

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**November 8-12**

**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.**

**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=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH 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:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlpWnBGeFNCdz09>

**Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632**

**Passcode: 252525**

**Most presentations at 25 Broadway will feature a live presenter. However, some classes with a live audience at 25 Broadway occasionally may feature a speaker presenting from home. Classes with an at-home presenter are noted in the class blurb.**

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**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Album: *Home and Away* by Clive Gregson and Christine Collister (1987)**

*“One of the best albums of the '80s, and certainly one of the most unjustly overlooked.”*

— National Public Radio

**In 1986, British songwriter Clive Gregson recorded some original folk duets with singer Christine Collister at small clubs throughout England. He then made the songs available to the duo's die-hard fans on cassette**

tapes. In 1987 Flying Fish records released a vinyl version of the cassette called *Home and Away*. The LP was hardly a smash hit, but critics were awed by the sparseness and beauty of the songs. *Not bad for an album that cost less than \$100 to record.*

Gregson and Collister are still unknown to most Americans, but *Home and Away* remains a timeless musical treasure. Join us for this special session and we think you'll agree.

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

**Course: HOWARDS END**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**

We will begin class by discussing Chapters 20 – 22 which we did not have time for during the last class, and then go on to Chapters 23 – 33, the reading assignment for the week. What is Margaret's reaction when she finally sees *Howards End*? Why does Margaret become angry and upset about the car accident on the road to Evie's wedding? What dramatic consequences result from Helen's impulsive, irrational decision to bring the Bastis to Oniton on the day of the wedding? Like all authors, Forster expresses some of his most cherished beliefs through the words or thoughts of major characters. In Chapter 22 what is Forster's message in the "sermon" Margaret is thinking after her acceptance of Henry Wilcox's proposal of marriage?

**Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Robert Moses: Hero, Villain or Both?**

**During his more than fifty years of public service, Robert Moses (1888-1981) left a lasting imprint on New York State and New York City. His legacy includes playing a central role in reorganizing New York State Government in the 1920s, establishing New York's present state park system, planning and building every bridge, expressway and parkway constructed in New York City between the 1930s and 1960s, bringing the permanent United Nations headquarters to New York City and creating Lincoln Center. His building projects also are responsible for more than 500,000 people being forced to leave their homes and his opposition to mass transit continues to contribute to New York's severe traffic problems.**

**We will review Moses' fascinating career and discuss the continuing debate between his critics and admirers over whether Moses' impact on life in New York was positive or negative.**

**Presenter: Stuart Parker**

**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](mailto: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.

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Tony Blair**

Tony Blair was the first Labour Prime Minister in Britain to be elected three times in succession, occupying number 10 Downing Street from 1997 until 2007. Unlike previous Labour leaders, he broke away from the traditional party and introduced New Labour, merging the positive aspects of Thatcher's Conservative values with a socialism that aspired to connect to the modern world. He grew up in the affluent middle classes, went to Oxford and became a barrister. He was immensely popular until he backed George Bush over the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, against the wishes of his own supporters. A charismatic and sincere politician, even after he retired, he continued to work towards achieving his dream of global independence and international community.

**Presenter: Judy Hampson**

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

**Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Poetry of World War One: Part 1: The British Poets**

**This week we will begin a two-part program on the poetry of World War One. For our first session we will focus on the British poets. London**

**was a nexus of English language poetry at the beginning of the 20th Century. Poets went off to war with their rifles and pens depicting the events they experienced. We will follow the arch of the war years as poetry went from patriotic to despondent as the war took its toll. Volunteer readers will read a wide array of poems followed by discussion.**

**Presenters: Joyce Hinote and Art Spar**

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

**Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS**

**Room: Classroom 52-53**

**Subject: L'Oeuvre vs l'auteur**

**Peut-on dissocier l'oeuvre de son auteur? Par exemple, pouvons nous regarder les films de Woody Allen ou de Roman Polansky? Pouvons nous admirer une statue de Thomas Jefferson? Nous allons discuter ces questions en groupe.**

**Subject: The Work vs the Author**

**Can we dissociate the work from its author? For example, can we watch the films of Woody Allen or Roman Polansky? Can we admire a statue of Thomas Jefferson? We will discuss these questions as a group.**

**Presenter: Bob Reiss**

**Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 @ 1:00 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**Course: THE FABULOUS FIFTIES**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Roy Cohn**

