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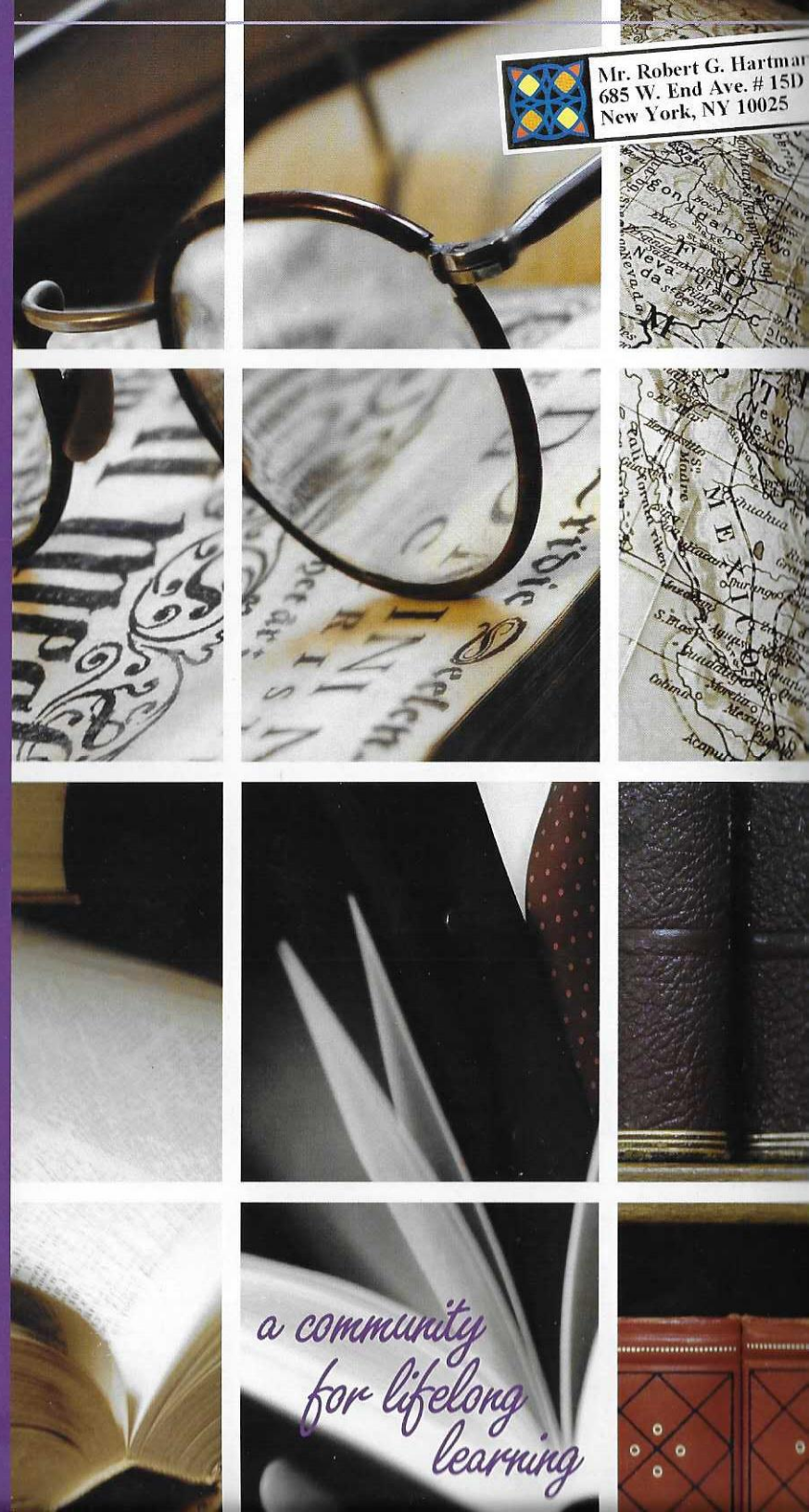
CITY COLLEGE IS **CCNY**

