



CITY COLLEGE IS 

CITY COLLEGE of NEW YORK
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Quest Curriculum Fall 2009 Semester



Fall in New York's Battery Park

Fall Calendar

Week Starting	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Sep. 7	A	A	A	A
Sep. 14	B	B	B	B
Sep. 21	A	A	A	A
Sep. 28	Yom Kipper (No Classes)	B	B	B
Oct. 5	A	A	A	A
Oct. 12	Columbus Day (No Classes)	B	B	B
Oct. 19	A	A	A	A
Oct. 26	B	B	B	B
Nov. 2	A	A	A	A
Nov. 9	B	B	B	B
Nov. 16	A	A	A	A
Nov. 23	B	B	B	Thanksgiving (No Classes)
Nov. 30	A	A	A	A
Dec. 7	B	B	B	B Fall Semester Ends

Fall Schedule

A WEEK

10:30am-12pm

MONDAY

- ✓ Chaucer Rm. 19
- ✓ Movers & Shakers Rm. 22

TUESDAY

- ✓ Supreme Court Rm. 19
- ✓ The New York Story Infrastructure & Institutions Rm. 22
- Acting Workshop for Beginners Auditorium

WEDNESDAY

- Major International Dramatists Rm. 19
- Modern Opera Rm. 22

THURSDAY

- Contemporary Short Stories Rm. 19
- Inside the Wall St. Revolution Rm. 22

Lunch 12pm-1pm

1pm-2:30pm

- ✓ Conversational French Rm. 19
- ✓ Abraham Lincoln Rm. 22
- ✓ Life Drawing Rm. 27

- Images of Women in Literature Rm. 22
- Irish Theater & Social Change Rm. 27

- International Relations Today Rm. 22
- Shakespeare Rm. 27

- ✓ Proust Rm. 22
- ✓ The Central Intelligence Agency A Legacy of Ashes Rm. 27

B WEEK

10:30am-12pm

- ~~The Story of the English Language Rm. 19~~
- Indigenous Music & Culture Rm. 22
- Assassinations: History's Most Shocking Moments Rm. 22
- Artists & Their Work Auditorium

- Grand Opera Rm. 27
- History of Medicine Auditorium

- ✓ Point of View Rm. 19
- ✓ Great Plays Auditorium

Lunch 12pm-1pm

12:30pm-2:30pm

1pm-2:30pm

- ✓ Understanding Contemporary Poetry Rm. 19
- Art Workshop Rm. 22
- Acting Workshop Advanced Auditorium

- ✓ Writers' Workshop Rm. 19
- ✓ Conservatism in America Rm. 22

- ~~Today's Films Rm. 22~~
- RESERVED FOR Guest Speakers Special Events Gen'l. Membership Meetings. Auditorium

- ✓ Today's Film Rm. 22
- ✓ Poet's Workshop Rm. 27

Fall Courses

NEW COURSE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Coordinators: *Martin Helpern, Hobart Rauch, Robert Reiss*

We will study in depth the man generally acknowledged to have been our greatest President: Lincoln as lawyer and politician, as Commander in Chief, as author of the Emancipation Proclamation, as inspired speechmaker and diplomat. We will acknowledge his effect on the Constitution and the history of the United States.

■ A WEEK / Mon. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

ACTING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

Coordinators: *Panny King, Marilyn Rosen*

This class will focus on basic acting techniques and will include acting exercises, improvisations and the study of characterization via the use of monologues or scenes.

■ A WEEK / Tues. / 10:30am to 12pm / Auditorium

ACTING WORKSHOP: ADVANCED

Coordinators: *Panny King, Marilyn Rosen*

Participation in this workshop will be limited to members who have been in the beginners' workshop for a least one full fall semester, or who have had prior training elsewhere. This approach will enable the class to move ahead with new exercises and a more comprehensive curriculum.

■ B WEEK / Mon. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Auditorium

ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

Coordinators: *Sandy Gordon, Isidore Schwartzman*

Art is the visual language of culture and society, and artists are their scribes. Using lectures and slides, we explore art history, examining the life and times of the artists as well as their works. During this fall semester, we invite presenters to select as their subject an artist of their choice, discussing the artist, the period and the work.

