

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST
December 13 – December 17
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 xTbDRXORDQT09>

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

COMPLIMENTARY END-OF-SEMESTER LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, December 14 @ Noon – 1:00 P.M.

As you know we're in the home stretch of our fall semester, and to celebrate the end of this challenging but joyful period Quest is providing a complimentary End-of-the-Fall-Semester Luncheon on Tuesday, December 14th, from noon to 1 pm in our lunchroom. Social Committee Chairs Lois Cardillo and Marcia Friedland will be setting out mixed sandwiches, both meat-filled and vegetarian, from Katz's Deli, as well as cookies and wine. Quest will be providing its signature coffee — both caffeinated and decaf. Plan to come to mix and mingle — let's kick off the holiday season in style!

Warm regards, Ruth

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Lines in the water, on ice and in the air

This lecture explores the zones set up to distinguish adjacent political entities delimited by non-landed contours horizontally configured. It also addresses the emerging air space designations arrayed both horizontally and vertically

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 last class we shall continue our discussion of Malcolm X's approach to achieving racial justice in America. We will then assess two competing narratives - one pessimistic and one optimistic - about the progress America has made in dealing with the legacy of slavery and the state of race relations in America today. Authors we shall consider in this part of our discussion are Ta-Nehisi Coates, Isabel Wilkerson, Jason Hill, and Glenn Loury.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

MONDAY, December 13 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE
Room: Auditorium
Topic: A Life In Dance

Quest member Ze'eva Cohen will present and discuss two short films about her professional life as a dance artist and educator. Ze'eva built the dance program at Princeton University over 40 years. The two films, edited and directed by Sharon Kaufman and narrated by Cohen, are a model of how an artist can survive in the dance world by carving out a unique and independent path for herself. In 2015, the film, "Ze'eva Cohen Creating a Life in Dance" was screened at the Dance Camera Festival at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center, and at the Dance Camera West Festival in Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art.

Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen
Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen, Palma Mahl

Course: LAW AND ORDER

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: Safeguarding New York's Jewish Community

In early 2020 the Community Security Initiative was formed by the UJA Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York to help safeguard synagogues, Jewish community centers, schools and other Jewish community institutions in New York City, Long Island and Westchester against anti-Semitic attacks. Mitchell Silber, CSI's executive director, will talk to us about what CSI has been doing since its formation and what it perceives to be the present anti-Semitic threat in the New York City metropolitan area.

Mr. Silber, who spoke at Quest in October 2018 about anti-Semitism in Europe, served as Director of Intelligence Analysis at the New York City Police Department where he was a principal advisor to the Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence on counterterrorism policy and analysis. He is a visiting lecturer at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs ("SIPA") where he teaches about terrorism. Mr. Silber is the author of The Al Qaeda Factor: Plots Against the West, published in 2012 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. Earlier this year he authored the Atlantic Council report "Domestic Violent Extremism and the Intelligence Challenge" and in 2007 co-authored the NYPD report "Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat."

Guest Presenter: Mitchell Silber

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, December 14 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: Richard Serra

Richard Serra is one of the preeminent American artists and sculptors of the 20th and 21st Centuries. From the late 1960s to the present, his work has played a major role in advancing the tradition of modern abstract sculpture. His work draws new, widespread attention to sculpture's potential for experience by viewers in both physical and visual terms, no less often within a site-specific, if not highly public setting. He has been described as both a sculptor and giant of modern art, and a creator of enormous, immediately identifiable steel sculptures that both terrify and mesmerize. Serra believes that each viewer creates the sculpture for themselves by being within it. A controversial figure, he has worked to radicalize and extend the definition of sculpture beginning from his early experiments with rubber, neon, and lead, to his large-scale steel works.

Presenter: Marian Friedmann

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

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: The Opium Wars

“If you talk to many Chinese about the Opium Wars, a phrase you will quickly hear is ‘luo hou jiu yao ai da,’ which literally means that if you are backward, you will take a beating.”

In the mid-19th century, two wars were waged between the Qing dynasty and Western powers. In each war, Europe’s modern military technology easily vanquished Qing forces. As a result, the Chinese

government was compelled to grant favorable tariffs, trade concessions, and territory to the Europeans.

It appears that the humiliation China suffered in these wars has affected China's foreign policy lasting to this day.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, December 14 @ Noon – 1:00 P.M.

COMPLIMENTARY END-OF-SEMESTER LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, December 14 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CULTURAL MYTHOLOGY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: Gods & Goddesses of Luck

Please follow these instructions: Place a four-leaf clover in your pocket. After leaving your building, carefully scan the sidewalk to ensure you don't walk under a ladder or allow a black cat to cross your path. Finally, keep your fingers crossed during the presentation so that lightning doesn't strike 25 Broadway. Thank you and see you on Tuesday.

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried

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

TUESDAY, December 14 @ 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: Maurice Ravel's L'enfant et les sortilèges

Fans of Maurice Sendak and Edward Gorey should love this short, one-act opera from 1925.