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# Quest Curriculum Spring 2011 Semester



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*a community  
for lifelong  
learning*

# Spring Calendar

Week Starting	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Feb. 7	<b>First Day of Classes</b>	A	A	A
Feb. 14	B	B	B	B
Feb. 21	<b>Presidents' Day (no classes)</b>	A	A	A
Feb. 28	B	B	B	B
March 7	A	A	A	A
March 14	B	B	B	B
March 21	A	A	A	A
March 28	B	B	B	B
April 4	A	A	A	A
April 11	B	B	B	B
April 18	<b>Spring Break Week — No Classes</b>			
April 25	A	A	A	A
May 2	B	B	B	B
May 9	A	A	A	A
May 16	B	B	B	<b>Last Day of Classes</b>

# Spring Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>A WEEK</b>				
<b>Morning</b>	Great Books	Supreme Court	History of Theater	Contemporary Short Stories
10:30 am-12 pm	Aspects of Western Dance	Indigenous Music and Culture	Contemporary Opera	Short Films
			Computers for Everyone	
<b>Lunch: 12-1 pm</b>				
<b>Afternoon</b>	Spinoza: A View from the 21st Century	Images of Women in Literature	Shakespeare	Proust
1 pm-2:30 pm	Ancient & Modern Wonders	Irish Literature	Science & Math for Everyone	Fiction into Film
	Life Drawing	Italian for Beginners		Acting Workshop for Beginners
<b>B WEEK</b>				
<b>Morning</b>	Movers and Shakers	Artists and Their Work	Grand Opera	Point of View
10:30 am-12 pm	The Peopling of America	Foreign Affairs	History of Medicine	Great Plays
				Religions of the World
<b>Lunch: 12-1 pm</b>				
<b>Afternoon</b>	Acting Workshop Advanced	Writers' Workshop	Guest Speakers	Film Today
1 pm-2:30 pm	Myths & Their Meaning	The Great American Songbook		Poets' Workshop (12:30pm)
	Contemporary Poetry	The Medieval World		Jazz: The Soul & the Sound

## ART

Artists and Their Work  
Life Drawing

## DANCE

Aspects of Western Dance

## DRAMA

Acting Workshop  
for Beginners  
Acting Workshop Advanced  
Great Plays  
History of the Theater  
Shakespeare

## FILM

Fiction into Film  
Film Today  
Short Films

## GOVERNMENT & WORLD AFFAIRS

Foreign Affairs  
Point of View  
The Supreme Court

## HISTORY

Ancient and Modern  
Wonders of the World  
The Medieval World  
Movers and Shakers  
Myths and Their Meaning  
The Peopling of America

## LANGUAGE

Italian for Beginners

## LITERATURE

Contemporary Short Stories  
Enjoying Contemporary Poetry  
Images of Women in Literature  
Introduction to  
The Great Books  
Irish Literature:  
Poetry, Prose, Plays  
Poets' Workshop  
Proust  
Writers' Workshop

## MUSIC

Contemporary Opera  
Grand Opera  
The Great American  
Songbook  
Indigenous Music and Culture  
Jazz: The Soul and the Sound

## PHILOSOPHY

Spinoza: A View from  
the 21st Century

## RELIGION

Religions of the World

## SCIENCE & MATH

Computers for Everyone  
History of Medicine  
Science and Math for Everyone

## ACTING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

*Coordinators: Panny King, Marilyn Rosen*

The spring semester will continue to explore basic acting techniques and character development through the use of acting exercises, monologues and improvisation.

■ **A WEEK / Thursday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## ACTING WORKSHOP—ADVANCED

*Coordinators: Panny King, Marilyn Rosen*

We will continue with the advanced actors working to polish their acting skills and develop material for our annual presentation at the end of the semester.

■ **B WEEK / Monday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## ANCIENT AND MODERN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

*Coordinators: Joan Briller, Bob Reiss, Jerry Wiesenberg*

What makes a monument, bridge, building or waterway such a marvel of design and construction that it captures our imagination? This course will present ancient and modern wonders in the context of their culture, telling the story of how and why they were built. Examples may range from the Colossus of Rhodes to the "Chunnel," from the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus to the Golden Gate Bridge. Our overall intention is to echo the credo of the American Society of Civil engineers: "The wonders demonstrate man's ability to achieve unachievable feats, reach unreachable heights and scorn the notion that 'it can't be done'."

■ **A WEEK / Monday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

*Coordinators: Sandy Gordon, Isidore Schwartzman*

Art is the visual language of culture and society, and artists are their scribes. Using lecture with visual presentation, we explore art history, examining the life and times of the artists as well as their art. This spring semester we will focus on *The Eight: The New York Realist Ashcan School*.

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## ASPECTS OF WESTERN DANCE

**Coordinators:** *Harriet Greenberg, Ruth Kovner, Sandra Southwell*

We will briefly discuss the early history of ballet—the contributions of great classical choreographers such as Moliere, Pierre Beauchamps, Jeanne Lully, Frederick Ashton, Marius Petipa, and Serge Diaghilev. We will then focus on 20th- and 21st-century classical and contemporary dance—on Balanchine, Robbins, de Mille, Paul Taylor and other choreographers and their relationships with their star performers. The course will be non-technical, and presenters will make ample use of videos and illustrations.

■ **A WEEK / Monday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## **New course** COMPUTERS FOR EVERYONE

**Coordinators:** *Steve Allen, Eric Brodheim, Bob Reiss, Howard Salik, Michael Wellner*

If you find yourself frustrated by your computer, and want to learn how to get more out of it, this course is for you! We will cover topics that include Basic Computer Operations; useful tips, tricks, and shortcuts; how to use the Internet effectively; PowerPoint Software (and enrich your Quest presentations); Adobe Photoshop and so much more

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## CONTEMPORARY OPERA

**Coordinators:** *Joan Briller, Steven Koenig*

At each session, we will view a different opera and engage in a lively discussion of the text, staging and medium. We will compare productions and correlate with historical and cultural events. This semester may include Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel*, Hartmann's *Simplicius Simplicimus*, Weill's *Arms and the Cow*, Dusapin's *Faust's Last Night*, Maw's *Sophie's Choice*, Britten's *Albert Herring*, Aperghis' *Little Red Riding Hood*, jazz and computer opera.

■ **A WEEK / Wednesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

**Coordinators:** *Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp, Nancy Richardson*

At every session, two class members introduce one story each from our anthology (currently *The Pen/O. Henry Prize Stories 2010*, edited by Laura Furman) or, at alternate sessions, international stories in translation. The person introducing the story gives some background on the author and anything else that's appropriate, and opens up the discussion to the class.

■ **A WEEK / Thursday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY

**Coordinators:** *Joe Nathan, Eva Shatkin*

From close reading and discussion of the work of contemporary poets, we uncover a whole new world of enjoyment. Class members present their chosen poems and lead a discussion of their selections.

■ **B WEEK / Monday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## FICTION INTO FILM

**Coordinators:** *Betty Farber, Harriet Greenberg*

What happens to a work of fiction when it is adapted for film? At home class members will read a short story the coordinators have assigned—work chosen from authors ranging from Steven Vincent Benet to Maurice Walsh to Noel Coward. Then, in class, we will discuss the story, followed by a screening of the film. (In some cases, the coordinators will edit the films to fit our time frame.) Finally, we will compare the written work with the film version.

■ **A WEEK / Thursday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## FILM TODAY (formerly Today's Films)

**Coordinators:** *Eleanor Chernick, Eileen Mund, Beverly Wasserman*

This is a discussion class. Class members will see on their own two or three currently running films, chosen by class vote for discussion at the next session. (Occasionally, these films are in wide release, but more often they are independent or of foreign origin.) The discussion may include a critique of the cinematic elements of the film, comparisons to other films by the same director, the actors' performances, any current issues that are addressed, and, if the film is adapted from a book, comparison of the film to the book. Class members are encouraged to volunteer to lead the discussion.

■ **B WEEK / Thursday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## SHORT FILMS: LESS IS SOMETIMES REALLY BETTER THAN MORE

**Coordinators:** *Steve Allen, Marian Friedmann, Caroline Thompson*

Short films—by definition, films less than an hour long, and often less than half that—are often a fascinating means of probing important political, social and philosophical issues. Join us as we watch some of the most important short films of recent years. They may make you laugh or cry, amuse or anger you. But all are guaranteed to spark a stimulating discussion to follow.

■ **A WEEK / Thursday / 10:30am to 12pm**

# Spring Courses

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Coordinators:** *Howard Salik, Sandra Southwell*

In this course we will examine and discuss world affairs, problems and challenges, based on articles published in *Foreign Affairs Journal*. Presenters will review articles, along with relevant data from other sources (No homework necessary!), and then lead the class in an in-depth discussion of the material.

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## GRAND OPERA

**Coordinators:** *Frieda Lipp, Jerry Wiesenberg*

This class is for the person who wants to appreciate and understand opera. At each session we show a video of an opera, and give a brief history of the work and its composer or we may select a common theme and show excerpts from various works. Members then discuss their reactions to the presentation.

■ **B WEEK / Wednesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

**Coordinators:** *Steve Allen, Bob Hartmann, Michael Wellner*

So many of the songs we love and remember—such songs as *White Christmas*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Oklahoma*, and countless others, were written by immigrants or the offspring of immigrants. How did these relative newcomers to America come to write what we know as “The Great American Songbook”? Over the course of this semester we will examine many of these great composers, including Arthur Schwartz, Richard Rodgers, Jule Styne, Harold Arlen, Cy Coleman and Stephen Sondheim, learning about their lives while listening to their music.

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## THE GREAT BOOKS: AN INTRODUCTION

**Coordinators:** *Franz Friedrich, Eva Shatkin, Jerry Wiesenberg*

In our second semester, we will use the *Second Series of The Great Books Reading and Discussion Series*. Readings will include works by Plato,

John Dewey, Euripides, Dostoevsky, Hobbes, Adam Smith and others. In our “shared inquiry” format, class members read the assigned selection and discuss questions of fact, interpretation and evaluation of the text in response to questions from the coordinators.

■ **A WEEK / Monday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## GREAT PLAYS

**Coordinators:** *Roy Clary, 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 edited form. There is then a class discussion of the theme of the play and its relevance to our lives.

■ **B WEEK / Thursday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

**Coordinators:** *Barbara Gordon, Bob Reiss, Sandra Southwell*

This course will now focus on medical advances in history, as well as look at medical challenges in the world today. Topics will include discoveries such as DNA, circulation, vaccines, insulin, HIV/AIDS, in addition to questions about such subjects as tropical diseases, medical ethics, approaches to cancer, medical treatment in emerging countries, and medicine in the workplace.

■ **B WEEK / Wednesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## HISTORY OF THEATER

**Coordinators:** *Roy Clary, Myra Nissen, Marilyn Rosen*

It's a long road from the glorious drama of ancient Greece to the theater of today. In this course—through lectures and audio-visuals—we examine major theatrical periods, including those of antiquity, the medieval era, Elizabethan, Spanish, French and modern. In addition to the major plays and playwrights, we study acting styles, theater architecture and staging.

■ **A WEEK / Wednesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

# Spring Courses

## IMAGES OF WOMEN IN LITERATURE

**Coordinators:** *Carole Abrahams, Joan Bonagura, Barbara Spector Karr*

We explore, through short stories, the many roles women play during their lifetime. After each class, selections for reading at home are assigned for the next session, when the group will discuss them. (For the first session we will read the story together in class.) Information about the author will be distributed, when available. Each class also features a discussion of current issues relating to women's lives.

