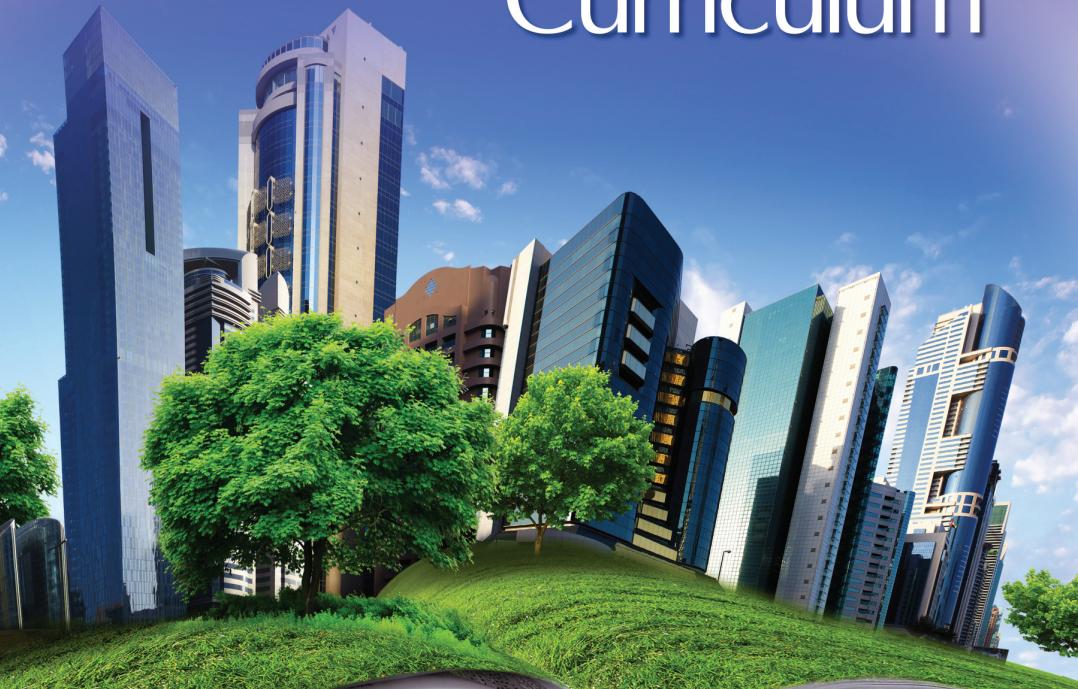




# Quest Curriculum



A Community  
for Lifelong  
Learning

Spring  
2014

# Spring Calendar

Week Starting	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Feb. 3 .....	First Day of Class	A .....	A .....	A .....
Feb. 10 .....	B .....	B .....	No Class Lincoln's B'day	B .....
Feb. 17 .....	No Class President's Day	A .....	A .....	A .....
Feb. 24 .....	B .....	B .....	B .....	B .....
Mar. 3 .....	A .....	A .....	A .....	A .....
Mar. 10 .....	B .....	B .....	B .....	B .....
Mar. 17 .....	A .....	A .....	A .....	A .....
Mar. 24 .....	B .....	B .....	B .....	B .....
Mar. 31 .....	A .....	A .....	A .....	A .....
Apr. 7 .....	B .....	B .....	1 PM General Meeting	B .....
Apr. 14 .....	SPRING BREAK			
Apr. 21 .....	Spring Break Continues	Classes Resume	A .....	A .....
Apr. 28 .....	B .....	B .....	B .....	B .....
May 5 .....	A .....	A .....	A .....	A .....
May 12 .....	B .....	B .....	B .....	Last Day of Class

# Spring Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	
<b>A WEEK</b>				
Morning 10:30 am-12 pm	Great Books	Foreign Affairs	Awesome America: from "A" to "W"	
	Modern Classical Music Masterpieces	One-Act Plays	Contemporary Opera	
	Satire and Comedy		History of Architecture	
Lunch: 12-1 pm				
Afternoon 1pm - 2:30pm	Great Plays	Films for Thought	Shakespeare	
	Sport — Its History and Rituals	The Papacy: Pivotal Moments	Women Spies	
	Life Drawing	Writers' Workshop	World of Mystery Fiction	
<b>B WEEK</b>				
Morning 10:30am-12 pm	First Ladies of the U.S.A.	Artists and Their Work	America's Political Parties	Contemporary Short Stories
	Literature and War	The Big Picture: Contemporary Non-Fiction	Dante and the Divine Comedy	Point of View
Lunch: 12-1 pm				
Afternoon 1pm - 2:30pm	Appreciating Contemporary Poetry	Harlem Renaissance	Guest Speakers	Film Today
	Movers and Shakers	James Joyce's Ulysses		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