■ B WEEK / Tues. / 10:30am to 12pm / Auditorium

ART WORKSHOP

Coordinators: *Helen Neilson, Donna Rubens*

Here's your chance to try your hand at something you may have thought about doing but lacked the time—or the courage! In a non-judgmental setting, you can draw an apple, or paint a flower, or design a collage...whatever. Working from a still life you bring to class, or one set up for the group, you will use pencil, charcoal, pastel, pen—or scissors and glue—to create original artwork. The class is for all levels of expertise, from first-timers to old hands; Donna and Helen are

there to help. Between classes, you can store your equipment at Quest.

■ B WEEK / Mon. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

NEW COURSE: ASSASSINATIONS:

History's Most Shocking Moments of Murder & Madness

Coordinators: *John Clark, Bob Hartmann, Carolyn McGuire*

In a series of lectures we will present profiles of the world's most notorious assassinations, ranging from Julius Caesar to Martin Luther King. Each will examine both killer and victim, explore the motivation for the murder, unearth the details behind it, and examine the repercussions of the deed. Class members will be encouraged to choose one such profile and present it to the class, to be followed by a general discussion.

■ B WEEK / Mon. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 22

NEW COURSE: THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY:

"A LEGACY OF ASHES"

Coordinators: *Al Lewis, Helen McMahon*

We will study the history of American intelligence from the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.) in WW II to the present. The policies and operations of the C.I.A. will be analyzed and evaluated, and its relationship to U.S. Presidencies from Truman to G. W. Bush assessed. We will discuss the quality of leadership in the agency, the careers of its major figures, the conflict between intelligence gathering and operations, and consider in depth the impact of C.I.A. interventions (such as the coups in Iran, Guatemala and Chile) on subsequent history. Finally, we will consider the C.I.A.'s --role in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.

■ A WEEK / Thur. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 27

CHAUCER AND THE CANTERBURY TALES

Coordinators: *Barbara Blakemore, Myra Nissen*

At the time of the Black Plague, the poet Geoffrey Chaucer wrote of a group of English pilgrims who traveled from London to Canterbury to visit the shrine of the martyred archbishop Thomas á Becket. We will read at home, and then discuss in class, the tales the travelers told to amuse themselves on their journey—tales that reveal what life was like in 14th-century England.

■ A WEEK / Mon. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 19

NEW COURSE: CONSERVATISM IN AMERICA

Coordinators: *John Hood, Howard Salik*

The approach will be both topical and chronological. We will trace the evolution of the conservative movement in America, inspired by Britain's Edmund Burke and

Fall Courses

America's John Adams, through the political battles involving Robert A. Taft; Barry Goldwater's 1964 defeat; William F. Buckley and *National Review*; Ronald Reagan's 1980 election, ushering in a new era of conservative political dominance; through the 1990's—Newt Gingrich's Contract with America; the Religious Right; Dick Cheney and neo-conservative zeal; and the impact of contemporary media.

■ B WEEK / Tues. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

Coordinators: Eleanor Chernick, Eileen Mund

At every session two class members each introduce a story we've all read at home. Background on the authors, elements of the stories (character, plot, point of view, etc.) are then open to discussion. Our basic text is Best American Short Stories 2008, edited by Salman Rushdie, which we use at every other session. At alternate sessions we use copies of stories by authors from around the world.

■ A WEEK / Thur. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 19

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH

Coordinators: Charles Carter, Yvonne Kress

Members read, translate and discuss written material in French involving everyday phrases and expressions. We also read French newspaper articles and poems, and members are encouraged to write, in French, about their travel and other personal experiences.

■ A WEEK / Mon. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 19

GRAND OPERA

Coordinators: Charles Carter, Frieda Lipp

This class is for the person who wants to appreciate and understand opera. At each session we show a video of an opera, together with a brief history of the work and its composer. Members then discuss their reactions to the presentation.

■ B WEEK / Wed. / 10:30am to 12pm / Auditorium

GREAT PLAYS

Coordinators: Beverly Francus, Helen Neilson

We present leading European and American works. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright, followed by a reading performance of the play in an edited form. There is then a class discussion of the theme of the play and its relevance to our lives.

