

# **QUEST** is a New York City Based Community for Lifelong Learning

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

Today we are a vital part of the CCNY family, with more than 200 members. We design our own curriculum, publish an annual literary and art magazine, Q Review, and self-administer about forty advanced-level peer-taught courses each semester. Subjects range from literature and history to science, politics, current affairs, philosophy and the arts. We also feature a Distinguished Guest Lecture Series that brings prominent people in a wide variety of disciplines to discuss their careers and life experiences. In this stimulating, participatory community, there are no attendance requirements, no exams, no grades, and very little homework. People of all backgrounds are welcome to teach and to learn.

QUEST is administered by a memberelected eleven-member Council. All work is carried out by our member-volunteers, and by one administrative employee. Our success is wholly dependent on the voluntary participation of our members in many different areas, including the selection and development of the curriculum, and a wide array of administrative functions. No matter how members choose to participate, all find that QUEST provides a rewarding experience that enriches both their intellectual and social lives.

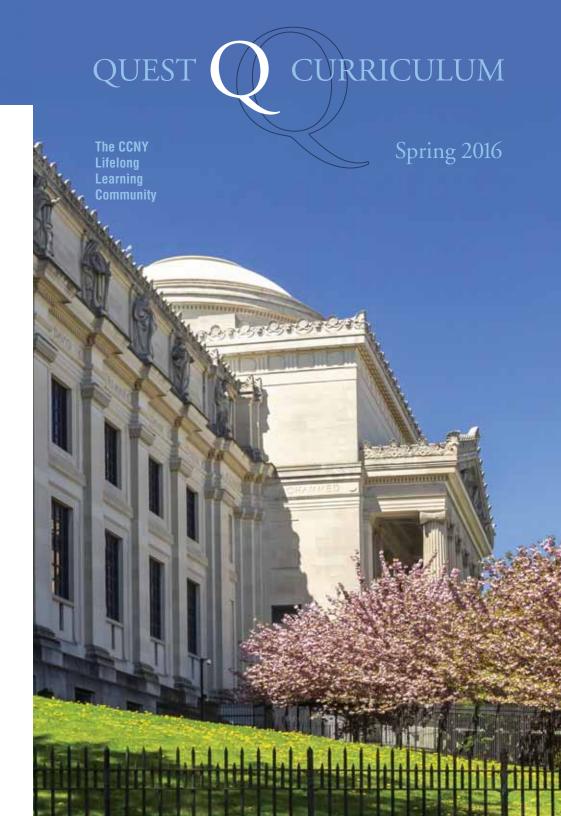
Our membership includes retired and semi-retired editors, musicians, teachers, lawyers, college professors, doctors, dentists, engineers, reporters, actors, librarians, psychologists, artists, business people and more.

There are three semesters each year: Fall (September through December), Spring (February through May), and a June & July summer session. Except in the summer, when classes are held from 10:30 - Noon Tuesdays and Thursdays only, we meet Monday through Thursday for morning (10:30 AM - 12:00 noon) and afternoon (1:00 - 2:30 PM) sessions. Most courses run for at least two semesters, and many continue for several years. There is a modest annual fee which covers all expenses. We encourage prospective members and guests to spend a day with us and see firsthand what an enriching lifelong learning opportunity awaits. To schedule a visit, please call or e-mail for an appointment.

Division of Interdisciplinary studies at the Center for Worker Education

The City College of New York

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Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
February 1	А	А	А	А	
February 8	В	В	В	В	
February 15	No Class President's Day	А	А	А	
February 22	В	В	В	В	
February 29	А	А	А	А	
March 7	В	В	В	В	
March 14	А	А	А	А	
March 21	В	В	В	В	
March 28	А	А	А	А	
April 4	В	В	General Meeting	В	
April 11	Α	А	Α	А	
April 18	В	В	В	В	
April 25	———— Spring Break ————				
May 2	А	А	A	A	
May 9	В	В	*	Last Day of Class	
* No classes Wednesday morning – Play Performance 12:30 Luncheon					

