

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

**This is a “B” Week
November 29 – December 3**

There are three links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, Classroom 52-53. 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 <https://zoom.us> 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.

FOR ALL AUDITORIUM CLASSES:

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

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

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

Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFpptTGJBZXF6eGlp WnBGeFNCdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 252525

***On Tuesday morning, November 30,
the morning of our New Members Meeting,
Quest will be serving coffee, bagels and
cake.***

***Please come and join us, share a cup of
coffee and some conversation.***

All QUEST members are welcome

MONDAY, November 29 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Boundaries in Asia

The siting, deployment and protection of borders has been a leitmotif of big power diplomacy in Asia for the last 200 years, no less today than before. This discussion will highlight both ongoing major boundary issues and also smaller ones of contemporary interest

Presenter: Steven Baker

Coordinators: Steven Baker, Pete Weis

Course: RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
Room: Classroom 15-17

In the first part of this class we'll discuss the political thought of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. Our focus will be on their different approaches to achieving racial justice in America and on the impact their thought had on the 1960s and that it continues to have today. We will then consider the different perspectives on the "American Dream" held by two contemporary African-American thinkers - Ta-Nehisi Coates and Jason D. Hill.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

MONDAY, November 29 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GREAT PLAYS
Room: Auditorium
Topic: Two one act comedies by David Wiltse

Two one act comedies by David Wiltse will be presented. They are TO WIT AND TO WHOM and TRIANGLES FOR TWO. Both plays deal with relationships between men and women. In addition, the couple in the first play observe the proceedings in the garden of their neighbors who appear in the second play. Confused? Come see the presentation for clarification ... and laughter.

Presenter: Roy Clary
Cast: Roy Clary, June Jacobson
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Course: LAW AND ORDER

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: International Law of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

They are invading our countries by land, and by sea. They don't look like us, they don't worship our God. We let everyone in, and give them everything. We are being overrun. Do these people have any rights?

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, November 30 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Joan Miro's sculpture

Joan Miro did not attempt three-dimensional works until 1929, (age 36) and when he did, was not in the least concerned for the rules that might prevail in a domain other than his own (painting). His purely sculptural works are few in number and were executed relatively late in his career. Very often, sculptures and objects are linked with other means of expression – collage, painting, or ceramics – in unpredictable, continually new combinations, strongly dominated by fantasy and the spirit of playfulness.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

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

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Room: Classroom 15-17
Topic: Britain's Penal Colony: Australia

Although 17,018 kilometers from London to Sydney — as the crow flies — Britain set its sights on capturing the resources of Australia as a Pacific base for its growing fleet and reduce its penal population by sending hundreds of its incarcerated men to build towns and the roads to connect them as it claimed the continent for the Commonwealth, almost wiping out the Indigenous population in the process. In this class, we'll first bust some myths about Australia then discuss how it became a nation, its importance as a part of the British Empire and the impact of its having been a penal colony on today's culture. We'll also take a quick look at New Zealand and a longer look at Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and Norfolk Island.

Presenters: David Bartash, Donna Ramer
Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, November 30 @ 12:00 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

Course: NEW MEMBER MEETING - IN PERSON ONLY
Room: Lunch Room

The New Members Meeting is designed to develop familiarity with all aspects of Quest and to encourage new members to participate in our Lifelong Learning Community.

Guest Speakers: Sheryl Harawitz, Joyce West
Committee Co-Chairs: Pam Gemelli, Betty Farber, John Spiegel

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

Course: CULTURAL MYTHOLOGY

Room: Meeting Room 15-17

Topic: Mother Gods

In mythology, as reflected in our real lives, mothers are complicated and contradictory figures. Mother gods may represent wisdom and sensuality, creativity and destruction, safety and danger. In class we will explore these aspects of mother gods looking at Hindu, Ancient Greek, Celtic and other sources. Who might you choose to be your mythological mother god?

**Presenters: Debbie Golomb, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz,
Donna Ramer**

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

TUESDAY, November 30 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: CONTEMPORARY OPERA (Zoom only – Use Auditorium link to enter session – Note: 2:00pm start time)

Topic: Samuel Barber's VANESSA Act II and III [1956]

Recap: Abandoned by her lover Anatol, Vanessa retreats from the world, hoping he'll return. Twenty years later, Anatol's handsome young son arrives unexpectedly and seduces both Vanessa and her niece Erica.

What happens next is anyone's guess, but if you come for the conclusion today, all will be revealed. Sung in English, with English subtitles. Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti.

Coordinators and Presenters: Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, Victor Brener

WEDNESDAY, December 1 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Room: Auditorium

Topic: *El Norte: The Epic and Forgotten Story of Hispanic North America* By Carrie Gibson

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

***El Norte: The Epic and Forgotten Story of Hispanic North America* is a sweeping but extremely readable history of the Hispanic presence in the United States by journalist and historian Carrie Gibson. Her story begins more than a hundred years before the Mayflower and Jamestown, when Spanish adventurers began exploring and claiming large areas of North America, from La Florida in the southeast to New Spain in the southwest. It continues through the Republic of Texas, the Mexican-American War that resulted in the United States acquiring the northern half of Mexico, and the annexation of Puerto Rico. She ends with the massive immigration of recent times and the conflicts over our changing American identity. *The New York Times* described *El Norte* as "the book that Americans, Anglo and Hispanic, should read as an education on their own American place or role."**

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: Coming of Age Heroines

We all experienced it – that period of transition from childhood to adulthood. We all remember it -that time of bodily changes, sexual awakening and the growing awareness that the world is not always a safe or sane place. Perhaps this is why coming of age stories are so popular and there are so many heroes and heroines of the genre.