- America's Political Parties
- The Big Picture
- Domestic Affairs
- Foreign Affairs
- Point of View
- The Supreme Court

## HISTORY and CULTURE

- First Ladies of the US
- The Great Books: An Introduction
- Movers and Shakers
- The Papacy
- Sport — Its History and Rituals
- Women Spies — The Unsung Heroines of Undercover

## LITERATURE

- American Dreams
- Appreciating Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Dante and the Divine Comedy
- Literature and War
- Poets' Workshop
- Satire and Comedy
- James Joyce's *Ulysses*
- World of Mystery Fiction
- Writers' Workshop

## MUSIC and PERFORMING ARTS

- Contemporary Opera
- Modern Classical Music Masterpieces
- The Performing Arts — Grand Opera and Ballet

## 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

## **NEW COURSE — AMERICAN DREAMS, AMERICAN NIGHTMARES**

**Coordinators:** Hal Cantor, Myra Nissen, Bob Reiss

The dream of a perfect society captured the imagination of many 19th and 20th century American intellectuals including Hawthorne, Bellamy, Howells, London, Skinner and Atwood. We will read their works and study the "Ideal" communities, Brook Farm and the Shakers, that reflected their ideals.

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

## **NEW COURSE — AMERICA'S POLITICAL PARTIES**

**Coordinators:** Michael Wellner, Peter Fleischman, Liesje Ten Houten

Everyone knows about today's two major parties. But what about the Whigs, Know Nothings, Bull Moose Party, Federalists, Communists and Socialist Workers, parties that have impacted the nation from George Washington's time to today?

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

## **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 images, we examine the work of selected artists in the context of their times. During the Spring semester, the artists presented will be the choice of the lecturers.

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

# Spring Courses

## AWESOME AMERICA: FROM "A" TO "W"

**Coordinators:** *Harriet Finkelstein, Marian Friedmann*

This four-year course will illuminate the history, demography, economy, geography, politics, education, artists, sports, heroes and villains of all states from Alabama to Wyoming. We will also study how inter-state events affected the nation.

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

## NEW COURSE – THE BIG PICTURE: CONTEMPORARY NON-FICTION ARTICLES

**Coordinators:** *Steve Allen, Wayne Cotter*

In spite of the sound bite and brief Twitter message, the long-form non-fiction article is thriving in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New York Review of Books*, plus in on-line-only formats. Class members will share favorites and lead discussions.

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

## 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.

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

## CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

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

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

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

## DANTE AND THE *DIVINE COMEDY*

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

Dante's *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. We will read the work aloud and discuss 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 economics, law, ethics, politics, and public policy. Each class will consist of a focused presentation and discussion of an issue with long-term consequences such as U.S. education policy and the impact of new technology.

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

## FILM TODAY

**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 to 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. During the last 30 minutes we have a Film Today feature and a "Behind the Scenes" discussion.

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

## FILMS FOR THOUGHT: VIEWING AND DISCUSSION OF SHORT FILMS AND FILM EXCERPTS

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

See the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies and film excerpts that illustrate a theme. We base our selections on both artistic merit and the film's ability to provoke lively discussions.

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

# Spring Courses

## 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. 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 based on articles published in the *Journal of Foreign Affairs*. Presenters will review articles, along with relevant data from other sources (no homework necessary!), and lead the class in discussion.

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

## THE GREAT BOOKS: AN INTRODUCTION

**Coordinators:** Franz Friedrich, June Dwyer, Eva Shatkin

We continue with the Fourth Series of the Great Books Reading & Discussion Program. We begin in Volume 1 with *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon. Readings are done at home and class discussion is led by the coordinators.

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

## 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 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**

## THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

**Coordinators:** Ruth Kovner, Gerrie Rude

We focus on learning about the talented artists, writers, poets, musicians, performers and thinkers who flourished during the flowering of the Harlem Renaissance, 1919 -1930. We will discover how their gifts enhanced our lives and the enormous challenges they had to overcome to succeed in a racially prejudiced world.

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

## HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

**Coordinators:** Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

This course continues to feature Starchitects. Each class will explore the work and life of an outstanding architect. Examples include: Andrea Palladio, Richard Meier, Mies Van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, Norman Foster and others.

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

## NEW COURSE — JAMES JOYCE'S ULYSSES

**Coordinators:** Joe Nathan, John Hood

James Joyce's *Ulysses* is one of history's great psychological novels. Cast in a single day in Dublin, the novel parallels the long journey of Homer's Odysseus using a middle-aged Jew as its protagonist and containing countless references that Joyce stated would keep scholars busy for years. We will accept this challenge and explore this masterpiece one chapter at a time.

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

## LIFE DRAWING

**Coordinators:** Carole Abrahams, Donna Rubens

This is a hands-on drawing class with professional live models. No experience needed. Bring drawing materials — pencils, charcoal, hard pastels, Conte crayons, pens — and a drawing pad. Not sure this is for you? We will supply your first day's equipment.