Δ	SPRING 2016 CALENDAR					
<b>∠ L</b> Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Great Conversations	Foreign Affairs	Ancient Greece	Mind and Brain		
	Long 19th Century	Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Supreme Court	Point of View		
	Classic Rock Albums		Contemporary Opera			
Lunch						
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Great Plays	Art in History	Explorations in Architecture	The Brothers Karamazov		
	Presenter's Showcase	Movers & Shakers	Shakespeare	Economics & Society		
D	Life Drawing	Writers' Workshop		Poets' Workshop		
B Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Awesome America	Artists & Their Work	American Roots Music	Contemporary Short Stories		
	Election 2016	The Big Picture	Ibsen	Environmental Issues		
Lunch						
Afternoon	Appreciating	Performing Arts	Guest Speakers	Film Today (12:45)		
1:00 – 2:30	Contem. Poetry	7 11 10		,		
1:00 - 2:30	Fascinating Non-Fiction	Blacks in America		Philosophical Conjectures		

#### ART

- Artists & Their Work
- Art in History
- Life Drawing

#### DRAMA

- Acting Workshop
- Great Plays
- Shakespeare
- Ibsen & ModernAmerican Playwrights

## **GOVERNMENT &**WORLD AFFAIRS

- The Big Picture
- Election 2016
   America's QUEST for a New Leader NEW
- Foreign Affairs
- Point of View
- The Supreme Court

#### **HISTORY & CULTURE**

- Ancient Greece
- Awesome America
- Blacks in America NEW
- Explorations in Architecture
- GreatConversations NEW

- The Long 19th Century
- Movers & Shakers
- Three Philosophical Conjectures

#### **LITERATURE**

- AppreciatingContemporary Poetry
- The Brothers Karamazov
- ContemporaryShort Stories
- Fascinating Non-Fiction
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- Poets' Workshop
- Writers' Workshop

## MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

- American Roots Music
- Classic Rock Albums
- Contemporary Opera
- Film Today
- The Performing Arts

## SCIENCE, MATH & TECHNOLOGY

- Economics & Society
- Environmental Issues
- Mind & Brain



#### **SPECIAL SELECTIONS**

- Guest Lecture Series
- Presenter's Showcase

### **SOMETHING EXTRA**

- Noontime Knowledge
- Noontime French
- Friday Museum Tours

#### **ACTING WORKSHOP**

Lead Coordinator: Marilyn Rosen Coordinator: Panny King

In the spring session, the acting workshop will continue to explore and develop the technique of acting through the use of selected scenes, focusing on characterization and relationships. The scenes will be rehearsed for a gala end-of-the year presentation.

**B WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm** 

### **AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC**

Lead Coordinator: Wayne Cotter Coordinators: Mary Ann Donnelly, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Jane Pittson-Chianese

America is a melting pot, and so is its music. This course encompasses a number of musical genres, including folk, blues, gospel, country, and jazz. We will examine this country's rich musical heritage by focusing on the cultural impact of key artists and styles. Sessions will explore the influence of uniquely American musical forms — as well as influences from other parts of the world. The goal is to learn more about our music... and ourselves.

**B WEEK** / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

#### **ART IN HISTORY**

Lead Coordinator: Joan Diamond Coordinators: Ellen Shapiro, Liesje ten Houten

Art is formed by many factors: immediate circumstances, historical precedents, culture and context, individual and personal aims, the economic demands of a market, and private taste. Through presentation and discussion this course will attempt to examine how such factors have shaped the numerous objects we accept today as examples of the visual arts.

**A WEEK** / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

## ANCIENT GREECE: CRUCIBLE OF CIVILIZATION

Lead Coordinator: Doreen De Martini Coordinators: Wally Butler, David Lewis, Art Spar

More than 3,000 years ago, the Greeks began to forge a culture and civilization that transcended time and left its mark on the world. This course will delve into the ways in which the ancient Greeks developed governments, the arts, philosophy, science, and medicine and how their legacy continues to influence us. Through lectures, dramatizations, and readings, participants will share the achievements, failures and glories of this unparalleled empire.

**A WEEK** / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

## APPRECIATING CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Lead Coordinator: Joe Nathan Coordinators: 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** / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### **ARTISTS & THEIR WORK**

Lead Coordinator: Sandy Gordon Coordinator: Bob Reiss

Art is the visual language of culture and society, and artists are the scribes. Using lecture, with visual presentation, we will examine the works of selected artists in the context of their lives and historical periods. During the spring semester, we will feature lectures on artists who have been selected by their presenters.

**B WEEK** / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

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

Lead Coordinator: Harriet Finkelstein Coordinator: 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.

