

What is QUEST?

QUEST is a NYC-based educational community for lifelong learning.

Founded in 1995 by a small group of active retirees, QUEST operates in the Bowling Green facility of the City College of New York (CCNY.) Quest's mission is to create an intellectually challenging program for mature adults who want to continue to learn, exchange ideas, and develop new interests in a peer-learning educational and social environment.

Today QUEST is a vital part of the CCNY community with nearly 200 members.

They design their own curriculum and catalog, publish Q Review, an annual literary and art magazine and self-administer more than 35 peer-taught courses each semester. Courses range from literature and history to science, politics, current affairs, philosophy and the arts. Also featured is a Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series that brings experts in a wide variety of disciplines to Quest to discuss their fields and share their life experiences. In this stimulating, participatory environment, there are no attendance requirements, no exams and no grades.

QUEST is planned and operated by an elected eleven-member volunteer Council. Programs are carried out by volunteers and one full-time employee. The success of the organization depends on the voluntary participation of the membership in two major areas: facilitating coursework and administrative functions. No matter how members choose to participate, all find that Quest provides a rewarding intellectual and enriching social experience.

People of all backgrounds are welcome to teach and to learn.

The membership includes retired and semi-retired teachers, musicians, college professors, doctors, dentists, lawyers, editors, journalists, actors, psychologists, librarians, artists, business people and more.

There are three semesters each year, spring, fall and summer; classes are offered September through July and meet Monday through Thursday in morning and afternoon sessions (10:30 AM -12:00 noon and 1- 2:30 PM.) Most courses meet for at least two semesters and some courses continue for several years. There is a modest annual fee of \$500 which covers all expenses.

Prospective members and guests are encouraged to come and observe a typical day at QUEST.



CITY COLLEGE of NEW YORK
Center for Worker Education, Bowling Green Campus
25 Broadway, 7th floor, New York City, NY 10004

PHONE: 212.925.6625 ext.229 • EMAIL: quest@ccny.cuny.edu • WEB: www.questonline.org

Quest Curriculum

A Community for Lifelong Learning



Fall Calendar

Week Starting	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Sept. 9	First Day of Class	A	A	A
Sept. 16	B	B	B	B
Sept. 23	A	A	A	A
Sept. 30	B	B	B	B
Oct. 7	A	A	A	A
Oct. 14	No Class Columbus Day	B	B	B
Oct. 21	A	A	A	A
Oct. 28	B	B	B	B
Nov. 4	A	A	A	A
Nov. 11	B	B	1 pm General Meeting	B
Nov. 18	A	A	A	A
Nov. 25	B	B	No Class Thanksgiving	No Class Thanksgiving
Dec. 2	A	A	A	A
Dec. 9	B	B	B	Last Day of Class

Fall Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
A WEEK			
Morning	Great Books	Foreign Affairs	Awesome America: from "A" to "W"
10:30 am-12 pm	Modern Classical Music Masterpieces	Grand Opera	Contemporary Opera
	Satire and Comedy	One-Act Plays	History of Architecture
Lunch: 12-1 pm			
Afternoon	Great Plays	Films for Thought	Shakespeare
1pm-2:30pm	History and Rituals of Sports	Jazz — All in the Family	Women Spies
	Life Drawing	Writers' Workshop	The World of Mystery Fiction
B WEEK			
Morning	First Ladies of the U.S.A.	Artists and Their Work	The Contenders
10:30 am-12 pm	Irish-American Literature	The Papacy: Pivotal Moments	Dante and the Divine Comedy
	Lunch: 12-1 pm		
Afternoon	Appreciating Contemporary Poetry	Harlem Renaissance	Guest Speakers
1pm-2:30pm	Movers and Shakers	Proust	Science and Math for Everyone
		Supreme Court	

ART

- Artists and Their Work
- Life Drawing

DRAMA

- Great Plays
- One Act Plays
- Shakespeare

FILM

- Films for Thought
- Film Today

GOVERNMENT and WORLD AFFAIRS

- Domestic Affairs
- Foreign Affairs
- Point of View
- The Supreme Court

HISTORY

- Between the Wars
- The Contenders
- First Ladies of the US
- The History and Rituals of Sports
- Movers and Shakers
- The Papacy
- Women Spies — The Unsung Heroines of Undercover

LITERATURE

- Appreciating Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Dante and the Divine Comedy
- The Great Books: An Introduction
- Irish American Literature
- Poets' Workshop
- Proust
- Satire and Comedy
- World of Mystery Fiction
- Writers' Workshop

MUSIC

- Contemporary Opera
- Jazz — All in the Family
- Grand Opera
- Modern Classical Music Masterpieces

SCIENCE, MATH and TECHNOLOGY

- History of Architecture
- Science and Math for Everyone

SOCIOLOGY

- Awesome America from "A" to "W"
- Harlem Renaissance

SPECIAL SELECTIONS

- Quest Encores

APPRECIATING CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Coordinators: Joe Nathan, Stan Raffes, Eva Shatkin

From close reading and discussion of the work of contemporary poets, we uncover a new world of enjoyment. Class members choose poems to present and lead the discussion.

