Czechoslovakia had already fallen, and the Dunkirk evacuation was just two weeks away. For the next twelve months, Hitler would wage a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons (30,000 of them Londoners) and destroying two million homes. It was up to Churchill to hold the country together and persuade President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally - that she was willing to fight to the end. In *The Splendid and the Vile*, Erik Larson describes how Churchill taught the British people "the art of being fearless." It is a story of political brinkmanship but also an intimate domestic drama.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES

Room: Classroom 15-17

The second class will continue a celebration of Heroines of our youth. Lois Klein will talk about Jo March from Little Women and Ellen Shapiro will present the story of Anne of Green Gables.

When Louisa Mae Alcott published her semi auto-biographical novel of Little Women, in 1868, few could have predicted that this domestic story about four sisters, surviving poverty during the Civil War would become such a classic, timeless success.

Our heroine, Jo March, has inspired young women all over the world to believe in their dreams ... As Marmee counsels her daughter, “let the world know you are alive.” You will hear the back story of Louisa Mae Alcott and view clips from a sampling of the many film productions of Little Women. At the conclusion, I hope you will share your own personal connections to Jo March.

“There’s such a lot of different Annes in me. I Sometimes think that is why I’m such a troublesome person. If I was just the one Anne it would be ever so much more comfortable, but then it wouldn’t be half so interesting.”

We first meet Anne when Matthew Cuthbert goes, at the turn of the last century, to the train station in Prince Edward Island, Canada, to pick up the orphan boy he expects is coming to help out on his farm. He finds instead the eleven-year-old girl, sent by mistake from an orphan asylum. In *Anne of Green Gables*, published in 1908, Anne searches out, and finds, other “kindred spirits,” who are alive to the beauties of nature and the imagination. And the author, Lucy Maud Montgomery, also wrote with sly wit describing the eccentricities of the small-town inhabitants. Trying to fit her romantic vision of life into the workaday world of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island, lands Anne in many predicaments. But as Anne says, “It is only very foolish folk who talk sense all the time.”

For those who want to dip into *Anne of Green Gables*, [click here](#). Read as much or none at all as you like.

Presenters: Lois Klein & Ellen Shapiro

Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, October 6th @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

Course: ART TALKS

Come join for short talks and fun discussion.

Andrea Irvine on Nell Painter, renowned historian, headed Princeton's Program in African-American Studies during her decorated 17-year tenure AND at aged 64 decided to be an artist & enrolled in Rutgers Art School

Sheryl Harawitz on Austrian painter & stage designer Xenia Hauser - Sheryl will focus on Hauser's paintings from the Albertina Museum in Vienna.

Presenters: Andrea Irvine, Sheryl Harawitz

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

WEDNESDAY, October 6th @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Room: Auditorium

Speaker: Phillip Lopate

Title: My Love Affair with the Essay

The essay is a literary form dating back to ancient times, with a long and glorious history. As the record par excellence of a mind tracking its own thoughts, it can be considered the intellectual bellwether of any modern society. The great promise of essays is the freedom they offer to explore, digress, acknowledge uncertainty, evade dogmatism,

embrace contradiction and engage in intimate conversation with one's readers and forebears.

Phillip Lopate, who has just completed editing a three-volume historical anthology of the American essay, as well as having edited the ever-popular *Art of the Personal Essay* and written several personal essay collections himself, will discuss his own love affair with the essay, its promises and pitfalls, and why it is undergoing a resurgence at the moment.

Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer, Phyllis Weiss, Karen Levin

THURSDAY, October 7th @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Animal Cognition.

It used to be thought that humans were the only animal capable of thinking, reasoning, planning. Some people still think so. However, in the past few decades it has been clearly demonstrated that other animals have these capabilities. There has been lots of information about other primates and elephants- which will not be discussed. Rather the focus will be on more surprising animals including cephalopods (octopuses and relatives), various birds, and cetaceans (whales).

Presenter: Judy Weis

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Judy Weis

Course: POINT OF VIEW

Room: Zoom only – Use Classroom 15-17 Link to Enter the Class

Subject: Issues of the Day

Point of View is an interactive discussion class, in which the coordinators (as well as class members) bring in short opinion pieces - editorials, op-Ed articles, reviews, etc. – that express a particular point of view. The class then discusses and debates them, presenting arguments for and against the expressed views.

Here are links to four opinion pieces from the New York Times that will be discussed in this class (note that you will not be able to read the entire articles unless you have an on-line subscription):

- [**Article 1**](#): “Adoptees Have the Same Right to Citizenship as Biological Children”
- [**Article 2**](#): “What Democrats Need to Do Now”
- [**Article 3**](#): “God Has No Place in Supreme Court Decisions”
- [**Article 4**](#): “Why I Write”

Discussion leader: Barbara Gordon

Coordinators: Terri Hicks, Barbara Gordon, Robert Hartmann

THURSDAY, October 7th @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Republic of Zimbabwe

The Republic of Zimbabwe is a land-locked country in Southern Africa, located between two large rivers and bordered by South Africa to the South, Zambia to the North, Botswana in the South-West and Mozambique in the East. The population in 2020 was estimated to be about 15 million, of whom approximately 30,000 people (0.2% of the population) were white. There are 16 official languages, the most important ones being Shona, Ndebele and English. The name Zimbabwe is a Shona term meaning “Houses of Stone” or “Venerated House” referring to their ancestral Chief’s houses or graves. The country has passed through some tumultuous times. These can be conveniently divided into four distinct periods: Pre-Colonial Times, The Colonial Era (1888-1964), The Era of Self-Proclaimed White Independence (1965-1980) and the Era of Independent, Black Majority Rule (1980-present). A

single person was the dominant force in each of the last three periods – Cecil John RHODES in Colonial Times, Ian Douglas SMITH during white rule and Robert MUGABE during Majority Black Rule.

This presentation will largely follow the last three periods, which covers the past 130 years. Key moments in its history, and key aspects of each dominant person will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on the ways the prevailing political and economic factors affected the quality of life for the citizens during those times, and will reveal the good times and bad for the two predominant races living in this fertile land.

Presenter: David Bernard

Coordinators: Ann Goerdt, Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss

Course: Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: “We will not be missed” by Jonathan Lear

[Click here for a new essay by Jonathan Lear](#), moral philosopher & psychoanalyst, disciple of Aristotle and Freud, and one of my go-to writers for understanding how people flourish or fail, especially when the future looks bleak. Lear believes that we are equipped to deal with catastrophic loss, that indeed we train for it in surprising ways. But we also take a perverse comfort in despair, which “thrives when it is not fully conscious of what it is.” Some of you will remember our discussion of Lear’s book *Radical Hope*, about the Crow Indians, led by their visionary chief Plenty Coups, facing the end of their civilization. Are we in a similar moment?

Discussion leader: Larry Shapiro

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, October @ 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Course: **POETS’ WORKSHOP**

Room: Classroom 52-53

(Note: This class ends at 3 pm)

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

Coordinators: Judith Winn, Helen Saffran

FRIDAY, October 8th @ 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

CultureQuest Virtual Tour

Friday, October 8th, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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.