■ B WEEK / Thur. / 10:30am to 12pm / Auditorium

NEW COURSE: THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Coordinators: Marc Deitch, Barbara Gordon, Robert Reiss

Among the varied topics we will study this year are: Greek and Egyptian Medicine, the History of Surgery, Great Physicians from Maimonides to DeBakey, Epidemics in the Middle Ages, Public Health, and The Antibiotic Age. Presentations will make use of art, literature and science to lend a broad perspective to this fascinating subject. As a general background text, we recommend *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity*, by Roy Porter (Norton paperback, 1999)

■ B WEEK / Wed. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 27

IMAGES OF WOMEN IN LITERATURE

Coordinators: Carole Abrahams, Barbara Spector Karr, Marcella Montaruli

We explore, through a collection of monologues, the lives of American women and the many stages through which they pass. Background information on the subject will be researched, and the chosen monologue will be read aloud.

Each class will end with a discussion of current issues relating to women's lives. Text: *The Best Women's Stage Monologues*, Jocelyn A. Beard, ed.

■ A WEEK / Tues. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

NEW COURSE: INDIGENOUS MUSIC AND CULTURE

Coordinators: Steven Koenig, Myra Nissen

In this course we will study the music of indigenous peoples, focusing on ethnic field recordings and modern works derived from traditional roots. These will be enriched with discussions and readings about history and cultural anthropology, folklore, visual and performing arts, poetry and (very) short stories relevant to the music. This semester may include the Inuit, Dogon, Balinese, Korean, Saami, Gnawa and Diné peoples.

■ B WEEK / Tues. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 22

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TODAY

Coordinators: Leonard Glass, Hobart Rauch

The course examines world situations as they develop. It analyzes economic and political issues and addresses the conflicts that divide developing nations from great powers. Discussion focuses on the role of the United States but extends to relations among the other countries of the world. Sources include relevant newspaper and magazine articles, current books and appropriate telecasts.

■ A WEEK / Wed. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

Introduction To the Great Books - Eva Shiff

IRISH THEATRE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

(Formerly Irish Theatre and Its Themes)

Coordinators: Carolyn McGuire, Myra Nissen

We will study the Irish theatre in its social, political and economic contexts. This study will include internationally successful plays, beginning with works by Synge, Yeats and O'Casey, and concluding with plays of the Celtic Tiger era of the 20th and 21st centuries. Playwrights such as Friel, McDonagh, McPherson, Carr and other post-modern writers will be included.

■ A WEEK / Tues. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 27

LIFE DRAWING**Coordinators:** Carole Abrahams, Barbara Spector Karr

In sessions of this course, which alternate a live model with instructional videos, students practice drawing the human form. Participants provide their own drawing materials and pad, which can be stored at Quest. Pens, pencils, charcoal and conte crayons are suitable media. Each class member pays a model fee of approximately \$35 per semester. Recommended Reading: Betty Edwards, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*; Robert Kaupelis, *Learning to Draw*; Kimon Nicolaides, *The Natural Way to Draw*.

■ A WEEK / Mon. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 27

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DRAMATISTS

(Replaces Major Modern Dramatists)

Coordinators: Marilyn Rosen, Pearl Shulman, Jerry Wiesenber *continues to*

We will study the works of classic dramatists from around the world, ranging in time from the middle or late 19th century to the early 20th century. We will read the plays at home and discuss them in depth in class. We plan to examine two works by each dramatist—such masters as Ibsen, Chekov, Strindberg, Lorca and Pirandello.

■ A WEEK / Wed. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 19

MODERN OPERA (Formerly Contemporary Opera)**Coordinators:** Joan Briller, Steven Koenig

We watch excerpts from DVDs and feature lively discussions about the text, music, staging and medium. We compare productions and correlate historical and cultural events. This semester may include Weill's *Mahagonny*, Berg's *Wozzeck*, Tan Dun's *The First Emperor*, Messiaen's *St. Francois d'Assise*, Glass's *Einstein on the Beach*, Meredith Monk's *Ellis Island*, and Maw's *Sophie's Choice*.

■ A WEEK / Wed. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 22

MOVERS AND SHAKERS**Coordinators:** Eleanor Chernick, Isidore Schwartzman

Who were the strong characters, men and women, who shaped their world and ours? We will examine the lives and accomplishments of the outstanding, and sometimes unexpected, personalities who made a difference to society. They range from Alexander the Great to Eleanor Roosevelt, whose ideas and actions had lasting influence.

■ A WEEK / Mon. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 22

THE NEW YORK STORY: Infrastructure and Institutions

(Formerly New York Neighborhoods)

Coordinators: Al Gubar, Bob Hartmann, Helen McMahon

This semester we will explore, by means of lectures and videos, such subjects as Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Bronx Zoo, the Museum of Natural History, the water system, "The Great White Way," the bridges of New York City, and the city as a port.

