

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 7 – March 11, 2022

This is a “B” Week

There are four links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, Classroom 52-53, and Classroom 27. 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=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGI pWnBGeFNCdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 25252

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek15bmITNIIjUT09>

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 beginning March 7, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters.

MONDAY, March 7 10:30 A.M.– 12:00 P.M.

Course: THE NEAR EAST

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Israel

Location, location, location. It makes all the difference when you buy real estate, and just as much of a difference when it comes to the peace and prosperity of a nation. In this presentation I will discuss how the neighborhood where Israel is located has shaped its fate.

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried

Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: WOMEN IN GREEK DRAMA

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: What Makes Medea Tick?

Medea is a myth, she is a character in a play by Euripides, and she resides in our collective unconscious. In Euripides's version, Medea plays the archetypal role of helper-maiden, arriving in Corinth as a

foreign princess, who used her magic to save her husband's life. After a short introduction to put the play into historical context, we will read several excerpts from Euripides's play, in which Medea interacts with her husband, her king, and the town's women. An excellent video of the play is available at <https://youtu.be/fNiriEzx5ss>.

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz, Pereta Rodriguez, Jennifer Jolly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine, Freida Lipp, Ellie Shaffer, Donna Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer

MONDAY, March 7 12:10 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: NEW MEMBER MEETING - IN PERSON ONLY

Room: Lunchroom

The New Members Meeting is designed to develop familiarity with all aspects of Quest and to encourage new members to participate in our Lifelong Learning Community.

Guest Speakers:

Paul Adler - Art Editor of Q Review magazine, Co-Coordinator Live Models Art Class (currently suspended due to Covid), and Member of Safety Committee. Discussion will encompass the multifaceted art talents at Quest, as well as safety evacuation procedures.

Renee Woloshin - Chairperson CultureQuest Committee - Virtual & Live Tours. Discussion will encompass live Friday museum tours and scheduled zoom tours. These tours both live and virtual enrich our lectures.

Committee Co-Chairs: Pam Gemelli, Betty Farber, John Spiegel

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

Course: Great Plays
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Original Play, *The Next Step*

Note: This play is “Live only” and will not be on Zoom

Do your spirits need a boost? Treat yourself to an auditorium seat to enjoy an original play by a current Quest member about a person who seeks later life fulfillment in an unexpected place. The production boasts an A-list cast: Roy Clary, Vincent Grosso, Frieda Lipp, Frank Montaturo, Gloria Peropat, Ruth Ward, and technical wizard, Wayne Cotter. Please plan to attend this one-time, in person only event that reflects the blood, sweat, and tears of our actors, who will be extremely appreciative of your very welcome presence. If all goes as planned, there will be sobs and laughter and dancing in the aisles

Cast: Roy Clary, Vincent Grosso, Frieda Lipp, Frank Montaturo, Gloria Peropat, Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter

Presenter: Ruth Ward

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

TUESDAY, March 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: The Agricultural Revolution

A typical world history book from the 1980s described the transition from hunting-gathering to agriculture as follows: “plant cultivation and animal husbandry...made possible year-round settlements and led to the

growth of large, dense populations and of the urban, stratified, politically organized societies we call civilizations.” A typical description from current authors is Jared Diamond’s: “The advent of agriculture was a watershed moment for the human race. It may also have been our greatest blunder.” What accounts for this dramatic shift in attitude? Increasing evidence that the shift from hunting-gathering to agriculture resulted in substantially decreased health, life expectancy, and quality of life and increased drudgery and vulnerability to disease. In this talk we will explore some of the most recent evidence and recent attempts to answer the question: “If agriculture was such a bad idea, why was it so widely adopted?” We’ll also look at recent ideas on how to utilize this history to draw lessons for problems we are currently facing.

Presenter: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Judy Weis

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The British Industrial Revolution and its Impact on the Colonies

The British Industrial Revolution changed the face of society in the nineteenth century and its impact had global consequences.

We will be looking at how the expansion of manufacturing and technology affected the Empire not just at home, but around the world, particularly in Canada, South Africa and Australia.