■ **A WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## INDIGENOUS MUSIC AND CULTURE

**Coordinators:** *Steven Koenig, Myra Nissen*

Music of indigenous peoples is our focus, using ethnic field recordings, and exploring modern works derived from traditional roots. This will be enriched with discussions and readings about history and cultural anthropology, folklore, visual and performing arts, poetry and stories relevant to the music. This semester may include Indonesia, Kenya, Australia, Tibet, Hungary, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

■ **A WEEK / Tuesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS

**Coordinators:** *Giuliana Buffoni Lopes, Laura Roccas Gold*

This course is designed for Questers who have little or no knowledge of the Italian language. The coordinators will not teach grammar but will speak only in Italian presenting basic rules of pronunciation and common sentence patterns relating to well known subjects so that from the start, participants will understand what is being said. Through this method, they will learn vocabulary and begin to speak in Italian. Handouts and an Italian/English dictionary will be used.

■ **A WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## IRISH LITERATURE: POETRY, PROSE, PLAYS

**Coordinators:** *Carolyn McGuire, Myra Nissen*

This semester will focus on selected works of Nobel Prize winners Samuel Beckett, 1935 (*End Game*), and Seamus Heaney, 1995 (*Poetry*), as well as other internationally recognized Irish writers and their work. These include, James Joyce (*The Dubliners*), J.B. Keane (*Letters of a Matchmaker*), Hugh Leonard (*Da*) and William Trevor's short novel

*Felicia's Journey* and a short story/film, *Ballroom of Romance*. Two plays, short stories and a short novel will be read at home and discussed in class in relation to aspects of Irish culture and history.

■ **A WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## JAZZ: THE SOUL AND THE SOUND

**Coordinators:** *Faith Aarons, Doreen DeMartini, Vivian Oliver, Carol Seltzer*

In a journey through 100 years of a great musical tradition, we will use recordings and film clips to focus on seminal jazz musicians and composers, as well as jazz styles and culture. We will follow the evolution of jazz through ragtime, Dixieland, swing, be-bop, Latin jazz, and fusion, with strong emphasis on the jazz of today. Class discussion will be augmented with reports on various musicians, as well as such topics as Women in Jazz and Cultural and Political Influences on Jazz. Class members may also opt to participate in two visits to local jazz venues.

■ **B WEEK / Thursday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## LIFE DRAWING

**Coordinators:** *Carole Abrahams, Barbara Spector Karr, Donna Rubens*

In sessions of this course, students practice drawing the human form, using a live model. Participants provide their own drawing material—pads and pens, pencils, Conte crayon or charcoal, and a portfolio or sturdy bag. (No liquid media, please.) Materials can be stored at Quest.

■ **A WEEK / Monday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## **New course** THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

**Coordinators:** *Wally Butler, Lynell Garabedian, Joe Nathan*

What was it like to live in the Middle Ages? This course will discuss one of the most pivotal and misunderstood periods in the history of Western civilization. Sourced by lectures by professors of English and Medieval Literature at Purdue University, topics such as the influence of medieval writers, medieval print culture, the Arthurian Legend, the Bayeux Tapestries, the Norman Conquest and the Viking invasions will be included. Excerpts from selected DVD lectures will be shown in class to clarify and stimulate discussion.

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

# Spring Courses

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Coordinators:** *David Robinson, 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 and whose ideas and actions have had lasting influence, whether for good or ill. Our subjects range from Caligula to the Beatles.

■ **B WEEK / Monday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## MYTHS AND THEIR MEANING

**Coordinators:** *Betty Farber, Ruth Kovner, Carolyn McGuire*

This course will examine the many myths that attempt to explain how our world came into being. Various cultures within Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and other areas have their own Creation myths. In each class we will summarize a myth and discuss its relevance to the culture from which it comes.

