

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

November 15-19

This is a “B” Week

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=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlp WnBGeFNCdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 252525

The "Hot News" Today Should Bring a Smile To Your Face

Starting this coming Monday, November 15th, thanks to the good efforts of Pam Gemelli and her crew of volunteers, we will once again have morning hot coffee available in the Quest lunchroom.

And -- if that's not enough to bring you in early -- once a week we will be treated to bagels, donuts, Irish soda bread, cookies, and other treats --- all provided by yet another cadre of volunteers.

So -- first of all --- a big thank you to our cadre of coffee volunteers --- and secondly, we look forward to seeing you around 9:30 in the lunch room for daily coffee, always interesting conversation, and occasional treats!

MONDAY, November 15 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Europe

Europe is the continent most enlivened with demarcations delimiting political entities smaller than conventional nations. Linear borders have been and still are deployed to define statelets and military conformations that must be respected. This lecture will describe the full range of these distinctive and perhaps peculiar boundaries.

Presenter: Steven Baker

Coordinators: Steven Baker, Pete Weis

Course: RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Room: Classroom 15-17

During the first part of our class this week, we will finish our discussion of Abraham Lincoln by examining his political thought and statesmanship as President and by pondering how we should regard our sixteenth president today. We shall then begin to discuss race relations during the Civil Rights era by focusing on the political thought of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinator: Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

MONDAY, November 15 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: PRESENTERS' SHOWCASE

Room: Auditorium

Topic: The Medici Family

The Medici family was one of the most powerful and influential dynasties in European history. After their humble beginnings in the 14th century wool industry the family began a banking practice with a double-entry form of accounting now used throughout the world and used their wealth to patronize artistic titans such as Donatello, Fra Angelico, Michelangelo and DaVinci. They never served in government or the political class, as it is referred to today. However, even without

directly serving, they greatly influenced centuries of European politics. Come and marvel at their diverse challenges and achievements.

Presenter: Ruth Ward

Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen, Palma Mahl

Course: LAW AND ORDER

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: Law and (Dis)Order

The struggle between Federalism and States' Rights is alive and well – or not so well – in Washington DC and various states. We will look at the history of this struggle through the lens of several laws: The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Texas Abortion Law S8 and recent voting laws passed by many states. We will look at both Supreme Court actions as well as those of the DOJ.

Presenter: Sandra Abramson

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, November 16 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: From “The Gates of Paradise” to “The Gates of Hell”

In the 1400's, Lorenzo Ghiberti created a set of bronze doors based on biblical passages for the baptistry of the Duomo in Florence. These were so beautiful that they were dubbed the "Gates of Paradise." Four centuries later Auguste Rodin created another set of doors based on Dante's Inferno that he named the "Gates of Hell." This talk will focus on the history of both of these doors and their immense influence on the art world.

Presenter: Susan Diehl

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

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: A Critical Review of British Colonialism in South Africa

This session will review the British experience as colonizers in South Africa. We'll discuss their apparent objectives in first seeking to take control of the Dutch Cape Colony early in the 19th century. We will examine how and why they pursued expansion from that base in the Cape and how that brought them into repeated and violent conflict with native populations and the early Dutch settlers – the Boers. Then, having achieved the subjugation of those who certainly had a greater claim to the land, they gave it all away (retaining only a lot of mineral rights, of course). The manner of British decolonization, considering its long-lasting impacts into the 20th century and still today, might be seen as more unjust even than the colonization itself.

Presenter: Brian Bosworth

Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, November 16 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CULTURAL MYTHOLOGY

Room: Meeting Room 15-17

Topic: Trickster

Ever wonder how to identify a trickster god in mythology? Did it ever strike you that some character in mainstream literature reminded you of a trickster god? During this class, we will explore the unique abilities and common characteristics of male and female trickster gods then look at how they keep tricking us into including them in mainstream media and pop up in unusual places.

Presenter: Judy Hampson

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

TUESDAY, November 16 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: CONTEMPORARY OPERA (Zoom only – *Use Auditorium link to enter session*)

Topic: Barber's VANESSA [1956]

Pulitzer Prize winner; Barber's first opera.

Abandoned by her lover Anatol, Vanessa retreats from the world, hoping he'll return. Twenty years later, Anatol's handsome young son arrives unexpectedly

Sung in English, with English subtitles. Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti.

**Coordinators and Presenters (all Zoom): Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp,
Victor Brener**

WEDNESDAY, November 17 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Room: Auditorium

Topic: *How to Be an Antiracist* By Ibram X. Kendi

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Ibram Xolani Kendi is an American professor of history and international relations, antiracist activist, and historian of race and discriminatory policy in America. He is one of America's foremost historians and leading antiracist voices. A #1 *New York Times* best-selling author, he is also an ideas columnist at *The Atlantic* and a correspondent at CBS News. His achievements are the product of his lifelong struggle to understand the nature of the racism he has seen all around him.

