

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**This is an “A” Week**

**December 6 - 9**

**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=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWHxTbDRXQ0RDQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0UmxTbDRXQ0RDQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlpWnBGeFNCDz09>**

**Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632**

**Passcode: 252525**

**MONDAY, December 6 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Album: *Tracy Chapman* by Tracy Chapman**

**Tracy Chapman's 1988 debut album offers a working-class, undeniably black frame of reference. She came to the world stage with a perspective focused on society's margins, although she doesn't like being called a "protest singer." She has a stark but fiercely optimistic worldview. This folk- and blues-heavy singer-songwriter album includes her hits "Behind The Walls," "Fast Car," and "Talking 'Bout A Revolution." The album reached #1 in the U.S. and has sold over 20 million copies worldwide, a remarkable achievement for this Cleveland-born artist.**

**Presenters: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter**

**Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter**

**Course: HOWARDS END**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**As we discuss the last chapters of the book, consider what characters have changed in their views and feelings. Forster has been praised for his clear understanding of both sides of the issues he presents that give his novels their realism and force. Do you agree? What is Forster's vision for the future of England? Is there hope for Margaret's ideal of the good life: "Only connect the prose and the passion, and both will be exulted, and human love will be seen at its height." Do you see the end of the book as an entirely happy conclusion?**

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

**MONDAY, December 6 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Louis and Mary Leakey**

**This session will review the fascinating lives and accomplishments of Louis and Mary Leakey and how their work in Africa over 50 years has shaped our understanding of human evolution. We will focus primarily on the contributions of Louis and Mary, but we'll also take the time to examine how their children and grandchildren have continued to deepen evolution understanding through their own archeology, anthropology, paleontology, and environmentalism in Africa. We will also look at how Louis Leakey helped start the groundbreaking work of three renown primatologists – Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas.**

**Presenter: Brian Bosworth**

**Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Caroline Thompson**

**Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**For this last Contemporary Poetry class of the semester, please bring one of your favorite poems to read aloud, even if you have read it previously. We will then ask for another reading by a volunteer. Please send 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 look forward to hearing you read the poems you love whether you're in person or on Zoom.**

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

**TUESDAY, December 7 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Central America: Past and Present**

**This session will address present and past US policy toward the countries of Central America. We will consider how these countries are alike and how they differ. We will look at the last 100+ years of US policy in that region, identifying continuing themes and new issues –examining how US policies in the past still deeply influence the region today. We'll pay special attention to the US role in creating the underlying conditions that drive illegal migration to the US. We'll see how economic problems, ongoing violence, worsening corruption, and challenges to democracy have been aggravated by the devastating impact of the coronavirus.**

**Presenter: Brian Bosworth**

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

**Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: The Modern Worlds Of War**

**This week we will conclude our semester theme on the poetry of war. Steve Koenig will present an eclectic collection of poetry from the Beat Generation to Southeast Asian and African genres. Not all poetry will be about guns-as-war but will include psychological-racial war and poetry inspired by 9/11. Volunteer readers will read a wide array of poems followed by discussion.**

**Presenter: Steve Koenig**

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

**TUESDAY, December 7 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

**Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS**

**Room: Classroom 52-53**

**Subject: SAVED OR STOLEN? FROM THE CATALAN/FRENCH  
PYRENEES TO NEW YORK CITY'S CLOISTERS MUSEUM**

**St Michel de Cuxa , a large, beautiful and powerful medieval monastery in the Pyrenees, was built in the 9th century and expanded in the 12th with a magnificent cloister. The French Revolution expelled the monks, and it all fell into disrepair. The monks moved back in in 1919. An American collector purchased some of the sculpture. John D Rockefeller took half of the cloister -- columns, carvings and all — in 1938 and had them rebuilt in our Fort Tyron Park for all to see.**

**Saved or stolen? Ask a Frenchman; ask an American lover of medieval art.**

**Sujet: SAUVÉ OU VOLÉ ? DES PYRÉNÉES CATALANES/FRANÇAISES AU  
MUSÉE DES CLOISTERS DE NEW YORK**

**St Michel de Cuxa , un grand, beau et puissant monastère médiéval dans les Pyrenees, a été construit au 9ème siècle et agrandi au 12ème avec un magnifique cloître. La Révolution française a expulsé les moines, et tout est tombé en ruine. Les moines se sont réinstallés en 1919. Un collectionneur américain a acheté une partie de la sculpture. John D Rockefeller a pris la moitié du cloître - colonnes, sculptures et tout - en 1938 et les a fait reconstruire dans notre parc de Fort Tyron pour que tout le monde puisse le voir.**