■ A WEEK / Tues. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 22

POETS' WORKSHOP**Coordinators:** Joan Bonagura, Barbara Spector Karr, Helen Neilson

The focus is on your poems in a supportive environment where you'll receive detailed feedback. You are encouraged to experiment, to explore language and address all aspects of the craft to develop your own distinctive style and voice.

■ B WEEK / Thur. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 27

POINT OF VIEW**Coordinators:** Russell Good, Barbara Gordon

A selection of newspaper accounts, op-ed pieces, editorials and magazine articles is presented to the class, and the members choose two or three of the selections to be read aloud. They then examine and freely debate the points of view the material expresses.

■ B WEEK / Thur. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 19

PROUST**Coordinators:** Florence Granowitter, Joe Nathan

Last semester, having read "Swann's Way," the first volume of *Remembrance of Things Past*, we will move on to the second volume, "In a Budding Grove." Course participants read the assigned material at home and come to class prepared to discuss it, helping one another to appreciate this great author and his masterwork.

■ A WEEK / Thur. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

Fall Courses

SHAKESPEARE

Coordinators: Betty Farber, Joe Nathan, Stan Raffes

We will read *Measure for Measure* at home and then again, aloud, in class. The reading will be followed by a discussion of the play, its characters, meaning, structure and style.

■ A WEEK / Wed. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 27

STORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Coordinators: Barbara Blakemore, Shirley Myers

English has become the dominant language of commerce and culture in today's world. Its many forms range from American slang to the "flash" language of Australia. This semester, through lectures and discussion, we will see how English words and phrases reflect history and social change. Videos may be shown to illustrate the variety of the language.

■ B WEEK / Mon. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 19

THE SUPREME COURT

Coordinators: Alvin Kabot, David Robinson, Ruth Smith

We will examine and discuss in depth recent landmark decisions of the Court, as well as important issues raised by cases coming before the Court in 2009. We will gain further insight into the Court and its Justices through topical papers presented in class and through critiques of current books and articles on the subject.

■ A WEEK / Tues. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 19

NEW COURSE: TODAY'S FILMS

Coordinators: Eleanor Chernick, Eileen Mund, Beverly Wasserman

Class members will choose two films currently playing and see them before the class meets again. At that time we will analyze each film as to its formal cinematic elements, its background vis-à-vis the director's other work and its country of origin, the actors' performances, etc. We will also examine the differences between what professional critics look for vs. what ordinary filmgoers look for: Was the movie interesting? Did we enjoy it?

■ B WEEK / Thur. / 12:30 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 22

UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Coordinators: Joe Nathan, Eva Shatkin

The class reads selections of recent poetry with a view to understanding what good poetry conveys. Members choose poems from the text and other sources for

discussion and analysis. Text: Helen Vendler, *The Music of What Happens*.

■ B WEEK / Mon. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 19

NEW COURSE: INSIDE THE WALL STREET REVOLUTION

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Al Gordon, John Hood

This course will review the major theoretical and structural advances that have taken place in the finance industry over the last 30 years. We will examine the reasons for these changes and their accomplishments, as well as their negative impacts. Presentations will be on a non-technical level, and class members will be encouraged to bring in any relevant material from books, periodicals and newspapers that raise questions related to the course.

■ A WEEK / Thur. / 10:30am to 12pm / Rm. 22

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Joan Bonagura, Barbara Spector Karr

Members read aloud short stories, essays and poems they have written, followed by class reactions and suggestions. The critiques are supportive to both seasoned writers and beginners, and are intended to develop and encourage writing skills.

■ B WEEK / Tues. / 1 to 2:30 pm / Rm. 19

Something Extra

FRIDAY MUSEUM TOURS

Coordinators: Joan Briller, Yvonne Kress

Inspired by the success of last year's visits to "under the radar" museums (The New-York Historical Society, The Rubin Museum of Art), we plan to offer two more docent-led visits this semester.

These Friday morning tours may include such interesting sites as
The Museum of the Chinese in the Americas and
The Museum of American Illustration.

We will vary the experience each time, focusing on different disciplines—
i.e., art, history or ethnic culture.

Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Quest bulletin board.

Lunch together after the tour is optional, and it's always at a restaurant
an easy walk from the museum.