

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 4 - 8, 2022

This is a “B” Week

There are four links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, Classroom 52-53, and Classroom 27. Click on the appropriate link below to join a class no earlier than 15 minutes before its start.

Alternatively, you can enter a class by going to <https://zoom.us> and selecting “JOIN A MEETING.” You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode. Also, you can attend classes via phone by dialing 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the password.

FOR ALL AUDITORIUM CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5lRGEvbG9WWHNxbFl4YnRwdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0UmxTbDRXQ0RDQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlpWnBGeFNCdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 25252

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek15bmlTNlljUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 8434 1199

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway, with presenters mostly presenting live. In some cases, a presenter may not be live at 25 Broadway, but will present from home via Zoom. In the week beginning April 4, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters except for Tuesday afternoon's Foreign Affairs class. Please note that all lunchtime activities (except French class) are in person only.

MONDAY, April 4, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Course: THE NEAR EAST
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Yemen: Rich Past, Impoverished Present

Yemen, a country the size of France, was for centuries the center of civilization and wealth on the Arabian Peninsula. It became a home to a mix of peoples and faiths in a land with a rich cultural heritage that goes back 3000 years. Sadly, this rich past has been obscured by a civil war that has gone on and off for more than 50 years. Jane Lubin will be presenting some of the past and present history of Yemen. Ze'eva Cohen will give a brief history of the Jewish community of Yemen, including their art and culture, and will share the history of her own Jewish Yemenite family

Presenters: Jane Lubin and Ze'eva Cohen
Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: WOMEN IN GREEK DRAMA
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: The Bakkhai

One of Euripides great plays, The Bakkhai, will be acted out by Questers.

Dionysos, God of wine, prophecy, religious ecstasy and fertility, returns to his birthplace in Thebes in order to clear his mother's name and punish the insolent city for refusing to allow people to worship him. His mother, Semele, became pregnant by Zeus, and Zeus's vengeful wife enraged Zeus into appearing as a bolt of lightning and killing Semele. Zeus rescued Dionysos and stitched the baby into his thigh. Dionysos returns to Thebes in disguise where Pentheus is now king. He persuades the women, the Bakkhai, to cavort in the woods, and traps Pentheus into following them.

This delightful translation by Anne Carson is full of wit in a dire situation. A script of the play will be sent separately. Playbill available at the door.

Presenters: Martha Drezin and Judy Hampson

Coordinators: Donna Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

MONDAY, April 4 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GREAT PLAYS

Room: Auditorium

Play: “What Do We Need to Talk About? The Apple Family: Conversations on Zoom” by Richard Nelson

NOTE: Great Plays is normally live only. However, this presentation will also be broadcast to those at home via Zoom using the auditorium link. The presentation will not be recorded.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, this group of Quest actors presented two of Richard Nelson's four "Apple Family" plays in the Great Plays class.

In 2020, Nelson wrote a fifth play, "What Do We Need to Talk About?" designed for Zoom. It takes place in April 2020, in the early stages of the pandemic. The Apple family, now ensconced in separate homes in upstate New York, gather one night on Zoom to reveal confidences, drink wine and come to grips with their mounting fears. Although the play takes place just two years ago, it seems – in some ways – to reflect a bygone era.

Since the play was written to be performed on Zoom, the audience at 25 Broadway will watch a video of the play that the Quest cast recently recorded on Zoom. Following the play, most of the cast will be at 25 Broadway to offer their observations and answer questions. Other cast members will participate in the question and answer session via Zoom.

Cast: Wayne Cotter, John Davis, Mary Ann Donnelly, Leslie Goldman, Jennifer Jolly, John Spiegel, Ruth Ward

Presenter: Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Course: LAW AND ORDER
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Jim Crow in the North

In 1960 Dr. Martin Luther King called upon northerners who condemned segregation in the south to also oppose segregation in their own backyards. He realized that discrimination was alive and well in some of the most liberal cities, in the most liberal states, in the country.

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, April 5 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Global Warming and Climate Change

This is the first of a two-part class on global warming and climate change. This first session will jump right into the causes of global warming with a deep but hopefully careful dive into the science of the “Greenhouse Effect.” We’ll take a brief look at the scientists who first determined how atmospheric gases absorb radiant heat from the earth and then at those who have sounded the alarm about resultant global warming and its impacts on the climate. Next, we’ll examine each of the greenhouse gases in some detail to understand their sources and recent trends of emissions. Because climate change is truly a global phenomenon requiring global solutions, we’ll review the mostly depressing story of international agreements and treaties designed to reduce emissions and slow warming trends. Finally, we’ll examine the more obvious climate impacts of global warming.

What we won’t do in this session is talk about adaption and mitigation – living with global warming and trying to stop it and even reverse it. We’ll hold that for Part II of this session, scheduled for April 26. We will also have a Noontime discussion of the topic on Monday, April 11. Mark your calendars now!

Presenter: Brian Bosworth
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Judy Weis

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Free Trade as Imperialism

British Industrialization and the Destruction of Indian Cotton Handicrafts.

This paper looks at the ways in which Indian cloth handicrafts first assisted British industrialization and then were destroyed by it. A critical tool was British trading rules, which were used to protect emerging producers from superior Indian cloth. Then, with lower cost cloth made possible by industrialization, free trade rules were successful in fatally injuring handicrafts and their producers.

Presenter: June Zaccone

Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, April 5 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Partisan Politics and the Death of a Peace Treaty

American foreign policy resonates today with many issues and paramount among them is our role in global affairs and political partisan politics. If you think the toxicity in politics is bad today, one should understand the US's political and foreign policy history during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The US debate over, and ultimate failure, to ratify the League of Nations is a little known story. Understanding these warring political party leaders and their positions is important because it provides insights into the US's handling of international affairs. The consequences of how the political rivalry and animosity of some great US statesmen influenced our foreign policies, changed the trajectory of world history after WWI, and impacts our world today.

Presenters: Glenn Johnston & Sandy Frank
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried, Glenn Johnston

Course: **MYTHOLOGY**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Orpheus & Eurydice

This class will explore Orpheus & Eurydice from two perspectives to enhance our understanding of this well-known ancient myth of love. In Part I, Roy will present versions of the myth from both the male and female perspectives (e.g., Shakespeare, Ovid, Virgil, British poet Carol Ann Duffy) and answer the question: What are some of the great movies inspired by the myth? In Part II, Mary Beth will present some of the most beautiful music ever written: Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice," the best loved of the 73 operas based on this myth and one that has a very different ending to the story.

Presenters: Roy Clary & Mary Beth Yakoubian
Coordinators: Donna K. Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, April 5 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY OPERA (Zoom only – Use the Room 52-53 link to enter session - Note 2:00 P.M. start time)**
Room: Classroom 52-53
Opera: Igor Stravinsky: *Oedipus Rex*

We will hear and discuss the opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex*, by Igor Stravinsky, with a libretto by Jean Cocteau. This work came early in the composer's neoclassical period, wherein Stravinsky altered the path of Western Music away from the abstract atonality of Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern, keeping tonality alive through use of chromaticism, free dissonance, polytonality, and rhythmic complexities. The structure

of *Oedipus Rex* is shaped by the classical forms of aria, duet, and chorus, yet it maintains the esthetic objectivity typical of the modern temper in classical music. We will learn more about music in general by identifying and discussing classical and non-classical elements in the piece.

Our performance is produced by Peter Gelb and conducted by Seiji Ozawa; though the work is sung in Latin, the narrator sequences are in Japanese. All components have English subtitles.

Presenter: Michael Russo

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, and Victor Brener

WEDNESDAY, April 6 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Room: Auditorium

Subject: *Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth* by: Bryan Burrough, Chris Tomlinson, Jason Stanford

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

The Alamo is the least understood and most often misunderstood of American battlefields. Its true history remains obscured by a sooty veneer of myth and folklore. This book deftly strips that varnish off and demolishes the prevailing (white) racist shibboleths -- in particular, what the authors call the Heroic Anglo Narrative of Texas history. That narrative puts the lie to the real reason for the American rebellion against Mexico -- their defense of slavery after it was outlawed by the Mexican government.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: **LITERARY HEROINES**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Caddy Jellyby of *Bleak House*, Mary Garth
of *Middlemarch* & Louise of *The Perfect Nanny*

Brilliant Victorian authors like Charles Dickens and George Eliot portrayed a vast array of finely drawn characters in their long novels. Although not seen as major heroines, Caddy Jellyby of *Bleak House* and Mary Garth of *Middlemarch*, are important secondary heroines who engage our heartfelt sympathy and admiration for their resourceful determination to overcome obstacles and their great capacity for love. Come join Lynnel for this discussion of secondary heroines.

Switch gears for part two of this class for a discussion led by Ruth about *The Perfect Nanny* by Leila Sliman. “My nanny is a fairy.” Thus Myriam, mother of two, describes Louise’s entry in her family’s life. Yet we read, “The baby was dead. It took only a few seconds . . . The little girl was still alive when the ambulance arrived. She had fought like a wild animal.” Horrifying, no? Given Louise’s decline from nurturer to murderer, can we call her a literary heroine?

Presenters: Lynnel Garabedian & Ruth Ward
Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, April 6 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: **ART TALKS**
Room: Classroom 15-17 – in person only

Join us for short talk and fun discussion as we meet the UK textile artist, FREDDIE ROBINS, who likes to be known as a ‘Subversive Knitter.’

Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

WEDNESDAY, April 6 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES
Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Auditorium
Speaker will be live at 25 Broadway and can be seen
at home by using the auditorium link.
Speaker: David P. Hunt
Subject: INTELLIGENCE IN FLUX: From the Cold War to the
Present

David P. Hunt retired in 1995 as a senior officer from the Central Intelligence Agency, where he served for 22 years, primarily in the Directorate of Operations. His tours included Italy, Vietnam, Somalia, Norway, France and New York City. He served twice as Deputy Chief of Station (Norway and France), and twice as Chief of Station (Somalia and New York City). Mr. Hunt is an expert in Soviet operations, European affairs and counterintelligence. He holds the Donovan Award for Excellence as well as the CIA's Distinguished Intelligence Medal, its highest award.