**Sauvé ou volé ? Demandez à un Français ; demander à un amateur américain d'art médiéval.**

**Presenter: Penelope Pi-Sunyer**

**Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile**

**TUESDAY, December 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: FABULOUS FIFTIES/COMEDY AND SATIRE**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Comedy in the Fifties**

**This fall, the Comedy and Satire and Fabulous Fifties courses shared one time slot. In this final class of the semester, the two courses are combining forces to present "Comedy in the Fifties." In this special session, Michael Wellner will be examining the ups and downs of groundbreaking comedians Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl, while Wayne Cotter will focus on late-night comedy of the fifties, focusing on Tonight Show hosts Steve Allen and Jack Paar. All four of these unique comedy talents influenced popular culture for decades.**

**Presenters: Michael Wellner and Wayne Cotter**

**Joint Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried**

**Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

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

**Room: Room 15-17**

***"Allow your mind to really roam. You're bound to come across something you didn't realize was there, even something worth writing about. Where oh where might you wander?"***

***Alex Steele***

**Join our small supportive writing class and let's share our wandering minds together. All levels and writing genres welcome.**

- We 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](mailto:Hifein13@gmail.com) AND to [Donnaramer1@gmail.com](mailto:Donnaramer1@gmail.com) by *Sunday, December 5*.
- Please keep prose to approximately 1,000 words.
- All writing will be read by the author (*in person and on Zoom*) and constructively critiqued by the class.
- For those attending in person, please bring ten copies for distribution.
- A compilation of all writings submitted will be sent to you via e-mail before class for review.

### Writing Suggestions —

1. Wandering
2. Wondering

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

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

**Room: Classroom 52-53**

In her autobiography “A Backward Glance”, Edith Wharton wrote that she knew how her novels would end as soon as she began. In our final session, we will discuss the controversy about her ending of “The House of Mirth” which depicts the devastation of a woman “who chooses to accept society’s definition of her as no more than a beautiful object. We will also discuss Wharton’s definition of Seldon as a negative hero since “he was, as much as Lily, the victim of his environment.”

**Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga**

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**WEDNESDAY, December 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

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

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Economic Benefits of Slavery**

**The intent of my presentation is show how slavery's economic impact was not limited to the southern states. I will show how slavery's footprints extended throughout the United States, and was in fact worldwide. My objective is to point out how slavery benefited a plethora of economic interests. I.E. Shipping, Manufacturing, Insurance, to name a few. It provided employment for law enforcement officials, especially after the passage of the The Fugitive Slave Law, as the demand for slave patrols increased. These are but a few examples of what I will bring to light during my presentation.**

**Presenter: Richard Byrd**

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

**Course: SHAKESPEARE**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Play: A Midsummer Night's Dream(MND)**

**Our final class of the semester will include:**

- 1. A reading from Hamlet by Leonard Leventon**
- 2. A reading by class members of the tragic story of Pyramus and Thisbe by Ovid**
- 3. Class members will read Shakespeare's comical version of Pyramus and Thisbe from MND**
- 4. A clip of the Pyramus and Thisbe scene as performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company will be shown. This production of MND was directed by Sir Peter Hall. Actors include Judi Dench, Helen Mirren, Diana Riggings and Ian Holm.**

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



**WEDNESDAY December 8 @ 12:10 P.M – 12:55 P.M**

**Course: Book Club (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 52-53**

**Subject: *Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar**

**The novel *Homeland Elegies*, by Ayad Akhtar, was named one of the New York Times 10 Best Books of the Year in 2020. A hybrid of fiction and memoir, it's an insightful and wickedly entertaining epic about Muslim immigrants and their American-born children, a deeply moving father-and-son story that unfolds against the backdrop of tumultuous current events.**

**Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen**

**Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland**

**WEDNESDAY, December 8 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: READING THE RABBIS**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Crimes and Misdemeanors**

**Short of taking a life, how can one tell if a violation is major or minor? The Talmudic Sages were sensitive to this question, which can be reframed: if it appears to be a minor infraction in our (human) eyes, how do we know that it is minor to God? (And the same with apparently major transgressions.) The discussion in the text we will look at might be surprising – particularly in its conclusion.**

