

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 7 – February 11, 2022

This is a “B” Week

There are four 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 and possibly the password.

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=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGl_pWnBGeFNCdz09

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek15bmlTNIIjUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 8434 1199

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway, with presenters mostly presenting live. In some cases a presenter may not be live at 25 Broadway, but will present from home via Zoom. In the week Feb. 7-10, all classes in Room 15-17 will feature a live presenter except Law and Order. In the auditorium, some classes may feature an at-home presenter. If it is important to you whether a class features a live presenter or an at-home presenter, please check with the presenter or lead coordinator of that auditorium class prior to attending.

MONDAY, February 7 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: THE NEAR EAST
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Overview of the Near East

The Near East, the site of the world's earliest civilizations, is complicated. Will looking at its past help us to better understand what occurs there now? We know this area gave the world the three Abrahamic religions, and that alone has stimulated interest in its history. This overview will start with the development of the earliest civilizations and empires, continue through their expansion and interactions with the rest of the world, briefly examine how the three religions grew in the Near East, and follow the changes brought by the region's dominant religion, Islam, up to the 20th century.

Presenter: Ann Goerd
Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: **WOMEN IN GREEK DRAMA**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Introduction to Women in Greek Drama

Greek Dramas emerge from a convergence of several elements: the chorus, the religious festival, and the story-telling tradition. They are puzzle pieces that have been woven together as the roots of Western Dramatic tradition. They include women: in more than half of all ancient Greek plays, the choruses are all women (60 percent vs 40 percent of all male choruses), and 97 percent of all ancient Greek plays feature a major female character. We need your help to look at the pieces, unravel the threads, widen our understanding of the Greek dramas and why have they endured for more than two millennia.

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer

MONDAY, February 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE**
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Radiology and the persisting disconnect between technology and optimal care

The past sixty years has witnessed a continuing advance in the elaboration and application of imaging techniques for the advancement of patient care. However, in the United States, it has often been uncritically and exuberantly deployed in ways which I will outline and for which I offer correctives.

Presenter: Stephen Baker
Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen

Course: LAW AND ORDER
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: New York State Bail Laws

Bail is cash or a bond given by an arrested person to the court to ensure they come to court when ordered to do so. It is not a punishment, since there has been no plea bargain or conviction. For too many poor people, it becomes a punishment when they do not have the cash to give or to purchase a bond, so they are forced to remain in jail, causing irreparable harm to themselves and their families.

On the other hand, a person who is locked up cannot commit another crime, and people who are out of jail on bail do commit crimes. This is a timely issue, with many opinions and no right answers. This presentation will present the arguments, and then there will be a class discussion.

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, February 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Isaac Newton

In a 2005 survey of members of Britain's Royal Society asking who had the greater effect on the history of science, Newton or Einstein, the members deemed Newton to have made the greater overall contribution. This presentation will begin with a brief account of Newton's life. It will then consider Newton's contributions to our understanding of the nature of light, color, classical mechanics, gravity, celestial mechanics, and mathematics, and, yes, that apple falling from that tree.

Presenter: Jim Brook
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Judy Weis

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: The Decline of the British Empire

In the middle of the 19th century the Empire was at its height. The Industrial Revolution had made the north of England a center of trade and commerce. New Imperialism was replaced by nationalism, a factor that helped hurl the empire into the first world war. What was it about British characteristics that created jingoism and launched a world-wide conflagration?

Presenter: Judy Hampson
Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, February 8 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Room: Auditorium
Subject: Boris Johnson -- Part II

It's been almost a year since we discussed Britain's answer to our last president, and it's time to step back and say (to paraphrase Ed Koch) "How's he doing?" Join us as we look at the current state of the man who is arguably the UK's most colorful Prime Minister. I promise we'll have fun.

Presenter: Michael Wellner
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried, Glenn Johnston

Course: MYTHOLOGY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Death and the After-Life

Death is an almost universal feature of human life, so nearly every culture has created stories of why we die and what happens when we do. Many myths also help people deal with the grief of losing a loved one. The myths vary but what most have in common is that they try to make sense of something that is inherently unknowable. In this class, we will encounter narratives from Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Native American tribes and pre-Columbian peoples focusing on the Book of the Dead, the Day of the Dead and the haunting story of Orpheus and Eurydice. We will also talk about how we envision death and the stories we tell to cope with loss.

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

TUESDAY, February 8 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: CONTEMPORARY OPERA (Zoom only – Use Room 52-53 link to enter session - Note 2:00 p.m. start time)

Opera: Bo Holton: Visit of the Royal Physician Act 1

This fun story, based on a 1999 novel about the odd Christian 7th King of Denmark in the eighteenth century, is a satire, a love story, and story of court intrigue and a lust for power. Is the King insane? Is his new Physician about to cross the line with the Queen? Is the Physician going to make it a better world for the common people? And what about the Dog? Tune in, opera fans, at 2pm.

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

WEDNESDAY, February 9 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Room: Auditorium

Subject: *susan, linda, nina & cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR*

By: Lisa Napoli

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Susan Stamberg, Linda Wertheimer, Nina Totenberg, and Cokie Roberts all became broadcasters on National Public Radio (NPR) in its beginning years. Mainstream media didn't want women on the air. Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie all had grit and determination to

begin with; their quests to find careers in journalism developed these qualities even further. And thus they became the "founding mothers" of NPR.