We will look at three: that curious girl Alice who experienced many bodily changes; inquisitive Scout Finch who learned a lot about the human condition and Frankie Adams who longs to belong to something even if it just as a member of the wedding.

These three were chosen out of the many because they are favorites of the presenter who herself has never forgotten that time in her life although she winces when she remembers and has sometimes tried to block it out of her mind.

Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly

Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, December 1 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: ART TALKS - IN PERSON ONLY

Room 15-17

Topic: Come join for short talks and fun discussion.

This month we'll take a look at noted authors and songwriters who are also visual artists. Using Donald Friedman's fascinating book, *The Author's Brush* as our guide, we'll use the multi-talented individuals in his book as a starting point to talk about artistic talent, the drive to create and the relationship between creativity and the type of art being created. From Colette to Kerouac to Patti Smith & David Bowie - get ready for a different view of some well-known authors/singers.

Presenters: Beth Callender, Andrea Irvine

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Steven Allen, Andrea Irvine, Art Spar, Joyce West

WEDNESDAY, December 1 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES - Zoom only – (Use Auditorium link to enter session – Note 2:00pm start time)**
Topic: **A Whale of a Tale**
Speaker: **Dr. Howard Rosenbaum**

Are whales an endangered species? Dr. Howard Rosenbaum will discuss how science and technology are being used to minimize the 21st century environmental impacts on whales.

He is a Senior Conservation Scientist and Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) Ocean Giants Program, which aims to secure the future of whales, dolphins, and other marine species. Headquartered in New York, the WCS owns and operates the New York Aquarium. He is also a Senior Scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, and a core faculty member at Columbia University. Rosenbaum has led marine mammal conservation projects around the world. He has authored 97 peer-reviewed publications, co-edited a book on genomics, and his work has been featured widely in the popular media.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, December 2 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: The Evolution of Altruism.

There are countless examples of how evolution has produced organisms capable of prolonging their lives and of propagating their genes into the next generation. But there also are a significant number of examples in which an organism sacrifices some of its own prospects for longer life and future progeny to aid the life and reproduction of other members of its species. The mechanisms that allow evolution to produce these examples of altruistic behavior have generated a large amount of productive research over the past 60 years as well as some heated controversies within the field of evolutionary biology that persist to this day. This session will focus on the most important findings of this research and will discuss the reasons for controversy, with particular emphasis on any implications for understanding human behavior.

Presenter: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Judy Weis

Course: POINT OF VIEW (Zoom only - use Classroom 15-17 link to enter session)

Topic: 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.

Discussion leader: Barbara Gordon

Coordinators: Terri Hicks, Barbara Gordon, Robert Hartmann

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

Course: THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Ghana

We will review the history of Ghana, the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to secure independence from Britain on March 6, 1957. We will focus on its first President, Kwame Nkrumah, his theory of neo-colonialism and how it affects the country today, both economically and politically. We will look at the role Ghana has played in the continent of Africa regarding African unity.

Presenter: Sandra Abramson

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss, Ann Goerd

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: Self-awareness

Our reading for the December 2 class is “A Theory of My Own Mind,” an essay by cognitive neuroscientist Stephen M. Fleming. When the philosopher Gilbert Ryle theorized in 1949 that, to understand themselves, people apply the same cognitive tools they use to understand other people, his idea was ridiculed and dismissed. Scientist Fleming agrees with philosopher Ryle that this is how it happens. If Fleming is right, that should change our understanding of how we achieve self-awareness, and possibly lead to better ways to understand ourselves. Let’s discuss. I’ve sent out a pdf of the essay via Quest Business, along with some optional short readings suggested by Steve Allen.

Discussion Leader: Larry Shapiro
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, December 2 @ 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 "belief" 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 Safran

CultureQuest Tour

Museum of Arts and Design - 2 Columbus Circle, NYC
Friday, December 3rd, 11 AM – 12 Noon

We have arranged an in-person guided tour of two exhibitions at the museum, Carrie Moyer and Sheila Pepe: Tabernacles for Trying Times and 45 Stories of Jewelry: 1947 – Now.

The tour will be limited to 25 people. Please email Renee Woloshin at rswolo@aol.com to sign up. The museum recently told us that some of their other galleries will be closed for maintenance on December 3rd and because of this admission to our tour will now be free.

About the Exhibitions:

Carrie Moyer and Sheila Pepe: Tabernacles for Trying Times

The first major museum survey of painter Carrie Moyer and sculptor Sheila Pepe, whose abstract works, rich with color and materiality, explore themes of craft, feminism, and queer activism. Highlighting the artists' individual styles and techniques, collaborative works, and new directions, the exhibition presents their most ambitious collaboration to date. The impressively scaled Parlor for the People is a site-specific installation that reimagines the religious tradition of the tabernacle as a communal space open to all for the discussion of justice, equality, knowledge, and these “trying times.”

45 Stories in Jewelry: 1947 to Now

MAD was an early advocate of jewelry as a form of artistic expression. Selected by an advisory committee to represent significant developments in art jewelry since the mid-century, the featured pieces showcase jewelry artists for whom anything can serve as inspiration—from a material or found object to the pressing social and political issues of our time. Unlike costume and precious jewelry, it is the concept that takes center stage in these works.

Suggestions for lunch:

- **Robert Restaurant (fine dining) located in the museum overlooking Central Park. Reservations may be required.**
- **Pain Quotidien, 1800 Broadway at Columbus Circle**
- **Whole Foods Eateries located in the lower level of the Time Warner building, 10 Columbus Circle**