**Presenter: Paul Golomb**

**Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss**

**WEDNESDAY, December 8 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**Course: INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: The Lock and The Key**

**From prehistoric times, mankind has seen the need for locks -- to keep people on the outside from getting inside and on the inside from getting out. We lock our doors, our cabinets and treasure chests. We lock prisoners in their cells. This presentation will trace the history of locks from the dawn of time to the present day. It will demonstrate how various kinds of locks work AND how they may be picked.**

**Presenter: Jim Brook (*will be presenting from home*)**

**Coordinators: Pete Weis, Jim Brook**

**THURSDAY, December 9 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

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

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Antisemitism in the art world**

**Anti-Jewish hatred has pervaded Western art and popular culture for centuries. Perceptions and misunderstanding of Jews throughout history have been manifest in objects from fine arts and crafts for the elite, to everyday toys, knickknacks and household items for the rest. These objects promoted negative attitudes and stereotypes about Jews.**

**Antisemitic art, art objects and anti-Jewish propaganda have existed from the Medieval to the modern era, created and distributed throughout Europe, Russia, and the United States. In the 1930s and 1940s, Nazi propagandists use of feature films, newsreels, toys, and games helped intensify negative stereotypes of Jews with deadly consequences. Portrayed as second-class citizens, they were increasingly characterized as "degenerates, criminals, and racially inferior corrupters of German society. Some of the same beliefs are still prevalent in Western countries today.**

**The root causes of why the public saw the Jew as the "incarnation of all evil, and why they accepted the Hitlerian and even earlier persecutions and destruction of Jewish life remains an unresolved and continuing question, the subject of hundreds of treatises and explorations. I will not try to answer those questions.**

**My talk is a walk through that history. I could start at the beginning, but it is worthwhile to bring this subject into the light of today. Just in case you are lulled into thinking this was yesterday, it is not.**

**Presenter: Marian Friedmann**

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

**Course: READING BLACK LIVES**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Malcolm X**

**The man contemporary history attempts to omit and/or distort. I will show how Malcolm X's legacy, when he is mentioned at all, i.e. The Showtime documentary, The One and Only Dick Gregory, delves in the legendary comedy/activist's life and career with no mention of Malcolm X. Even though they were very good friends. In movies such as Selma, he is portrayed as a weakling without a following, these and the erroneous referring to him as a "civil rights activist " are the issues, along with the recent exonerations, are issues I intend to address.**

**Presenter: Richard Byrd**

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

**THURSDAY, December 9 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

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

**Room: Auditorium**

**Class members will continue with presentations of their exercises and monologues which stress using objects to help find truth/reality.**

**Coordinators: Roy Clary, John Spiegel**

**Course: MOZART'S WOMEN**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Don. Giovanni**

**It's been said that if you want to locate the moment at which the Enlightenment gave way to the Romantic Age you might well settle on Mozart's opera Don Giovanni. Psychiatrists, philosophers, writers and composers have written that today, as in the past, the character of Don Giovanni and his adventures deeply challenge our modern and Western ideas of love. Thanks to Mozart and his librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte, we have the masterpiece that Wagner defined as "the opera of all operas." It may be called Don Giovanni, but we will focus on the women in this opera and the wonderful music Mozart wrote for them.**

**Presenter: Jane Lubin**

**Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Linda Downs**

**THURSDAY, December 9 @ 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. “Snow Blind” by Elizabeth Strout**

**Presenter: Bobby Gold**

**<https://www.vqronline.org/fiction/snow-blind>**

**Elizabeth Strout (born 1956), author of *Olive Kitteridge*, which won 2009 Pulitzer Prize. Other novels include *The Burgess Boys* (2013), *Amy and Isabelle*, and *My Name Is Lucy Barton* (2016). *Oh William!* was published this year.**

**\*2. “Who Will Greet You at Home” by Lesley Nneka Arimah**

**Presenter: Mary Buchwald**

**<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/10/26/who-will-greet-you-at-home>**

**Lesley Nneka Arimah, is a Nigerian writer. (born in U.K. in1983), who grew up in Nigeria, and moved to the U.S. in her teens. Winner 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for Africa, the 2017 O. Henry Prize, and the 2017 Caine Prize for African Writing.**

**If you have questions, please email Nancy, [nancyrye@earthlink.net](mailto:nancyrye@earthlink.net).**

**Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp**