

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 21 – March 25, 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=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGl pWnBGeFNCdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 25252

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek15bmlTNlIjUT09>

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 21, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters.

MONDAY, March 21 10:30 A.M.– 12:00 P.M.

Course: THE NEAR EAST

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Lebanon

England and France had high hopes when they created Lebanon that it would serve as an example for the rest of the world of people of different religions living in harmony in a democratic country. Their hopes did not come to fruition.

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried

Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: WOMEN IN GREEK DRAMA

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Women of Troy

The common theme in the ancient Greek tragedies is how women were the spoils of war: used, abused, and disabused of their status and

humanity as they were forced to become slaves, concubines, unwilling wives or sacrificial mortals. In this class, we will discuss Euripides' timeless play, Trojan Women (Emily Wilson translation) and Chapter 9 of Pat Barker's The Women of Troy (pages 65-75), both to be sent separately.

Presenter: Donna Ramer

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

MONDAY, March 21 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE

Room: Auditorium

Subject: John Seward Johnson II

To choose the arts as your life's ambition, to find your own voice, is to choose a path that is difficult and frustrating. To walk away from your family inheritance in order to pursue your art is even more astonishing! But this is the story of John Seward Johnson II, who was an heir of The Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Company, who walked away, chose to be a sculptor, and then created his sculpture in a style totally opposite from that of his art period!

Those Questers who visited Grounds for Sculpture, an adventure worth pursuing, now will hear the "rest of the story!"

Presenter: Sandy Gordon

Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen

Course: LAW AND (DIS)ORDER

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Johnson v. McIntosh

This class is focused on a Supreme Court case decided in 1823, *Johnson v. McIntosh*, that deals with the property rights of Indigenous people and is still the law of the land today. Gratitude to Louise Erdrich, indigenous author, whose book *The Roundhouse*, brought this case to my attention.

While the First Amendment to the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, . . ." the decision is based on the Doctrine of Discovery which was founded on three Papal Bulls that "gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they 'discovered' for their Christian Monarchs." We explore (no pun intended), the results and implications of the case up until today.

Presenter: Sandra Abramson

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, March 22 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Drug Discovery and Development

Most of us are taking at least one prescription medicine a day, often more than one. Have you ever thought about the long journey this medicine has taken before getting into your pharmacy? Many of you may be surprised to learn how many years, and at what considerable cost, it has taken. For example, the total capital expenditure for a manufacturer having a drug approved has been estimated to be as much as \$2.6 billion and to take more than 12 years.

Come and join us to discuss the process by which medicines evolve from test tubes in a laboratory to FDA approval, utilizing an actual specific case. We'll discuss the various phases of "clinical research"

(research of medications for humans), the general process for development and testing, subject recruitment, the Informed Consent process. What leads someone to want to be a research subject and what happens if you change your mind? And how drugs being developed impact survivability of patients with that disease. And I am especially thrilled that my son, Adam, who is truly an expert in this field, will be joining me in giving this talk.

Presenter: David Bernard

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Judy Weis

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Great Famine of Ireland and its Legacy

The Great Famine of Ireland (An Gorta Mór) is the name used for the period of mass starvation, disease, and emigration in Ireland between 1845 and 1852. Some say it was a planned extermination on the part of England, but most historians generally agree that British policies during the Famine were misguided, ill-informed and counter-productive, and that had a similar crisis occurred in [England](#) instead of Ireland then the government's response would have been very different.

Whatever the reason, the Famine was a watershed in the [history of Ireland](#) and not only permanently changed the island's demographic, political and cultural landscape but had a significant impact on the United States with 1.8 million arriving in the United States from 1845 through 1855. It also had a significant impact on Britain creating a turning point in Irish Nationalism as well as cementing a deep hatred of the English in Ireland.

Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly

Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, March 22 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Japan: A New Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida

From the ashes of WWII, Japan emerged with a new Peace Constitution and a firm commitment to Democracy in the Asian sphere. Its adaptation to the modern world, to now being a world power, is reflected in that Japan is now the 3rd largest economy in the world, only behind China and the United States. With power, comes responsibility, and for that reason the leadership of Japan, the office of Prime Minister, and the man, the Prime Minister, is of vital importance to all. We will examine Japan, its political history and its present, and the emergence of Fumio Kishida.

Presenter: Sandy Gordon

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

Course: MYTHOLOGY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Norse Mythology: A Window into Northern European Culture

Norse mythology is about far more than their gods. Their sagas were used to help organize and understand their world. They interwove mythology into their daily lives, to inspire, teach, and to explain the unexplainable. An understanding of Norse mythology provides a window into Northern European culture, society, and beliefs.

The characters in their sagas include a pantheon of gods, kings, brave heroes, beautiful women, dangerous journeys, fierce battles, and fearsome otherworldly creatures. These stories bear witness to not only

the Northern tribes' advanced civilization but their courage, passion, and boundless spirit that were hallmarks of the Norse world.

Presenters: Sandy Frank and Glenn Johnston

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

TUESDAY, March 22 @ 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)

Room: Classroom 52-53

Opera: Philippe Hersant: Les Éclaires (Nikola Tesla).

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.

Act 3 and 4 (Conclusion) 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 23 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION
Room: Auditorium
Subject: *Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters*, by Steven Pinker

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

We live in an era where rationality seems both more threatened and more essential than ever. Are people today more irrational than those from past eras? Have humans ever been rational? And why does it seem that so many rational people continue to make irrational decisions? Is it ever rational to intentionally ignore information when making a decision? Is it sometimes rational to be irrational? In fact, what is rationality?

During this interactive session, we'll explore these and other thought-provoking questions raised by Steven Pinker in his 2021 book "*Rationality*." We'll also conduct a few tests to help you determine your own level of rationality. Are you really as rational as you think you are? The results may surprise you.

Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: J.K. Rowling and her Heroines

J. K. Rowling is a prolific writer, best known for her seven books about Harry Potter, but also known for her detective series about Cormoran Strike set in London, under the name of Robert Galbraith. She has also written *The Casual Vacancy*, set around a small village in the heart of England, and numerous off-shoots from the Harry Potter series.

We will be looking at Joanne Rowling herself as a heroine of literary writing, Hermione, who evolves over seven years from an eleven year old child into a mature witch, and Robin Ellacott, an unusual sidekick to a private detective who lost a limb as a soldier in Afghanistan.

Presenter: Judy Hampson

Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, March 23 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Privatization of Medicare and Why It Matters

Privatization of Medicare is on the agenda locally and in Washington. if fully implemented, it will adversely affect beneficiaries currently on Medicare and future enrollees. Come to get updated about the Center for Medicare's plans - many already in motion - to expand privatization and how it can impact you. Also covered will be new Medicare service models as well as healthcare industry trends that affect Medicare and all of us. Handouts and suggestions regarding how we can help stem the tide away from efforts to end Medicare as we know it will be included. Come and get educated! This is about our lives and our health!

Presenter: Yona Rogosin

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

WEDNESDAY, March 23 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Auditorium

Speaker will be live at 25 Broadway and can be seen at home by using the auditorium link.

Speaker: Elinor Lipman

Subject: *Rachel to the Rescue*

Elinor Lipman's 13th novel, *Rachel to the Rescue*, was published last summer to rave reviews. It's an entertaining political satire of the Trump administration that the *New York Times* called "absolutely delicious." Lipman will share the inside story of getting *Rachel to the Rescue* into print. She'll also talk about what inspires and kickstarts a book, the rules she writes by, and a little bit about Hollywood.