**One of the enduring legacies of the "Fabulous" Fifties has been, for better or worse, the lingering effects of McCarthyism. Today we'll hear the fascinating story of Roy Cohn, his incredible rise to a position of power and influence, and his perhaps unlikely connection to our last President.**

**Presenter: Michael Wellner**

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

**Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

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

**Room: Room 15-17**

***"The best time to plan a book is while you're doing the dishes."***

**- Agatha Christie**

**If you love to write, we encourage you to join our small supportive group, regardless of your level or which genre you prefer: prose, poems, plays or essays (but we do ask you not to exceed 1,000 words).**

- Class begins with a ten-minute free-writing prompted exercise with the option to share with the class.**
- Prior to Tuesday's session, you may send a copy of your writing to [Hifein13@gmail.com](mailto:Hifein13@gmail.com) and [DonnaRamer@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaRamer@gmail.com) by 6:00 p.m., Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and we will include it in a compilation distributed to the class for constructive critique and discussion. You may also just bring a copy to class.**

- All writings will be read by the author, whether they are in person or on Zoom.
- Attending in person? Please bring 10 copies to share with others in the room.

Need some inspiration? How about *The View from My Window* or *The Last Time I was In . . .*

**Coordinators: Hilda Feinstein, Donna Ramer, Helen Saffran**

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

**Room: Classroom 52-53**

We will discuss chapters 12 through 15, scheduled for the October 26<sup>th</sup> canceled class. Two crucial incidents in those chapters lead to further humiliations for Lily that we will cover in Book II, chapters 1 through 4.

**Presenters: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga**

**Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

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

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: The Intimacy of Slavery**

When we think and read and learn about slavery, it is often as an abstract idea, a choice to attain wealth, whose effects remain with us into the twenty-first century.

**Ta-Nehisi Coates reminds us:**

**“Slavery is not an indefinable mass of flesh. It is a particular, specific enslaved woman, whose mind is active as your own, whose range of feeling is as vast as your own, who prefers the way the light falls in one particular spot in the woods, who enjoys fishing where the water eddies in a nearby stream... and knows, inside herself, that she is as intelligent and capable as anyone.”**

**Our inquiry will focus on the intimate aspects of slavery, the meaning of coerced and bound flesh and sexuality and motherhood.**

**Presenter: Diane Crothers**

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

**Course: SHAKESPEARE**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Play: A Midsummer Night’s Dream**

**We will continue our exploration of the play with members of the class reading Act IV and parts of Act V aloud. There will be ample time for discussion that will include the mystery of dreams. In addition, Peter Dichter will read a favorite selection of his from Othello.**

**Coordinators: Roy Clary, James Brook, Ellie Schaffer**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 12:10 – 12:55 P.M.**

**Course: BOOK CLUB (*In – person only*)**

**Room: 52-53**

**Book: *Hamnet* by Maggie O’Farrell**

**Our book will be *Hamnet* by Maggie O’Farrell, an historical novel that won the National Book Critics Circle Award and was named one of the New York Times 10 Best Books of the Year in 2020. Working from the**

few facts that are known about William Shakespeare's marriage and children, O'Farrell creates a compelling, multi-dimensional Anne Shakespeare, and imagines what the impact of the early death of their son Hamnet might have been on William and on his wife and how, ultimately, it may have inspired *Hamlet*, the play.

**Presenter: Joan Vreeland**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: The Battery**

Today's presentation will start with an old riddle that you will surely think has nothing whatever to do with this class: Which came first – the chicken or the egg? Or to be more relevant, which was invented or discovered first? Electricity, or the battery? Did some scientist, centuries ago, discover electricity --- and then say: "What I need is some device that will allow me to store, and transport, this electricity from place to place, or from use to use --- that is to say from job to job. Or, on the other hand, did some scientist first discover the battery --- and then say, "Oh. This is neat. Let's go and find a use for it." You may be surprised at the answer. Join us and learn of the surprising history of the battery!

**Presenter: Michael Wellner**

**Coordinators: Pete Weis, Jim Brook**

**Course: READING THE RABBIS**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Leaping Before You Look**

**We will look at an extraordinary discussion among the Talmudic Sages with respect to the relationship between knowledge and ethical action.**

**Presenter: Paul Golomb**

**Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: ANTISEMITISM: PAST, PRESENT, FACTS, MYTHS**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Academic Boycott of Israel and Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS): Political Movements, or Antisemitic Activities**

**Almost 20 years ago, two separate but related movements on behalf of Palestinian rights emerged upon the world scene. The first was an attempt to boycott Israeli universities and Israeli academics by European university faculty and their institutions. The second was the launching of an effort to persuade world leaders, students and businesses to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel, its leaders, its corporations, and its government for their treatment of Palestinians over many years.**

**We will examine the origins of these movements, their successes and failures, with an eye to determining whether they are simply a political response to Israeli policies and existence, or an expression of deep seated antisemitic animus not only to the Jewish state but to Jews everywhere.**

**In addition, we will be looking at antisemitism in American higher education, both past and present. And, whether antisemitism has had a role to play in some American learned societies and university faculties embracing both the academic boycott and BDS.**

**Finally, we will look at the responses of American governments, the Jewish communities, and religious leaders to both movements and see if the responses are appropriate or an overreaction to the threat posed by these movements.**

**Presenter: David Grossman**

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

**Course: READING BLACK LIVES**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: The Struggle for Voting Rights in New York and the U.S.**

**How has the fight over Black voting rights and citizenship shaped American democracy? The push for universal (male) voting rights in New York began during the Revolution and continued after the Civil War. The effort to restrict the voices of those not originally included in the American democratic compact – enslaved people, free people of color, women, propertyless white men – continues. How does the success or failure of universal voting affect our democracy? Come to a lively discussion of New York State's often surprising history and our democratic future. Please read the articles in *Quest Business* from *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America 1619-2019*, our text for the semester.**

**Presenter: Diane Crothers**

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

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

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

**Room: Auditorium**

In a creative and fun environment, class members will continue to explore character development through acting exercises and dramatic monologues.

**Coordinators: Roy Clary, John Spiegel**

**Course: MOZART'S WOMEN**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: *The Marriage of Figaro***

*The Marriage of Figaro* is the most outstanding of Mozart's operas to present women standing up to men from the lowly but spunky servant, Susanna, to the suffering but crafty Countess. Mozart reveals the tensions between royalty and the masses as well as the different guises of love and lust. The original play was banned by Louis XVI. And Mozart's librettist for the opera was forced by the royal censor in Vienna to tone down the politics. There are gorgeously moving arias such as that of the jilted Countess, "Dove sonoi bei momenti?" (Where are the beautiful moments?) as well as remarkable vocal ensembles with four singers taking opposite stances through a musical miracle that only Mozart could carry off.

**Presenter: Penelope Pi-Sunyer**

**Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Linda Downs**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 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**

*(Note: Copies of the stories will no longer be attached to the NWAQ listing. Look for copies of the stories in the separate email about the class sent via QuestBusiness to all Quest members.)*

**1) “Casting Shadows” by Jhumpa Lahiri**  
**Presenter: Arlynn Greenbaum**

**Jhumpa Lahiri (born 1967) is an American author known for her short stories, novels and essays in English, and, more recently, in Italian.**

**2) “The Three Women of Chuck’s Donuts” by Anthony Veasna So**  
**Presenter: Lois Klein**

**Anthony Veasna So (1992 –2020) was an American writer known for short stories, described by NY Times as “crackling, kinetic and darkly comedic” and often drew from his upbringing as a child of Cambodian immigrants.**

**Both stories were published in the New Yorker.**

**If you have any questions or a story to present, please email Nancy at [nancyrye@earthlink.net](mailto:nancyrye@earthlink.net)**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 @ 12 2:00-3:30 PM**

**ATTENTION QUEST MEMBERS:  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR BI-ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

**Our bi-annual General Meeting will place via Zoom on Friday,  
November 12th**

**from 2 to 3:30 pm. Use the auditorium link to enter.**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH  
NxbFI4YnRwdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH<br/>NxbFI4YnRwdz09)**

**Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768**

**Passcode: 252525**

**Quest members will be introduced to our Council Officers, our  
new spring course Lead Coordinators, and our current Committee  
Chairs.**

**The last part of this session will be devoted to an open forum  
discussion led by Technology Committee Chair Wayne Cotter on  
Quest's hybrid program and its efforts to meet the needs of all our  
members, both now and in the future.**

**We want to hear from you: come and express your  
opinion!**