

QUEST CURRICULUM

The CCNY
Lifelong
Learning
Community

Spring 2018



SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
January 29	A	A	A	A
February 5	B	B	B	B
February 12	Lincoln's B Day No Class	A	A	A
February 19	President's Day No Class	B	B	B
February 26	A	A	A	A
March 5	B	B	B	B
March 12	A	A	A	A
March 19	B	B	B	B
March 26	A	A	A	A
April 2	————— Spring Break —————			
April 9	B	B	B	B
April 16	A	A	A	A
April 23	B	B	General Meeting	B
April 30	A	A	A	A
May 7	B	B	No Classes*	Last Day of Classes

*Wednesday morning-Play Performance: 12:30 Luncheon

A Week

SPRING 2018 SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Great Conversations	Foreign Affairs	The Old Testament as Literature	Contemporary Short Stories
	Art of Illustration	Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Classic Rock Albums	Environmental Issues
	Contemporary Opera			

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Great Plays	The Constitution	Shakespeare	Short Films for Thought
	Middlemarch	Movers & Shakers	The Big Picture	Poets' Workshop (12:30 Start)
		Creative Writing Workshop		

B Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Fascinating Non-Fiction	Artists & Their Work	The Tumultuous Sixties	Across the Universe
	Reading the Novella	Presenter's Showcase	Great Love Stories	Point of View
	Acting Workshop	The Plays of Samuel Beckett		

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Contemporary Poetry	Science & Scientists	Guest Speakers	Film Today (12:45)
	Turning Points In American History	Law & Order		Explorations in Philosophy
	Life Drawing			

COURSES BY CATEGORY

ART

- The Art of Illustration
- Artists & Their Work
- Life Drawing

DRAMA

- Acting Workshop
- Great Plays
- The Plays of Samuel Beckett
- Shakespeare

GOVERNMENT & WORLD AFFAIRS

- The Big Picture
- The Constitution
- Foreign Affairs
- Law & Order
- Point of View

HISTORY & CULTURE

- Fascinating Non-Fiction
- Great Conversations
- Great Love Stories
- Movers & Shakers
- The Tumultuous Sixties
- Turning Points in American History

LITERATURE

- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Explorations in Philosophy **NEW**
- Middlemarch
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- Poets' Workshop
- Reading the Novella
- The Old Testament as Literature

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

- Classic Rock Albums
- Contemporary Opera
- Film Today
- Short Films for Thought

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Across the Universe
- Environmental Issues
- Science & Scientists

SPECIAL SELECTIONS

- Guest Lecture Series
- Presenter's Showcase



SOMETHING EXTRA

- Freshman Class
- Friday Museum Tour
- Noontime French
- Noontime Knowledge
- Presentation Boot Camp

SPRING 2018 COURSES

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE: TRAVELS IN SPACE, TIME, AND WONDER

*Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**,
Steve Allen*

This course is perfect for anyone who has ever wondered what the universe actually is, where it came from, and where it is headed. Prior knowledge or expertise in math or science is not required. Bring your questions and sense of wonder. We'll begin our exploration with a tour of the solar system and then venture further, seeking for life beyond Earth, asking how we know what we know as well as looking at the instruments and methods that scientists use to unlock the answers.

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

ACTING WORKSHOP

*Coordinators: **Roy Clary**,
Howard Einbinder, Panny King,
Marilyn Rosen*

During the Spring Session, the Acting Workshop will explore and develop selected monologues from Spoon River Anthology and present them for a gala end-of-year production.

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

THE ART OF ILLUSTRATION

*Coordinators: **Helen Goodman**,
Ellen Shapiro*

What is Illustration art? It's an art form that marries visual imagery with text. Its purpose is to pique the interest of, and attract and hold a reader/viewer's attention. It can "illuminate" a text or subject—or delight, disturb, puzzle, inform, make fun of, and—"sell" whatever subject is at hand. Generally, Illustration art is reproduced in magazines, books, newspapers, advertisements, posters, comics, or cartoons. Each class will highlight some great practitioners of the art.

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

ARTISTS & THEIR WORK

*Coordinators: **Bob Reiss**,
Joan Diamond, Linda Downs,
Lynnel Garabedian;
Coordinator Emerita: Sandy Gordon*

Since the late 20th century the visual arts, like many other human endeavors, have increasingly served and responded to an international audience. This spring, **Artists and their Work** acknowledges this wider yet smaller world by focusing on *multicultural modernism*. We will study artists from the five continents to acknowledge that while geographic origin remains relevant to making art, ease and speed of communication are also influential creative factors.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

THE BIG PICTURE: CONTEMPORARY NON-FICTION ARTICLES

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

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.

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

CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS

*Coordinators: Steve Koenig,
Wayne Cotter*

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 David Bowie, Dr. John, Hawkwind, James Brown, Paul McCartney, Melanie, & Bob Marley.

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

THE CONSTITUTION: ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

*Coordinators: Michael Wellner,
Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz*

"The Court just ruled that that law is unconstitutional!" How many times have we heard that recently? This course will examine in depth the US Constitution: its origins, the Philadelphia Convention, the battle to get it ratified (it was close!), and its changes over its 230 year history.

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

CONTEMPORARY OPERA

*Coordinators: Steve Koenig,
Frieda Lipp*

At each session, we view a different opera and engage in a lively discussion of the text, staging, medium, and the historical and cultural backgrounds. This semester may include Loren Maazel's *1984*, John Adams' *El Nino*, George Aperghis's *Little Red Riding Hood*, and Claude Vivier's *Reves d'un Marco Polo*, as well as jazz, computer, and rock opera.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

CONTEMPORARY POETRY

*Coordinators: **Joe Nathan**,
Betty Farber, Stan Raffes*

Contemporary poetry enriches the lives of its readers. Join us to learn about it, how to read it, and which poets to look out for. Class members choose poems to present in class. The poems are read and discussed.

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

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

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

At each session, two class members present stories from *The O'Henry Prize Stories*, 2015 Edition. Stories are also selected by the coordinators or other members. Background information is given and discussion follows.

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

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

*Coordinators: **Hilda Feinstein**,
Donna Rubens, Helen Saffran*

Creative Writing Workshop welcomes all genres, from prose and poetry to script writing, fiction, even op-eds. Time is also devoted to spontaneous writing exercises and discussion of artistic approaches and styles. See with a *writer's eyes*, spark new ideas and gain confidence, as you experiment with your creativity.

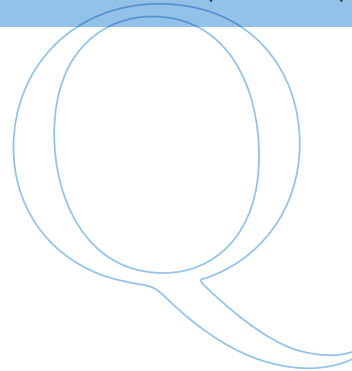
A WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Steve Allen**,
Larry Shapiro*

We will discuss interesting questions utilizing insights from philosophy. The focus will be on how philosophy approaches particular issues, as opposed to an in-depth analysis of specific philosophers. A short reading will be assigned as preparation for each week's discussion, but each class will start with a brief summary of the reading to allow some participation by "drop-ins." Some questions we may discuss are: ethical implications of using statistics in making decisions that impact individuals; the allocation of scarce resources; how much free will do we really possess and what does that mean for making moral judgments; will the rules we develop for self-driving cars expose flaws in our concepts of right and wrong?

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



SPRING 2018 COURSES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Coordinators: Judith 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 health? What can we do about it? Why are some of the topics controversial? Participants will gain greater understanding of the ways in which human activities are damaging the earth and will gain greater insight into news articles about environmental problems. Topics covered will include alternative energies, climate engineering schemes, fisheries management, and Oops (things that seemed like a good idea at first).

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

FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, 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. This semester's books are: *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari, *Thunderstruck* by Eric Larson, *Ethics in the New World* by Peter Singer, *The Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt, *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer and *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard. No Advance Reading is Required.

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

FILM TODAY

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Bobbie Gold, Rita Buttolph, Rosalie Regal

Film Today class session content are discussions centered on movies that are about to be released. Our coordinators gather information on six promising new movies and show a trailer/preview for visual impact. Our audience then votes and selects four of the most promising of the six and four volunteers agree to prepare a five-minute review, speaking at our next class session.

In addition to movie reviews, we will explore landmark topics utilizing YouTube segments, starting with *The Life and Career of Steven Spielberg* followed by *The True Innovators – Early German, Italian, Russian and French Schools Filmmakers*; *The Return of Film Noir*; *Anti-War Movies that led to Anti-War Movements* and other events related to the film industry.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Coordinators: Sandra Southwell,
Larry Shapiro,*

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 foreign issues. The presenter reviews and evaluates the material. 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

*Coordinators: Jane Lubin,
Larry Shapiro, Art Spar*

Great Conversations offers readings by both contemporary and classic authors across many genres. Some of those we will discuss are Nadine Gordimer, Raymond Carver, Frank O'Connor and John Rawls.

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

GREAT LOVE STORIES OF ALL TIME

*Coordinators: Trudy Owett,
Betty Farber, Lynnel Garabedian*

Join us as we explore the greatest love stories of all time. Some have become legends and some have changed history. Examples abound in myth, history, literature, and real life: Antony and Cleopatra, Nicholas and Alexandra, and Bogart and Bacall. These tales of romance inspire and fascinate us.

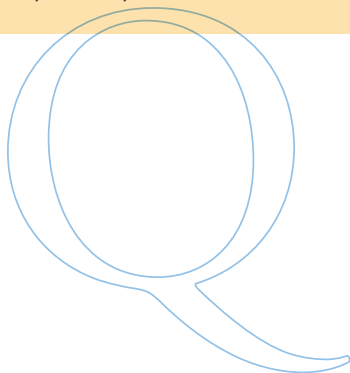
B WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

GREAT PLAYS

*Coordinators: Beverly Francus,
Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp*

Leading American and European plays are presented. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright followed by a "stage reading" of the play in an edited form. The audience is encouraged to share their insights.

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



SPRING 2018 COURSES

GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Deborah Gillers, Bob Reiss

The bi-monthly Guest Lecture Series enhances the QUEST program experience by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions of global policy and political science, anthropology, literature, theater arts, social science, and music.

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

LAW & ORDER

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Sandra Abramson, Diane Crothers

It is not just a TV crime series. It is a topic which is galvanizing the American public. Crime in all its forms, including “white collar” and cyber crime, make headlines every day. Are the police properly trained and equipped to meet modern challenges? Why are so many Americans in prison? Guns, guns and more guns? Surveillance? Is justice available to all through the legal systems? America is divided internally about many of these matters. Why? Join us as we discuss these subjects in depth, and see if we can come up with any solutions.

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

LIFE DRAWING

Coordinators: Carol Abrahams, Paul Adler, Gary Friedland, Marilyn Weiss,

Discover the artist living in your head. This is a hands-on drawing class with professional live models. Bring drawing materials—pencils, charcoal, pastels, Conte crayons, pens—and a drawing pad. All supplies may be stored in room 27. Not sure this is for you? We will provide your first day’s equipment. Release your hidden talents—beginners and dabblers are welcome. Everyone works at their own level. Just enjoy being creative!

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

MIDDLEMARCH

Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Joe Nathan, Steve Allen

Some critics consider George Eliot’s masterpiece, *Middlemarch*, the greatest English novel and others the greatest novel written in English. Although it takes place in a small provincial town in 19th century England, the challenges facing its characters and the moral questions Eliot presents reflect issues confronting people everywhere today. The class will begin the spring term by discussing Chapter XLI through Chapter XLVIII.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

MOVERS & SHAKERS

*Coordinators: **Caroline Thompson**,
Jane Lubin*

We will examine the lives and accomplishments of outstanding people whose ideas and actions have had a lasting influence on our society, whether for good or evil. Tentative subjects to be covered for the academic year 2017–18 include J. Robert Oppenheimer, Martin Luther, Frederick the Great, and Robert Schumann.

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE

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

This course will focus on the Old Testament as story telling literature. By exploring tales including Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, Job, Ruth, and David, we will examine the Testament's cultural and historical context, as well as such themes as creation, humanity's place in the cosmos and relationship with a God, and the existence of good and evil. We will also explore the poetry of the Psalms. Our text will be the King James Version.

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

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

*Coordinators: **Art Spar**, Roy Clary,
Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz*

In a fun, creative, supportive environment, poetry will come alive as participants read aloud and interpret poetry by early 20th Century American poets. We will immerse ourselves in the poetry, life and times of Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Wallace Stevens, and William Carlos Williams. Study topics will include meter, rhyme, alliteration and other prosodic elements that influence a poem's "sound meaning".

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

THE PLAYS OF SAMUEL BECKETT

*Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**,
Marilyn Rosen*

Irish playwright, poet, novelist and Nobel Prize winner Samuel Beckett remains one of the most significant and influential writers of the twentieth century. We'll explore the world of his plays via video productions, providing history and context, with much class discussion and volunteer performances/readings of many of his shorter plays, and excerpts from the longer ones.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

POETS' WORKSHOP

*Coordinators: **Helen Neilson**,
Trudy Owett, Judy Winn*

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 / 12:30pm to 2:30pm

PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE

*Coordinators: **Palma Mahl**,
Steve Allen, Joyce West*

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.

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

POINT OF VIEW

*Coordinators: **Barbara Gordon**,
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.

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

READING THE NOVELLA

*Coordinators: **Martha Drezin**,
Mary Ann Donnelly, Art Spar*

The novella offers an intense, detailed exploration of its subject, providing both the concentrated focus of the short story and the broader scope of the novel. As such, it is an ideal impetus for discussion. We will discuss three critically acclaimed novellas that explore the universal psychological and philosophic themes that we all grapple with, addressing questions of what it is to be a human being.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

*Coordinators: **Steve Allen**,
Gil Santiago, Brenda Wilder*

Advances in science uncover wonders that transform our lives and deepen our understanding of humanity, life, and the world around us. Science literacy is the key that opens doors to the extraordinary beauty of our natural world. This course will explore various pathways of scientific inquiry, their impacts and limits, and highlight some of the men and women responsible for groundbreaking research. Presenters will strive to communicate in a way that all can understand.

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

SHAKESPEARE

*Coordinators: **Roy Clary**,
Sondra Lipton Sahlman*

The class will read aloud and discuss one of the Bard's most popular works, *Much Ado About Nothing*. A sophisticated comedy about romantic love, it interweaves stinging anti-Romanticism and cutting wit into the mutual attraction of Beatrice and Benedick, two of Shakespeare's most fascinating lovers. The tentacles of betrayal, guilt and deception entangle romance, but love conquers all and the drama ends happily for the reluctant lovers.

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

SHORT FILMS FOR THOUGHT

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

See the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, film excerpts, and videos. Films are selected both on artistic merit and their probability to provoke lively discussion.

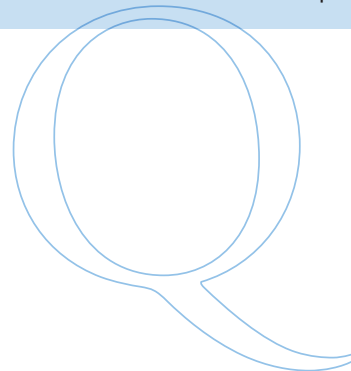
A WEEK / THURS/ 1:00pm to 2:30pm

THE TUMULTUOUS SIXTIES

*Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**,
Leslie Goldman, Art Spar*

The class will examine a decade that transformed America, politically, socially and culturally. The Sixties introduced us to Medicare, the War on Poverty and The Beatles, but also brought the Vietnam War and political assassinations into our living rooms. The course will explore how the events and personalities of that decade shaped our lives.

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



SPRING 2018 COURSES

TURNING POINTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

*Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**,
Bob Reiss, Sandra Southwell*

America is a phenomenon—a country that was formally established only 240 years ago has evolved into the most powerful nation on earth. How did we get to where we are today? This semester will include the following sessions: The Second Awakening, The Righteous Crusade, Abolition, Communications, Baseball, The Homestead Act, The Battle of Antietam/Emancipation Proclamation, Land and Gold and Equal Protection/The 14th Amendment.

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

SPRING 2018 COURSES

SOMETHING EXTRA

NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

*Steve Allen, Palma Mahl,
Joyce West*

Noontime Knowledge sessions are scheduled during the lunch hour. 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 / 12:00 Noon

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.

B WEEK / MON / 12:00 Noon

FRESHMAN CLASS

Pam Gemelli, Betty Farber

The Freshman Class meets once a month to acquaint new members with the benefits and opportunities Quest has to offer.

FRIDAY MUSEUM TOURS

Toni Dickenson, Pam Gemelli

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.

POWER POINT BOOT CAMP

Caroline Thompson, Wayne Cotter

Would you like to get more involved at Quest by giving a presentation but just lack the confidence? Or perhaps you feel the PowerPoint is just too overwhelming. The Presentation Boot Camp is here to address your concerns, whether it be the basics of PowerPoint (including how to insert images and videos) how to approach the process of researching and organizing material for a presentation, and recommendations for actually delivering your talk. This is an opportunity to hear suggestions and exchange tips with your Quest colleagues.

B WEEK / WED / 12:00 Noon

QUEST CURRICULUM

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 250 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 member-elected eleven-member Council. All work is carried out by our member-volunteers and 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 Summer Session (June & July). 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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