Lipman is the award-winning author of 16 books of fiction and nonfiction. Her first novel, *Then She Found Me*, was published in 1990 and was adapted into a 2008 film starring Helen Hunt, Bette Midler and Colin Firth. Other novels include *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *Isable's Bed*, and *The View from Penthouse B*. She was a professor of creative writing at Smith College, and winner of the New England Bookseller Award and the Paterson Fiction Prize. She divides her time between Manhattan and the Hudson Valley.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, March 24 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Inside the Atom: The Measurement Problem

Quantum theory, the incredibly successful theory that twentieth century physicists created to understand how atoms interact with one another, has been plagued from the beginning by severe difficulties in grasping what happens when experimenters make a measurement. Progress was achieved by concepts like the Heisenberg uncertainty principle but many problems still remained. In this talk we will see how work on this issue has led to many outstanding developments, such as quantum computers, but has also led many leading physicists to propose truly bizarre theories, such as the existence of an unimaginably large number of parallel universes. Along the way, you'll learn a great deal about the nature of scientific progress. Schrodinger's cat has promised to make an appearance!!

If you missed any of the previous talks on Inside the Atom or need a refresher, don't worry – all the background you need will be summarized at the beginning of the session.

Presenter: Steve Allen
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES
Room Classroom 15-17
Subject: Fannie Lou Hamer and Freedom Summer

Fannie Lou Hamer grew up in Mississippi in a sharecropper's family with only a 6th grade education. She became an iconic leader of the civil rights movement, speaking at the 1964 Democratic Party Convention on behalf of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which tried to replace the all white Mississippi delegation. I will talk about her life and also talk about my own experience in the civil rights movement,

spending six months working and living in the SNCC house in Selma, Alabama in 1965.

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

THURSDAY, March 24 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **FASCINATING ISLANDS**
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Separate Islands and their Distinctive Animals

This will be a world tour encompassing representative islands from all oceans and major seas, each having a unique animal denizen, either only located there or found in abundance in few other places. The reasons for these special arrangements are heterogeneous with some connections recent and others steadfast and ancient. Twenty examples will be offered.

Presenter: Stephen Baker
Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis

Course: **GREAT CONVERSATIONS**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Six essays on 'masks' by George Santayana

George Santayana (1863-1952) may have been the best writer of philosophy in English. Although he is not widely read now, we have all read people who studied with and were influenced by him, so we have been indirectly influenced by Santayana. We'll have a chance to get acquainted with his thought at the next meeting of Great Conversations, where we'll discuss six short essays on the theme of masks. These are literal and metaphorical masks—the masks we wear in our social lives

(including the words we speak), the masks worn by everyone we encounter, the masks worn by Nature. As he titled one of these essays, "The world's a stage."

The essays will be emailed separately via Quest Business. They are also in the *Great Conversations 5* book, page 119.

Discussion leader: Larry Shapiro
Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, March 24 @ 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 "temperament" 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 Museum Tour

Friday, March 25th, 10:15 - 12:15

**American Museum of Natural History
200 Central Park West (in-person tour)**

Sharks Exhibit and Halls of Gems and Minerals

Sharks: The new exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History tells how these animals survived four major extinctions, including the one 65 million years ago that killed most dinosaurs. Sharks have been around 450 million years, before people, before dinosaurs, even before there were trees. Learn how these animals came about, changed over time, and what they're facing today. Take a selfie with the megalodon.

Our next stop will be a visit to the recently renovated Halls of Gems and Minerals. We will see some old favorites like the Star Sapphire of India, and new objects like an eleven foot tall amethyst geode from Uruguay. There are over 5,000 objects, many of which are priceless, and the rarest in the world. We'll learn why the amethyst geode is purple and why the blue diamond is blue.

Our own Marion Schultheis will be the docent for the tour. Attendance is complimentary. Thank you Marion.

Our tour is limited to 20 guests.

We are meeting at the Museum of Natural History on CPW on March 25th at 10:15.

Please sign up if you are sincerely interested in attending.

More information to follow upon confirmation. Reserve your place by email to dena@kerren.us