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

ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

Coordinators: Sandy Gordon, Bob Reiss

Art is the visual language of culture and society, and artists are the scribes. Using lecture, with visual presentation, we examine the work of selected artists in the context of their life and times. In the Fall semester, our subject will be that of "Der Blaue Reiter" Group (The Blue Rider Group). Although this German Expressionist movement of German and Russian artists lasted only a brief three years, it seeded the later development of abstract art.

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

NEW COURSE — AWESOME AMERICA: FROM "A" TO "W"

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Marian Friedmann

Starting with Alabama and ending with Wyoming, this four-year course will illuminate the past and present of each state of the union. We will examine each state's history, demography, economy, geography, politics, education, artists, sports and especially the heroes and villains who are so much a part of their state's past. Our exploration will also reflect on how events in each state affected the entire country.

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

BETWEEN THE WARS

Coordinators: Steve Allen, David Grossman, Caroline Thompson

Between World War I and World War II, the world encountered major transformations. We will continue our examination of this period from last term's course, including Eastern Europe, Japan, China, the decline of the British Empire, Prohibition and the rise of organized crime in the US. We will look at these events with a particular focus on how they were impacted by the consequences of World War I and how they helped shape the conditions for World War II.

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

Fall Courses

CONTEMPORARY OPERA

Coordinators: *Joan Briller, Steven Koenig*

At each session, we view a different opera and engage in a lively discussion of the text, staging and medium. This semester may include Kurt Weill's *Lost In The Stars*, Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, John Adams' *El Niño*, Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Krasa's *Terezin* camp children's opera *Brundibar*, Aperghis' *Little Red Riding Hood*, Vivier's *Rêves d'un Marco Polo*, Nielsen's *Maskarade* as well as jazz, computer and rock opera. We will compare productions and correlate them with historical and cultural events.

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

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

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

At each session, two class members present selections from *The Pen/O.Henry Prize Stories 2011*, or stories by foreign authors in translation. The presenters give background on the authors and other relevant information and draw on the class for discussion.

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

THE CONTENDERS

Coordinators: *Marian Friedmann, Ralph Shapiro, Sandra Southwell*

US Presidential elections always result in a winner. Even history books pay scant attention to the losers although many have had a significant impact on the election and the nation. This course will present key figures who ran for President and lost but impacted history none the less. We will select 14 campaigns and prepare the list of "losers" for discussion. We will include, Stephen A. Douglas, William Jennings Bryant, Thomas E. Dewey and Barry Goldwater.

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

NEW COURSE – DANTE AND THE DIVINE COMEDY

Coordinators: *Roy Clary, Phyllis Grossman, Penelope Pi-Sunyer*

Dante is the greatest of Italian poets, and his Divine Comedy, written in 1308, is a timeless masterpiece of human drama. This course will focus on the Inferno (Hell), the first of the Comedy's three parts. In it, the

poet descends to the very bottom of Hell in the initial stage of his journey towards redemption. The class will read the work aloud and discuss Dante, aspects of the entire work, and its context in 14th century Italy, an era of tumultuous political and religious intrigue.

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

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Coordinators: *Steve Allen, John Hood*

In this course, we discuss issues with domestic themes: issues of economics, law, ethics, and public policy. Each week will consist of a focused presentation and discussion of an issue with long-term consequences, drawn from topics such as the future of political parties, education policy, health care policy, and the impact of new technology on various aspects of our lives.

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

FILM TODAY (formerly Today's Films)

Coordinators: *John Hood, Howard Salik, Beverly Wasserman*

FILM TODAY is a discussion course. Here's how it works: coordinators gather information on six interesting films currently playing or to be released within one week. Links to all film trailers are emailed to members and are shown in class followed by a class vote which narrows the list down films which the class would like to see and discuss. Three members of the class will volunteer to give a brief five- to ten-minute talk looking at the plot, acting and direction. The last 30-minutes we have a "Film Today" feature, a "Behind the Scenes" discussion.

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

NEW COURSE – FILMS FOR THOUGHT: VIEWING AND DISCUSSION OF SHORT FILMS AND FILM EXCERPTS

Coordinators: *Steve Allen, Marian Friedmann, Lillian Schienblum*

Expanding on our previous "Short Films" class, we will view and discuss both short films and selected excerpts from full-length films. When we select excerpts from longer films, it will illustrate a theme such as "working women" or "the home front in war."

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

Fall Courses

NEW COURSE — FIRST LADIES OF THE U.S.A.

Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Pam Mahl, Michael Wellner

Over the years some historians have struggled to affix labels to the first ladies. Traditionalist or Activist? The First Lady serves as the official hostess of the President's house. Increasingly, these Ladies have seized the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of the nation beyond their circumscribed role in the White House. Each first lady has approached the role in her own way with a personal style relevant to her time and place. We will cover the unique stamp each has put on the role of First Lady and on the White House itself.

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

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 a discussion.

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

GRAND OPERA

Coordinators: Frieda Lipp, Jerry Wiesenber

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. Discussion follows.

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

THE GREAT BOOKS: AN INTRODUCTION

Coordinators: Franz Friedrich, June Dwyer, Eva Shatkin

We continue with the Third Series of the Great Books Reading and Discussion Series. Readings will pick up in Volume 3 with "The Beast in the Jungle" by Henry James. In our "shared inquiry" format, class members read the assigned selection and discuss aspects 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 read performance of the play in edited form. A class discussion of the theme of the play and its relevance to our lives follows.

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

NEW COURSE — THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Coordinators: Ruth Kovner, Gerrie Rude

The focus of this course is to learn of the contributions of talented artists, writer, poets, musicians, thinkers and performers who lived in Harlem or flourished during the flowering of the Harlem Renaissance. We will transport you to the years 1919 to 1930 to discover how their gifts enhanced our lives. We will discuss the enormous challenges they had to overcome to succeed in a racially prejudiced world.

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

THE HISTORY AND RITUALS OF SPORTS

Coordinators: Helen Goodman, Michael Wellner

Each lecture will examine one particular sport, to include its origin, history, evolution, rituals, costumes/uniforms, terminology, rules, scoring, popularity over the years, the types of fans it attracts — and, how their those fans express their support. We will also look at the types of heroes that the sport generates, and their influence on the larger society as a whole.

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

HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

Coordinators: Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

This year our course features the Starchitects. Each class will explore the work and life of an outstanding architect. Examples include: Andrea Palladio, LeCorbusier, Richard Meier, Mies Van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Norman Foster, Santiago Calatrava and others.

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

Fall Courses

IRISH AMERICAN LITERATURE

Coordinators: June Dwyer, Carolyn McGuire

In this discussion course we will be looking at texts that highlight the behaviors and preoccupations of the Irish who have either emigrated to or were born in America. Among the issues we will be treating are the difficulties of assimilation, the tension between the conservative Irish Catholic Church and American values, the Troubles and the Famine in Irish memory, the interaction of the Irish with other ethnic groups, and the role of the Irish in American politics.

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

JAZZ – ALL IN THE FAMILY

Coordinators: Doreen DeMartini, Mary Ann Donnelly, Myra Nissen

Our continuing exploration of jazz will focus on artists whose music involves family members and multiple generations. We will discuss the lives, training, individual talents and successes of family members, as well as their combined works, and their contributions to the medium. Presentations include video and audio material as well as historical and biographical information.

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

LIFE DRAWING

Coordinators: Carole Abrahams, Donna Rubens

This is a hands-on class in which we draw the human form in a variety of poses from a live model. We welcome all levels of expertise. We bring our own drawing materials: pads and pens, pencils, Conte crayon or charcoal, and a portfolio or sturdy bag. (No liquid media, please.) Materials may be stored at Quest.

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

MODERN CLASSICAL MUSIC MASTERPIECES

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Joan Briller

From Charles Ives' raucous Americana to the Eastern mysticism of Arvo Pärt's *Tabula Rasa*, experience all the flavors of the modern musical era, and the attendant historical and cultural backgrounds. Mahler, Berg, Bartók, Reich, Ellington, Prokofiev, Ives, Kodály, Adams, Marsalis, Ravel, Revueltas, Poulenc, Messiaen, Bernstein, Webern, Takemitsu, Cage,

and Gershwin, plus the current generation of composers, will tickle your fancy and your eardrums.

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

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Caroline Thompson, Richard Salter

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 bad. Our subjects range from Caligula to the Beatles.

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

NEW COURSE – ONE-ACT PLAYS

Coordinators: Betty Farber, Carolyn McGuire

Scripts of one-act plays will be distributed and read in class. Our fine members will act the various roles and then a discussion will follow. We will examine the genre of the one-act play, characterization, themes and settings of each play. In addition, a short biography of the author will be discussed. They will include: Clifford Odets, AR Gurney, Wendy Wasserstein, JM Synge, GB Shaw. On occasion there will be a showing of a DVD of one of the plays along with the readings.

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

NEW COURSE – THE PAPACY: PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY

Coordinators: Doreen DeMartini, Helen McMahon, Sandra Southwell

For the last two thousand years, from its origins through to the present day, the popes have been key players in virtually all of the great dramas of the western world. This class will focus on those popes, both saints and sinners, who shaped crucial moments in both church and world history. We will examine the development of the papacy from fishermen to global leaders. While the papacy has been enduring and influential, it has also been very controversial. Subject to constant danger from within and without, we will see how it survived because of, or in spite of, its leaders, absolute monarchs, the popes.