**B WEEK** / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

### THE BIG PICTURE: CONTEMPORARY NON-FICTION ARTICLES

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Caroline Thompson

In spite of the sound bite and Twitter message, the long-form non-fiction article is thriving in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic, Harper's, The New York Review of Books, American Prospect*, and other print and online formats. For each session, two timely articles are selected for the class to read in advance, and lively discussions are then led by volunteer class members. Articles typically focus on issues such as health, politics, the military, aging, and technology.

**B WEEK** / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

### BLACKS IN AMERICA NEW COURSE

l ead Coordinator: Doreen

Lead Coordinator: Doreen De Martini Coordinators: Barbara Gelber, Liesje ten Houton

Why, 153 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, are Blacks still faced with some of the same issues that deny them equality? What progress has been made in ensuring equality for Blacks nationwide? This course will include a review of significant Black history, legal decisions and programs intended to promote inclusion and their success or failure, and unresolved issues that affect the lives of Blacks today. We invite members' participation to gain an understanding of the evolution of events which shaped the current climate and status of a continuing divide.

**B WEEK** / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

## THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

Lead Coordinator: Joe Nathan Coordinator: John Hood

Freud called it "the most magnificent novel ever written." Virginia Woolf said that Dostoevsky, "alone among writers has the power of reconstructing those most swift and complicated states of mind." Few novels can stand up to close reading. This one does. It is brilliantly written and leads the reader to confront some of life's most difficult problems.

**A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm** 

#### CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS

Lead Coordinator: Steve Koenig Coordinator: Joan Briller

Each session will focus on one album by a band or solo artist and be enriched by related tracks from the band's career or works by others which shed light on the album. Discussion will cover performer histories, musical styles, historical contexts, and critical reactions. Our definition of "rock" will be inclusive, containing branches of reggae, soul, folk, and country. Some artists we might present include The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Laura Nyro, David Bowie, and Joni Mitchell.

**A WEEK** / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

#### **CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

Lead Coordinator: Steven Koenig Coordinator: Joan Briller

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, Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos, Krasa's Terezin camp children's opera Brundibar, 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** / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

#### **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**

Lead Coordinator: Nancy Richardson Coordinators: Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

At each session, two class members present stories from *The O. Henry Prize Stories, 2013 edition*, and stories selected by coordinators or suggested by class members. The presenters give background information on the author and story, then draw on the class for discussion.

**B WEEK** / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

#### **ECONOMICS & SOCIETY**

Lead Coordinator: Phil Gisser Coordinators: Bob Moore, Barbara Oliver

Societal structure is a huge jigsaw puzzle with multiple interconnecting pieces. Economics and finance play a huge role. In this course we probe the key pieces and interconnections inside that puzzle — more conceptually than numerically. We will start to see solutions to the challenges facing society, such as climate change, globalization, inequality, energy, and immigration. Where do Wall Street and personal investing fit in?

**A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm** 

### ELECTION 2016 – AMERICA'S QUEST FOR A NEW LEADER NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Phil Gisser, Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Bob Moore

The Spring Semester coincides with a active period in a presidential campaign — primary season. Each session starts with a summary of recent campaign news — primary results, polls, predictions, campaign strategy, etc. Every Quester will be heard as the campaigns progresses. The leader's main role will be to structure and quide the discussion.

**B WEEK** / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

How are human activities affecting our planet? How are they affecting the animals and plants we depend on for our well-being, and how are they affecting our own health? What can we do about it? Why are some of these topics controversial? Participants will gain greater understanding of the ways in which human activities are damaging the earth (the only planet we have) and will gain greater insight into news articles they may read about environmental problems. Specific topics to be covered include garbage, water and air pollution, biological diversity/conservation, invasive species, and climate change.

**A WEEK** / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

### **EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE**

Lead Coordinator: David Lewis Coordinators: Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

We continue to explore the field of architecture by focusing on architecture's impact on society. Our scope includes urban planning, utopian communities, real estate development, affordable housing, "green" architecture, and visionary architectural firms.

**A WEEK** / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**

Lead Coordinator: Harriet Finkelstein Coordinators: Marian Friedmann, Bob Reiss

At each session, the presenter will tell you about a book you always wanted to read or about a book you never heard of but will be glad that you now have. Among this semester's books are: Thirteen Days in September by Lawrence Wright; The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan; The Secret History of Wonder Woman by Jill Lepore; The Innocents Abroad by Mark Twain; The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert; Moonwalking with Einstein by Joshua Foer. No Advanced Reading Required.