This is the story of a rude child who is reprimanded by the objects in his room, which he has been destroying. After being scolded by his mother in the beginning of the opera, the child throws a tantrum, destroying the room around him and harming the animals nearby. He is then surprised to find that the unhappy objects in his room come to life.

Sung in French, with English subtitles. Libretto by Colette.

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

WEDNESDAY, December 15 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Room: Auditorium

Topic: *The Ice at the End of the World: An Epic journey into Greenland's buried past and our perilous future* By: Jon Gertner

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

In *The Ice at the End of the World*, Jon Gertner explains how Greenland has evolved from one of the earth's last frontiers to its largest scientific laboratory. The history of Greenland's ice begins with the explorers who arrived here at the turn of the 20th century and embarked on grueling expeditions that took as long as a year and often ended in tragedy. Their original goal was simple: to conquer Greenland's seemingly infinite interior. Yet their efforts eventually gave way to scientists who built lonely encampments on the ice and began drilling - one mile, two miles down. Their aim was to pull up ice cores that could reveal the deepest mysteries of earth's past, going back hundreds of thousands of years.

Today, scientists from all over the world are deploying every technological tool available to uncover the secrets of this frozen island before it's too late. As Greenland's ice melts and runs off into the sea, it not only threatens to affect hundreds of millions of people who live in coastal areas. It will also have drastic effects on ocean currents, weather systems, economies, and migration patterns.

The melting ice sheet in Greenland is, in a way, an analog for time. It contains the past. It reflects the present. It can also tell us how much time we might have left.

Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Topic: Gwendolen in Daniel Deronda

Many of us were introduced to the wonders of Daniel Deronda in Lynnel's and Sandy's inspiring two-semester class. There, we met Gwendolen Harleth, a heroine with warts. One year later, we're still talking about Gwendolen, a character that Eliot reveals in layers - arrogant, humble, narcissistic, insecure, unkind, self-doubting. Some of us, like Deronda himself, reject Gwendolen in favor of the morally

irreproachable Mirah Lapidoth. In class, we invite you to weigh in. If you would like a bit of a refresher or have not read the book, enjoy the British television serial drama adaptation of Daniel Deronda.

<https://youtu.be/j-GoyUbPkt4>

<https://youtu.be/0g4cJ10mLtY>

<https://youtu.be/KuEYym3GXLc>

Presenters: Martha Drezin, Sheryl Harawitz

Coordinators: Bryn Mehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, December 15 @ 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: The Supreme Court: Then and Now

Speaker: Linda Greenhouse

What are the implications of recent changes in the Supreme Court? Who better to ask than Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter Linda Greenhouse whose new book is JUSTICE ON THE BRINK: The Death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Rise of Amy Coney Barrett, and the Twelve Months That Transformed the Supreme Court. Landmark decisions in the last year on voting rights, abortion, religion and affirmative action could change the course of our democracy.

Linda Greenhouse covered the Supreme Court for the N.Y. Times from 1978-2008 and continues to write a biweekly column. She teaches at Yale Law School and is the author of five other books including BEFORE ROE V. WADE. Our format will be Q&A. Arlynn will interview Linda for 30-40 minutes and then we will take questions from the audience. It should be a lively, illuminating session and we hope you can attend.

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

THURSDAY, December 16 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

Room: Auditorium

Topic: THIS JUST IN – PART 2

This class will examine all the latest developments that have happened in the past year in the exploration beyond our Solar System. Not all solar systems look like ours. We will look at the latest findings about planets around other stars and the implications for finding a second Earth or at least some bio-signatures. There have also been new findings about neutron stars, black holes, and gravitational waves.

Our very understanding about the creation of galaxies and superclusters is now undergoing careful review. In fact, as we enter the discussion about the very beginning of the Universe, we learn that maybe we got it wrong. As in Part 1, there will be ample images and videos to give us a spacefarer's view of our destinations as well as time for questions and discussion.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg (will be presenting from home)

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 leaders: Terri Hicks, Robert Hartmann

Coordinators: Terri Hicks, Barbara Gordon, Robert Hartmann

THURSDAY, December 16 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Room: Auditorium

Topic: The Future of Africa

Overall, the outlook for the future of Africa is positive, despite the impact of Covid 19 and climate change. Looking at the common factors that affect economic growth, we can understand that the outlook must vary among countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, there are the potential influences resulting from the interests that China and the West have in Africa.

Presenter: Ann Goerd

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss, Ann Goerd

Course: MOZART'S WOMEN
Room: Classroom 15-17
Topic: Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)

Mozart's last opera heralds a new age of the Reign of Love. It has been hailed as the crowning achievement of the portrayal of the whole spectrum of love, from banal to cosmic, through comedy, terror, and the search for enlightenment. The fast-moving story is presented through different styles of music signaling distinct characters. All manner of women appears in this work through the lens of Masonic beliefs, enlightenment thought and Mozart's personal view of the ideal woman reflecting his own love and admiration of his wife Costanza.

Presenter: Linda Downs
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Linda Downs

THURSDAY, December 16 @ 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 "soak" 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