In 2019, Kendi's third book, *How to Be an Antiracist*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and was hailed by the *New York Times* as "the most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind." Come and decide if you find his work courageous, and share some bold ideas of your own.

Presenter: Ruth Ward

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert and *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy.

***Madame Bovary* is considered “one of the finest “realistic” novels of the 19th century”. It stands as an unadorned, unembellished portrayal of everyday life and people. The pertinence of Emma Bovary’s romantic fantasies that lead to her catastrophic downfall can be seen in the social media scandals that are now emerging. We’ll explore how our imagined lives have affected our present lives.**

In late 19th century Russian high society, St. Petersburg aristocrat Anna Karenina enters into a life changing adulterous affair with the dashing Count Vronsky. If a heroine can be defined as a woman noted for courageous acts or nobility of character, one who is expected to evoke the reader’s sympathy, can we say that Anna meets the criteria? And if she doesn’t, why not? Anna Karenina is known as one of the best characters in fiction. Everyone in the novel loves her and so do we. Should she be applauded for her passion or condemned for her foolhardiness. Is she to be admired or spurned? Deciding what to think of Anna is one of the central challenges of *Anna Karenina*.

For a summary of each novel, click on the link:

<https://www.getabstract.com/en/summary/madame-bovary/32532>

[Anna Karenina Summary | GradeSaver](#)

Presenters: Joyce West (Flaubert) and Jane Lubin (Tolstoy)

Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, November 17 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY - IN PERSON ONLY

Room 15-17

Topic: Modern Dance

We will screen and discuss two solo dances inspired by Greek and Biblical mythologies. “Ariadne”, choreographed by Cohen and “Rebecca” choreographed by the Israeli/Yemenite, Margalit Oved. In creating “Ariadne”, Cohen was inspired by music of the Greek composer, Vangelis, and by ancient Greek paintings. She imagined Ariadne’s internal struggle and process in owning her fate after being abandoned. In “Rebecca”, the accompanying music is a Yemenite song sung by Oved, who delineated a girl on her way to the well. She imagined Rebecca as being a confident young woman, aware of her beauty and power.

Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen

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

WEDNESDAY, November 17 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Speaker: Janice Nimura,
*author of **The Sisters Blackwell***

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Auditorium

Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman in America to receive a medical degree in 1849. Her sister Emily was the third in 1854. Bestselling author

Janice Nimura will discuss these pioneering women and their remarkable achievements.

Janice Nimura graduated from Yale University and received her M.A. from Columbia University in East Asian studies. She is also the author of *DAUGHTERS OF THE SAMURAI*. She believes history is made of stories and fell in love with archival treasure hunting especially when it led to discovering the forgotten lives of extraordinary nineteenth century women. She received a Public Scholar Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for *THE SISTERS BLACKWELL*.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, November 18 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: This Just in! (Part 1: The Solar System)

The latest developments from the past year in space sciences and technology focused on our Solar System.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg

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: Terri Hicks

Coordinators: Terri Hicks, Barbara Gordon, Robert Hartmann

THURSDAY, November 18 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Egypt

We will be examining the history of Egypt with a concentration on events in the 20th and 21st centuries, and then taking an in depth look at some of the major problems facing Egypt today including water scarcity, population explosion, women's rights, and religious discrimination. Come to the African Continent Course to learn about these issues, and express your opinions.

Presenters: Bob Gottfried and Ellen Gottfried

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss, Ann Goerd

Course: GREAT CONVERSATIONS

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: “*The Man Who Loved Islands*” by D.H. Lawrence

This is a story about a man searching for something that human life rarely provides, and three islands that he comes to live in and possess. From a late period in Lawrence’s life, it contains most of the elements that make his work so fascinating even after it has ceased to be shocking. Some of us might compare it to “*To Room Nineteen*” by Doris Lessing that we discussed at the last class. Please come to discuss or listen in. A pdf of the story has been sent via Quest Business. Let me know if you need it resent. It can also be found on page 161 of our course book, *Great Conversations 5*.

Discussion Leader: Larry Shapiro

Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, November 18 @ 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 "discover" 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

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 for Friday, December 3rd at 11:00am. Two docents from MAD, one of whom (Deborah Golomb) is a Quest member, will guide us through the selected exhibits.

The tour will be limited to 25 people. To sign up, please email

Renee Woloshin at rswolo@aol.com by Wednesday, November 24th. Tickets for the tour will be \$12.00.

To reserve your spot:

- **Bring your check for \$12.00 made out to “Quest” to the office by Wednesday, November 24th. It should be in a sealed envelope with “CultureQuest “ written on the front. Put the envelope in the mailbox labeled “CultureQuest/Renee Woloshin” (it is in the first column of mailboxes near the bottom of the column.)**
- **Alternatively, you can mail your check for \$12.00 made out to “Quest “ to the following address:
Renee Woloshin, 557 Coventry Drive, Nutley, NJ 07110**

The check needs to arrive by Wednesday, November 24th.

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**

About the Exhibition - 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.”