**B WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm** 

#### **FILM TODAY**

Lead Coordinator: Beverly Wasserman Coordinators: Howard Salik, Rosalie Regal, Bobbie Gold

Film Today is a discussion class. Coordinators gather information on six interesting films either currently playing or soon to be released. The trailers are shown at the beginning of each class. We then choose four of the films and ask for volunteers to give us a five minute introduction to each film at the following session, focusing on plot, acting, and direction.

**B WEEK** / THUR / 12:45pm to 2:30pm

#### **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Lead Coordinator: Howard Salik Coordinator: Sandra Southwell

In this course we investigate and discuss world-wide issues. The presenter selects a critical international topic based on an article published in *Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic,* the *Economist* or any other reliable source that includes essential issues related to foreign affairs. The presenter reviews and evaluates the material, not necessarily agreeing with the article but giving reasons for disagreement. The last thirty minutes of the class are dedicated to questions, class discussions or debate relative to the presentation.

**A WEEK** / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

## GREAT CONVERSATIONS NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Eva Shatkin Coordinators: Ellen Shapiro, Art Spar

Great Conversations offers works by both contemporary and classic authors across many genres and disciplines, ideal for promoting discussion among readers. Some of those featured are Pascal, Aeschylus, Alice Munro, Walt Whitman, Saul Bellow, and Tillie Olson.

**A WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm** 

#### **GREAT PLAYS**

Lead Coordinator: Beverly Francus Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Helen Neilson

Leading American and European plays are presented. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright followed by a reading of the play in an edited form. At the end of the reading, there is a class discussion of the drama's relevance to our lives.

**A WEEK** / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### **GUEST LECTURE SERIES**

Lead Coordinator: Sandy Gordon Coordinator: Bob Reiss

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.

**B WEEK** / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

## IBSEN & MODERN AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS

Lead Coordinator: Hal Cantor Coordinators: Myra Nissen, Bob Reiss

This is an experimental workshop for those who like to see, read and act in plays. Henrik Ibsen has been called the Father of Modern Drama. We study three of his social dramas and trace their influence on modern American playwrights who dealt with similar themes: Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill and Wendy Wasserstein. Class sessions will combine lecture, short scenes enacted by volunteers and discussion. Short biographies and scenes from the American playwrights will be presented and directed by class members.

**B WEEK** / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

### **LIFE DRAWING**

Lead Coordinator: Carole Abrahams, Coordinators: Margaret Di Piazza, Donna Rubens

This is a hands-on drawing class with professional live models. No experience needed. Bring drawing materials — pencils, charcoal, hand pastels, Conte crayons, pens, — and a drawing pad. All supplies may be stored in room 27. Not sure this is for you? We will supply your first day's equipment.

**A WEEK** / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### **LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY**

Lead Coordinator: Caroline Thompson Coordinators: Sandra Southwell, Steve Allen

The "long 19th century" refers to the vears between 1789 and 1914. British historian Eric Hobsbawm called this period "the greatest transformation in human history since men invented agriculture, writing, the city, and the state." This period experienced a transition to modernity from an overwhelmingly rural and autocratic society. It began with the idealism of the French Revolution and the power of the Industrial Revolution only to culminate in the chaos of World War I. We will discuss the revolutions and the unifications of Italy and Germany. as well as the spread of industrialism, nationalism, and empire building in Europe toward the end of the century. We will examine the influence of key players such as Napoleon, Metternich, Bismarck, and Marx, and the changes in culture, science, and social institutions that evolved along with economic and political change.

**A WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm** 



#### **MIND & BRAIN**

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinator: Jan Eisler

Humans have always been curious about the mind. Today, science is illuminating fresh ways of understanding consciousness, intelligence, machine learning, the senses, sleep and dreaming. Game theory and decision theory are giving us new ways to see how humans sift through choices to reach decisions. Class participants will gain familiarity with cutting-edge research for a clearer picture of their own intellectual capacities and will learn more about the many ways humans use their brains to maximize opportunity in life, as well as to make better decisions in such spheres as politics, law, medicine, business, and love.