We will trace the routes each took to become journalists at a time when women were usually offered dead-end jobs. Their struggles led to their own increasing self-awareness and to acceptance by the media and the public.

Presenter: Ellen Shapiro
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Biblical Women

Behind Every Great Man Are Great Women. How the women in the Biblical book Exodus led Moses from birth to Sinai.

Presenter: Debbie Golomb
Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, February 9 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

Course: BOOK CLUB - IN PERSON ONLY
Room: Classroom 27
Book: *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, the novel brilliantly weaves together the stories of two women: a female aviation pioneer of the early

20th century and the 21st century actress who is portraying her in a Hollywood movie.

Presenters: Joyce West

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

WEDNESDAY, February 9 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GUEST LECTURE SERIES – at 25 Broadway

Room: Auditorium

Speaker: Joshua M. Greene, author of UNSTOPPABLE (Mr. Greene will be live at 25 Broadway and can be seen at home by using the auditorium link.)

Subject: Siggie Wilzig, Auschwitz Survivor and Wall Street Legend

JOSHUA M. GREENE is a renowned Holocaust scholar and filmmaker whose biographies have sold more than a half-million copies worldwide. He is a popular lecturer who has spoken at the Pentagon and before the Judge Advocate General's College, and his documentaries on Holocaust history have aired on PBS and Discovery. Joshua has appeared on national media outlets from NPR's Fresh Air with Terry Gross to FOX News, CNN, and more.

Joshua is the author of UNSTOPPABLE in which he traces the incredible journey of a diminutive, uneducated, penniless survivor, the late Siggie Wilzig, from his arrival in America in 1947 to creator of an oil and banking empire with assets of more than \$4 billion.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, February 10 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Rare earth metals: The Journey from Supernova to Your Pocket

They are in your cell phone, your electric toothbrush, and even your grandchildren's toys. Some of them were in the homes of most of you 50 years ago. I'll discuss what they are, why they are important, and why China controls over 80% of their production. You've heard of lithium and cobalt, and now we'll learn about neodymium and gadolinium.

Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Faith Ringgold: Artist, Activist, Author, Quilter

In anticipation of the major retrospective of Faith Ringgold opening at the New Museum on February 17th, we will explore her lifetime of activism and her extraordinary works of art. Faith Ringgold's art is radical in many ways—in her passionate anti-racist paintings, her loving depictions of Black life, her technique of combining painting, fabric, and quilting, her exploration of traditional crafts such as dolls

and African masks, and her innovative performance art. She taught art in public school and later in college for most of her life, is the author of several children's books and a memoir published in 1995, and continues to create new work at the age of 91.

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Barbara Barnes, Susannah Falk Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer

THURSDAY, February 10 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FASCINATING ISLANDS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Chattel Slavery and Sugar-Linking, the Americas, Europe and Africa, 1300 to 1888

The Age of Discovery was not confined to the Americas and Asia. The role of Africa was equally profound involving capitalistic exploitation, forced transport and resettlement with sugar as the predominant agent of exchange.

Presenter: Stephen Baker

Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Me, myself & "the Self"

In our last class of 2021, we discussed a brain scientist's essay on the difficulty of attaining self-knowledge. Our first class of 2022 continues this thread by exploring what the philosopher Daniel Dennett thinks about the self. Our reading is his essay "The self as a center of narrative gravity." In the centuries since Socrates and Descartes pondered these questions, science has joined the conversation. How does that change our self-understanding? Optional but highly recommended is an essay on Dennett's theory of the self by the young Columbia philosopher Jenann Ismail, from her book "How Physics Makes Us Free." A second optional reading is a short passage on self-organizing systems from Jennan's book. Read as much as you like and come to listen or discuss. (The readings will arrive in a separate email.)

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

THURSDAY, February 10 @ 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Course: POETS' WORKSHOP
Room: Classroom 52-53 (Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)

Write a poem using the cue word "burden" 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, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

CultureQuest Virtual Tour
February 11th, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

MURALS AND MOSAICS OF SPANISH HARLEM
with Leigh Hallingby

Use Auditorium Link

The many colorful murals and mosaics of Spanish Harlem, AKA East Harlem or El Barrio, tell us so much about the history, culture, and politics of this neighborhood and its residents. Some murals and mosaics are dedicated to accomplished citizens, such as the writers Julia de Burgos and Nicholasa Mohr. Others honor world-famous people such as Che Guevara and Celia Cruz. Some of the public art celebrates the Latinx culture or expresses strong political statements. And many of the murals and mosaics include the gorgeous scenery of the tropical islands from which so many members of this community emigrated to New York. A number of the gifted artists who created the artworks received commissions from the City of New York as part of projects to add more public art to the Spanish Harlem community.

This virtual tour will be a slideshow with live commentary and an opportunity for Q&A, given by Leigh Hallingby. She is a licensed NYC tour guide and gave a wonderful virtual tour for Quest last spring of the Audubon Mural Project in Washington Heights.

**All Quest members are invited to attend.
To join the tour, please use the Auditorium link in the NWAQ.**