Presenters: Judy Hampson

Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

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

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Mysterious Death of Dag Hammarskjöld

On the night that spanned the 17th - 18th of September 1961, the plane of the United Nations' second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld crashed on its approach to Ndola airport in what was then Northern Rhodesia.

Hammarskjöld and all but one of 16 people on board perished in the crash. The 16th passenger died a few days later.

The early 1960's was a period of rapid disintegration of the European colonial empires. It was also a period of intense cold war rivalry. Shortly after independence was declared the former Belgian Congo broke apart with its richest province, Katanga, seceding. Hammarskjöld, at the time of his death, was trying to resolve the conflict and reunite the country.

Katanga had immense mineral wealth, and the separatists were bankrolled by Belgian mining interests. The CIA, in contravention of American policy, was supplying arms to the Katangan rebels. The British colonial administration was oscillating between loyalty to Britain's policy of backing decolonization and support for its southern African white settler population to whom the United Nations was anathema. In this situation, there was no shortage of ill-wishers who would have welcomed Hammarskjöld's death.

Initially the crash was ruled an accident caused by pilot error, but questions surrounded the crash from the beginning. It has been one of the great murder mysteries of the 20th century.

Presenter: Toni Dickerson

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

Course: MYTHOLOGY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: The Gods & Goddesses of Nature

Nature includes the many elements of our surroundings: our mountains, valleys, seas, vegetation, and animals. It envelops us in sublime indifference, in a pure, non-narrative manner, right? Well, that's not the way the ancient Greeks saw it. Their myths helped them explain the environment in which they lived, the natural phenomena they witnessed, and the passing of time through the days, months, and seasons. In this class, we look through their eyes to see how their stories humanized their habitat and ours, from the sky to the nether regions.

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

TUESDAY, March 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: Philippe Hersant: Les Éclaires (Nikola Tesla). Act 1.

This 2021 opera is a fictionalized biography of the inventor Nikola Tesla. It depicts his arrival in America in 1884, and a stormy relationship with Thomas Edison. While "Gregor" is not interested in profit, he is surrounded by shameless industrialists who steal and exploit his inventions. Adored and ultimately mistreated by his fellow man, the philanthropic genius will only find solace in the company of birds. As with the real-life Tesla, Gregor becomes progressively obsessed with impractical projects and imagined extra-terrestrial contacts.

In French, with English subtitles.

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

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

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION
Room: Auditorium
Subject: *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*
By: David George Haskell

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This is one of my favorite books of the century, almost addictive in its pleasure and stimulation. The plan is simple: the author visits a patch of Tennessee forest over the course of a year and tells us what he observes. It's a "world in a grain of sand" kind of book, informed by science - Haskell is a biologist -- and it models how to use all the senses, "keeping watch" as the subtitle suggests. There are layers of discovery, from fun facts to stirring insights into the nature of community and life itself. Edward O. Wilson called it "a new genre of nature writing, located between science and poetry." If the nine years since my first reading are an indication, I'll never be finished with it.

Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES
Room: Classroom 15/17
Subject: *Sula*, by Toni Morrison

***Sula* can be read as a study of female friendship, an exploration of the feminine psyche and/or, a Black woman's epic. The narrative blurs opposites like good and evil and presents us with paradoxes. In the prologue we learn that the neighborhood where Sula lives is called "The Bottom" but it is actually at the top of the town looking down at where the white folks live. We will be discussing the main female characters, their relationships to each other, the men in their lives, and some of the bizarre events that surround them. Can a woman who sleeps with her best friend's husband be a heroine? What about a mother who kills her son? Towards the novel's end, Sula asks how a person knows who was good. What do you think?**

Presenters: Bryn Meehan and Sheryl Harawitz,
Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, March 9 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: BOOK CLUB - IN PERSON ONLY
Room: Classroom 52/53
Subject: *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

Our book will be a work of historical fiction, *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray. In the early years of the 20th century, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by the financier J. P. Morgan to build a world-class collection of rare manuscripts, books and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. What Belle conceals is the fact that she is African American, passing as white

to become one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her intellect, style and wit.