■ **B WEEK / Monday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## THE PEOPLING OF AMERICA

**Coordinators:** *Doreen De Martini, Trudy Owett, Michael Wellner*

Those of us who live in the NY Metro area come into daily contact with people of vastly different nationalities, colors, backgrounds and religions. We take this for granted; for us, it's just "business as usual." But this is not always the case in most of the rest of the world. This course will examine why, how, and when these people (our ancestors)—Native Americans, Africans, settlers, refugees and immigrants—got here, and the profound influence they have had, and still have, on our city, state and country.

■ **B WEEK / Monday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## 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 to address all aspects of the craft in order to develop your own distinctive style and voice. This class begins a half-hour early, at 12:30 P.M.

■ **B WEEK / Thursday / 12:30pm to 2:30pm**

## POINT OF VIEW

**Coordinators:** *Russell Good, Barbara Gordon*

This is an interactive discussion class, in which the coordinators (as well as the class members) bring in short opinion pieces—editorials, op-ed articles, reviews, etc.—that express a particular point of view. The class votes as to which of the pieces they wish to discuss that day and then argue for or against the views expressed.

■ **B WEEK / Thursday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## PROUST

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

We will continue our reading of *In Search of Lost Time*, using the Modern Library edition of Marcel Proust's masterpiece. This semester we will read from the third volume, *The Guermites Way*. Questers who are new to this ongoing class can obtain summaries of the first two volumes at online bookstores.

■ **A WEEK / Thursday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

**Coordinators:** *Gerrie Rude, Sandra Southwell*

Throughout history, human beings in all cultures have turned to religion to answer their questions about the unknown. How have their various beliefs affected their lives and the lives of those around them? We will be studying the religions of many civilizations other than the "Big Three" (Christianity, Islam and Judaism).

■ **B WEEK / Thursday / 10:30am to 12pm**

# Spring Courses

## SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS FOR EVERYONE

**Coordinators:** *Steve Allen, David Robinson, Burt Saltzberg*

If you're convinced that science and math are uninteresting and too hard to understand, with this course we will try to change your mind. Our view is that science and math are liberal arts, sources of works of great beauty that can enrich everyone's life and be discussed in a way that is accessible to all. In each session we will examine an issue that is in the news or has public-policy implications, or a subject that has wider cultural implications. No topic will require prior readings, though an article (at about the level of the *Science Times* or *Scientific American*) may sometimes be suggested.

■ **A WEEK / Wednesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## SHAKESPEARE

**Coordinators:** *Roy Clary, Betty Farber, Stan Raffes*

During this term we will read aloud and discuss in class *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is surely one of the most playful of Shakespeare's plays. According to the critic Harold G. Goddard, it is "in this fanciful dream play that the playwright first announces the conviction that underlies every one of his supreme tragedies: that the world of sense in which we live is but the surface of a vaster unseen world by which the actions of men are affected." It is dream, play, and love, from beginning to end.

■ **A WEEK / Wednesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## THE SUPREME COURT

**Coordinators:** *Martin Helpern, Alvin Kabot, David Robinson*

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 2010. 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 / Tuesday / 10:30am to 12pm**

## SPINOZA: A VIEW FROM THE 21ST CENTURY

**Coordinators:** *Eleanor Chernick, Hy Gold*

As a follow-up to our course on Spinoza a few years ago, we now take a deeper look into this philosopher's various theories from the vantage point of the here and now. The aspects covered will be Humanism, Political Theory, Science, Ethical Propositions, Psychology, and Biblical Analysis, as well as Spinoza's legacy to our century and beyond.

■ **A WEEK / Monday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## WRITERS' WORKSHOP

**Coordinators:** *Joan Bonagura, Barbara Spector Karr, Donna Rubens*

Members read aloud their short stories, memoirs, essays and poems, to which the class reacts and offers suggestions. The critiques are supportive to both seasoned writers and beginners, and are intended to develop and encourage writing skills.

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

## 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 Onassis Cultural Center 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.