**A WEEK** / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

#### **MOVERS & SHAKERS**

Lead Coordinator: Caroline Thompson Coordinator: Richard Salter

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. Previous subjects have included Richard Feynman, Beethoven, Ghengis Khan, Emma Goldman, Jackie Robinson, and Peter the Great.

**A WEEK** / TUE / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**

Lead Coordinator: Art Spar Coordinators: Roy Clary, Mary Ann Donnelly

In a fun, creative, supportive environment, poetry will come alive as participants read aloud and interpret poems by three great British Romantic poets: William Blake, William Wordsworth, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Study topics will include meter, rhyme, alliteration and other prosodic elements that influence a poem's "sound meaning." Finally, we will experientially journey back in time to visit the poets and their worlds

**A WEEK** / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

## THE PERFORMING ARTS – GRAND OPERA, BALLET, AND FILM

Lead Coordinator: Frieda Lipp Coordinator: Steve Allen

This course will alternate its focus between Grand Opera, Ballet, and Film. For 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. For Film, we will look at contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, and excerpts from longer films.

**B WEEK** / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### POETS' WORKSHOP

Lead Coordinator: Helen Neilson Coordinator: 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 12:30pm.

**A WEEK** / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

### **POINT OF VIEW**

Lead Coordinator: Barbara Gordon Coordinators: Irwin Greenberg, Bob Hartmann

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.

A WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm



#### PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE

Lead coordinator: Palma Mahl Coordinators: Steve Allen, Bob Moore

Quest members have a wide diversity of interests and experiences. Each session is a chance to encounter something new. As a presenter, you will have free rein to develop a subject otherwise not covered in the curriculum. As an audience member, you may find a fresh interest or learn more about a topic you always wondered about. Occasionally, we will encore a presentation from a previous Quest class.

**A WEEK** / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

### SHAKESPEARE

Lead Coordinator: Roy Clary Coordinators: Stan Raffes, Sondra Lipton Sahlman

The class will read aloud and discuss *Othello*, which is one of the four great tragedies of the Shakespeare canon. The play is perfectly constructed: simplicity of action with no sub-plot. Its theme of jealousy is universal. Within a soldier's world, Shakespeare creates interaction, motives, and emotional intensities even as he dramatizes love's betrayal and the tragic downfall of one who "loved not wisely, but too well" and in so doing "threw a pearl away."

**A WEEK** / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

### SUPREME COURT: DECISIONS & ISSUES

Lead Coordinator: Richard Salter Coordinators: David Judlowitz, Michael Wellner

Each day brings us a new set of legal issues confronting our country and our legal system. Many of them end up before the Supreme Court; others do not. But all are issues that this course will review, analyze, and discuss.

**A WEEK** / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

## THREE PHILOSOPHICAL CONJECTURES

Lead Coordinator: Hy Gold Coordinator: Stan Lieblein

We will examine three questions that have been addressed by philosophers: (1) Is there a God? (2) What is the nature of reality? (3) How do we acquire knowledge? For each question, we will study the writings of philosophers from ancient Greece up to modern times, to investigate how each philosopher dealt with the issue, to learn how philosophers work, and to see whether their work can help us manage our lives. A total of about thirty philosophers will be considered.

**B WEEK** / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

#### **WRITERS' WORKSHOP**

Lead Coordinator: Hilda Feinstein Coordinators: Donna Rubens, Helen Saffran

Creative writing class welcomes all genres, from prose to poetry, from script writing to fiction, even op-eds. Time is also devoted to spontaneous writing exercises and discussion of artistic approaches and styles. Come and share your writing and ideas. As Stephen King so aptly says: "The scariest moment is always just before you start."

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

## SOMETHING EXTRA

#### **NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE**

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinators: Palma Mahl, Bob Moore

Noontime Knowledge 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. Quest members can suggest a topic, volunteer to lead a discussion, or suggest a guest speaker who would fit into the Noontime Knowledge format.

VARIOUS / TUES / 12:00pm

#### **NOONTIME FRENCH**

Stella Gold, Yvonne Kress

If you speak some French, join us at lunchtime. We try to discuss current events, movies, and other subjects in French. We also read and translate current French articles or more classic short stories.

**A WEEK** / MON / 12:00pm

#### FRIDAY MUSEUM TOURS

Joan Briller, Pam Gemelli, Yvonne Kress, Bob Moore

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.