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

Fall Courses

POETS' WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Helen Neilson, Trudy Owett

The focus is on reading aloud and sharing your own poems in a supportive environment where you'll get 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.**

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

POINT OF VIEW

Coordinators: Barbara Gordon, Bob Hartmann, Myra Nissen

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 we present arguments for or against the expressed views.

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

PROUST

Coordinators: Joe Nathan, Florence Granowitter

This is a seminar course analyzing and discussing Proust's masterpiece *In Search of Lost Time*. This semester we will continue reading Volume V, "The Captive and the Fugitive" using the Modern Library edition. We will help Questers who are new to this ongoing class to obtain summaries of the first four volumes.

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

QUEST ENCORES

Coordinators: Bob Hartmann, John Hood

Many of our members have a treasure-trove of past presentations which have not been experienced by our newer members. In this course, we present a re-introduction of a variety of topics that remain pertinent, of interest, and worthy of repeat.

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

NEW COURSE — SATIRE AND COMEDY

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Jerry Wiesenbergs

A good comedian is not looking to change the world; he just wants us to laugh. A good satirist, however seeks to provoke change by subtly exposing the failings of an institution, government, or individual. Since much satire contains a comedic element, this course will feature sessions on comedy and satire. Remember — we don't stop laughing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop laughing.

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

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS FOR EVERYONE

Coordinators: Steve Allen, David Robinson, Burt Saltzberg

If you're convinced science and math are too hard to understand, this course may change your mind. Our view is that science and math are liberal arts that can enrich everyone's life and can be discussed in a way that is accessible to all. We will look at topics from many fields of science and math, including biology, psychology, and physics, and examine groundbreaking research work as well as exciting applications.

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

SHAKESPEARE

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Betty Farber, Stan Raffes

The class will read aloud and discuss *Henry V*. The play is highly admired because of its depiction of the conversion of the royal prodigal Prince Hal, as first seen in the two parts of *Henry IV*, into an ideal king, as well as for its ringing, patriotic speeches. Written around 1600, the play's title character has long been interpreted by some of the world's greatest actors including most recently Laurence Olivier and Kenneth Branagh.

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

Fall Courses

THE SUPREME COURT

Coordinators: Martin Helpern, Alvin Kabot

The purpose of the course is to study the history, decisions, and membership of the United States Supreme Court through presentation and discussion of cases and other publications. Issues for future Court consideration will also be discussed. Part of each Fall semester will be devoted to an in-depth review of a select number of cases decided by the Court during its preceding October to June term.

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

NEW COURSE — WOMEN SPIES — THE UNSUNG HEROINES OF UNDERCOVER

Coordinators: Doreen DeMartini, Bob Hartman, David Judlowitz

From the Revolutionary War to the Cold War and beyond, women have altered the course of history through their bravery, skill and selflessness in carrying out dangerous and clandestine espionage, much of which has been overlooked heretofore. Historians are now discovering the extent of their contributions and these courageous women are finally taking their rightful place in history. We will tell the tales of women spies and saboteurs, of experts in propaganda, recruiting and communications, and the agencies for which they worked.

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

WORLD OF MYSTERY FICTION

Coordinators: Sandra Southwell, Jerry Wiesenbergs

As we continue our exploration of various types of mystery fiction, this year we will cover some contemporary authors, such as Nevada Barr, Jeffrey Deaver, Sue Grafton, Bill Pronzini, Elizabeth George, Robert B. Parker and Tony Hillerman, to name a few. We will read a short piece by the designated author at home, and then discuss the writer's style, approach, and handling of the mystery.

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

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Donna M. Rubens, Shoshana Vasheetze

Writers' workshop encourages writers to submit the genre of their choice. There is a word assigned for every session, but it can be ignored if a writer chooses to deal with another topic. We offer gentle criticism meant to bring out the best in our scribes. Two necessities: copies for each member of the class and submissions limited to three double-spaced pages.

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

SOMETHING EXTRA

GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Coordinator: Sandy Gordon

The bi-monthly QUEST Distinguished Guest Lecture Series, Wednesdays at 1:00pm, enhances the QUEST program by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions of Global Policy and Political Science, Science, Anthropology, Literature, Theater Arts, Social Science, and Music. All lectures are followed by a vigorous Q & A.

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

FRIDAY MUSEUM TOURS

Coordinators: Joan Briller, Yvonne Kress

Inspired by the success of last year's visits to "under the radar" museums, we plan to offer two more docent-led visits this semester. We will vary the experience each time focusing on different disciplines. 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.