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

# Spring Courses

## NEW COURSE – LITERATURE AND WAR

**Coordinators:** June Dwyer, Art Spar

In this course we will look into the complexities and the terrible costs of war. Through readings of Western literary texts, we will examine the relationships between war and culture, patriotism and nationalism, traditional war and terrorism. We will also think about war as a site of empowerment, masculinity, and the achievement of personal glory. And finally, we'll consider the rhetoric of war and telling of "war stories."

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

## 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 sounds of the modern musical era including 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.

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

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Richard Salter, Caroline Thompson

We will examine the lives and accomplishments of the outstanding, and sometimes unexpected, personalities whose ideas and actions have had a lasting influence on our society, whether for good or evil. Our subjects range from Caligula to the Beatles.

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

## ONE-ACT PLAYS

**Coordinators:** Betty Farber, Carolyn McGuire

Scripts of significant one-act plays will be distributed in class and acted out by class members. Following the play reading there will be a discussion of themes, characters and other important aspects of the play. On occasion a DVD of a one-act play will be shown along with the readings. There is no advanced reading required for this course.

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

## THE PAPACY: PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY

**Coordinators:** Doreen DeMartini, Helen McMahon, Sandra Southwell

For the last 2,000 years, the popes have been key players in virtually all the great dramas of the western world. We will focus on those popes, both saints and sinners, who shaped crucial moments in church and world history. We'll examine the development of the papacy and how it has survived dangers from within and without.

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

## NEW COURSE – THE PERFORMING ARTS – GRAND OPERA AND BALLET

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

Alternating focus between Grand Opera and Ballet, we will visually explore the history, specific eras, composers, choreographers, directors, dancers, singers, comparable production concepts of the same ballet or opera, plus showing complete works.

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

## 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 both the coordinators and class members bring in short opinion pieces — editorials, op-ed articles, reviews, etc. A vote is taken on which pieces to discuss that day and individuals argue their views.

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

# Spring Courses

## QUEST ENCORES

**Coordinators:** *Bob Hartmann, John Hood*

Many of our members have given excellent presentations in the past which have not been experienced by our newer members or by those who had time conflicts initially. This course offers a re-introduction of topics that remain interesting and pertinent.

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

## SATIRE AND COMEDY

**Coordinators:** *Wayne Cotter, Jerry Wiesenber*

A comedian wants to make us laugh. A 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 think science and math are too hard, this course may change your mind. Our view is that science and math are liberal arts that can enrich your life. We report on many fields including biology, psychology, and physics, and examine groundbreaking research, 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 *Twelfth Night*. It is the last of Shakespeare's great comedies and, as its stage history proves, one of the most effective theater pieces he ever wrote. Its set of robust characters includes nobles and pirates, as well as fools and those who play at foolery. As its wonderfully complicated plot unfolds,

the comedy is a renewed illustration of how meaningful, and how humorous, life can be.

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

## SPORT – ITS HISTORY AND RITUALS

**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 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**

## THE SUPREME COURT

**Coordinators:** *Rick Salter, Ralph Shapiro, Michael Wellner*

Of all the decisions made by the Federal Government, few have as great an impact upon us as those of the Supreme Court. Campaign finance reform, voting rights, affirmative action (college admissions) are a few of the Court's decisions that are worthy of analysis and study which is exactly what this course will do.

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

## 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**

# Spring Courses

## WORLD OF MYSTERY FICTION

**Coordinators:** Sandra Southwell, Jerry Wiesenberg

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 in class.

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

## WRITERS' WORKSHOP

**Coordinators:** Donna M. Rubens, Shoshana Vasheetze

Writers' Workshop encourages writers to submit their work in any genre. There is a word assigned every session, but it can be ignored. Gentle criticism is offered. Two musts: Bring enough copies for the class and no more than three double-spaced pages.

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

## SOMETHING EXTRA

### FRANCOPHONE LUNCH

**Coordinators:** Stella Gold, Yvonne Kress

If you speak some French, join us for our bi-weekly "Lunch en Français." We bring our lunch and try to discuss current events, movies and other subjects in French. We also read and translate current French articles or more classic short stories.

■ **B WEEK / Monday / 12:00pm**

### 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 Q & A.

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

### LUNCH AND LEARN

**Coordinators:** Steve Allen, Ralph Shapiro

Lunch-and-Learn sessions are scheduled during the lunch hour usually on Tuesdays. While many topics are about pressing issues in current affairs, cultural or historical topics are also welcome. Any Quest member can suggest a topic or volunteer to lead a discussion.

■ **B WEEK / Tuesday / 12:00pm**

### 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.

# 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**  
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