Presenter: Madeleine Brecher

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

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

**Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES
Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Lecture**

Room: Auditorium

Time: 1:00 PM Speaker will be live at 25 Broadway and can be seen at home by using the auditorium link.

Speaker: Jane E. Brody

Subject: Making Smart Choices as You Get Older

Neither life nor our ability to live it stands still. As we and the circumstances of our lives change, we have to change with them. Adaptation and the adherence to health-promoting and life-sustaining practices is the secret to successful aging. Please join Jane Brody, now a fellow retiree, on this journey.

Jane Brody joined the New York Times as a specialist in medicine and biology in 1965 after completing degrees in biochemistry and science writing. She just retired after a remarkable 57 years. Her Personal Health column was a “must read” every Tuesday in the Science Times. She has written more than a dozen books including Jane Brody’s Nutrition Book and Jane Brody’s Guide to the Great Beyond. She has won numerous awards, is a popular speaker and has appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs. She had her own 10-part show on public television, Good Health from Jane Brody’s Kitchen.

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

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

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Room: NOTE: Room change to Room 52-53. Use the Room 52-53 link to enter the class.
Subject: Beyond the Solar System

Continuing our unique journey across the cosmos, we'll begin past the furthest bodies of our Solar System at the stars and continue on towards the farthest reaches of the observable universe. All the while we will explore its many extraordinary features like exoplanets, black holes, galaxies, dark matter, and dark energy. We will then look towards the future and speculate where we are all heading.

Prior knowledge or any technical expertise in math or science is not required. Just bring your questions and sense of wonder.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES
Room Classroom 15-17
Subject: A Black Educator's View on Reinventing Education

How do we transform education so it works for all our children? Bettina Love, author of We Want to Do More Than Survive, is an African American educator who grew up in Rochester NY and now lives and works in Atlanta, Ga. She asks us to approach education with the imagination, determination, boldness, and urgency of an 'abolitionist.' Rather than focus on educational reforms such as test taking skills, grit labs, and character education, which Love calls 'the educational survival complex, she has written 'a love song to our children and a call

to transform ourselves, our country, and the world.' It is part memoir, part manual, and part manifesto. Education can't save us, she writes, rather we must save education. Bold ideas which should lead to a rich discussion.

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

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

Course: FASCINATING ISLANDS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Blackbirding

It is a form of involuntary servitude active in the South Seas in the latter half of the nineteenth century in which teenage boys were kidnapped and then forced to work for indefinite period by powerful white plantation owners and managers who were generally not held to account for their depredations

Presenter: Stephen Baker
Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Freedom of Expression and "Cancel Culture"

In the next session of "Explorations in Philosophy" we will explore the philosophical roots of "cancel culture" (which can be defined as the attempt to exclude someone from their job or social circle based on their opinions), its relationship to freedom of expression, and how it

operates in American life today. Readings will include excerpts from Mill's *On Liberty*, a defense of cancel culture, and recent accounts of cancel culture at work. After a brief introduction we will discuss the pros and cons of cancel culture using the examples from the readings and other examples that class members consider especially important or interesting. Readings will be circulated through QuestBusiness. They will be summarized at the beginning of the class, so you'll be able to participate even if you don't have time for the readings.

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

THURSDAY, March 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 "passion" 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 Tour

A TRIP TO ISTANBUL ... VIRTUALLY

Friday, March 11th from 11am to Noon

Are you lamenting another year without travel? CultureQuest proposes to change that! We invite you to join us on a private virtual walking tour, this time in the heart of historical Istanbul.

Turkey has always been a bridge between the orient and occident, and its capital has played a central role in three great empires—as Constantinople in the Roman and Byzantine Empires and as Istanbul in the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Born and bred in Turkey, Safak Kulansi is the perfect guide for this exciting tour, entitled THE CAPITAL OF EMPIRES, as showing us his city is his great passion.

No packing is required ... but please mark your calendar. Instructions on how to sign up will be emailed by Madeleine Brecher on Monday, March 7th and again on Wednesday, March 9th. Remember, you must sign up in advance or you won't be able to access the site on March 11th.

We think you'll love this tour!