Mr. Hunt will describe a major post war program directed against the United States and US proprietary business information, which lasted for 30 years. He will describe a profession in flux, as the internet, technology and cyber capabilities have offered new opportunities, and problems as well. Lastly, he will comment on the threats the United States faces today and take questions on any aspect of intelligence.

Mr. Hunt is a graduate of St. Paul's School, attended school in Switzerland and holds a B.A. in History/Government from Colby College in Maine. He served in the US Army's Counterintelligence Corps and spent a year in Korea.

Please join us for this special presentation.

Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin and
Bob Reiss

THURSDAY, April 7 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Room: Classroom 52-53
Subject: “Taking the Measure of the Cosmos”

Just think of the profound significance in the act of measurement. There is probably not one facet of life that doesn't involve taking the measure of something. In fact, the act of measuring is profoundly essential to the very foundation of our civilized lives. We constantly are measuring time, distance, amount, age, velocity, temperature, and size of just about everything in our existence. In fact, without measurement, what we call objective knowledge would be meaningless. This morning we will trace some of the highlights of humanity's growing precision in taking the measure of the cosmos. We will examine the achievements of classical antiquity, medieval Islam, the European Renaissance, the Age of Reason, and the Scientific Revolution. We will continue with a look at the accomplishments of the 19th century's Industrial Revolution and the breakthroughs of the early 20th century. Finally, we will conclude with an examination of the latest findings from our own 21st century and cast an eye toward the uncertain future. As always, comments and questions are most welcome.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES
Room Classroom 15-17
Subject: Brown Girl, Brownstones

Many of our most-loved literary heroines, like Jo Marsh, Anne Shirley, and Francie Nolan, aspire to life beyond marriage, husband, and children. Today we meet another impassioned young woman, Selina

Boyce of Brown Girl, Brownstones, the semi-autobiographical debut of acclaimed novelist Paule Marshall. You may see yourself in Selina, or you may discover a terrific new author.

The story opens in 1939 in a tight-knit Barbadian immigrant community in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a neighborhood of old brownstones whose white owners have fled. The women do exhausting domestic work, the men struggle to find jobs, and nearly everyone is single-mindedly determined to buy a brownstone. Selina is thirteen and rebelling against her mother's expectations—a phone company job, marriage, children and brownstone. Her beloved father, who fails at every half-hearted attempt to find work, dreams of returning to Barbados, and the conflict between Selina's parents leads to tragedy. As the story unfolds, Selina is forced to decide whether to remain in the stifling, insular world she has grown up in or strike out on her own.

The first chapter of the book and an essay, "From the Poets in the Kitchen," will be posted separately in Quest Business.

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Barbara Barnes, Susannah Falk Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer

THURSDAY, April 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FASCINATING ISLANDS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Islands and Formal Education

This lecture describes three disparate activities relating island location and

1) the initiative of Cyprus to generate wealth through the expansion of Masters programs

2) a onetime North American Radiology meeting held entirely in Cuba and

3) an evaluation of Caribbean-based offshore medical training as preparation for practice in the United States.

Presenter: Stephen Baker
Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: John Stuart Mill's Harm Principle

During this session, we will continue our discussion of John Stuart Mill's essay On Liberty. In the last session, we looked at how Mill's thinking applied to questions of censorship and self-censorship. In this session, we'll look at how Mill's famous "harm principle" applies to questions of what actions should be permitted and outlawed in a free society. Mill's harm principle states: "The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others." We will consider issues regarding laws that criminalize a person's actions; that primarily harm himself (or herself), such as drug addiction or gambling; and that criminalize bargains based on consent, such as paying for the donation of a kidney or for surrogate child bearing.

Readings will be circulated through QuestBusiness and summarized at the beginning of the class. Please feel free to participate even if you don't have time to read them.

Discussion Leader: Steve Allen
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, April 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: **Classroom 52-53 (Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)**

Write a poem using the cue word "determination" or a word of the poet's choice. Each author will read a poem and then that poem will be shared with the class through screen share. A discussion of the poem will follow.

Coordinators: **Judith Winn, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran**

CultureQuest Museum Tour

Friday, April 8th, 11 a.m. – Noon

MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET
(In-person tour)

The Museum at Eldridge Street is housed in the Eldridge Street Synagogue, a magnificent National Historic Landmark that has been meticulously restored. Opened in 1887, the synagogue is the first great house of worship built in America by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. Today, it is the only remaining marker of the great wave of Jewish migration to the Lower East Side that is open to a broad public who wish to visit Jewish New York. Join fellow Questers for a docent tour.

- **COST: FREE - Limited to 25 participants**
- **MEETING PLACE: Museum at Eldridge Street lobby, 12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Division Streets)**
- **MEETING TIME: Arrive by 10:30 to check in. The guided tour will begin at 11:00.**
- **SUGGESTIONS FOR LUNCH: The museum is near Katz's Deli at 205 East Houston Street (corner of Ludlow St) and Chinatown.**

Please sign up by [sending Estelle Selzer an email](#) no later than April 4th. Your reservation will be confirmed asap. Please be respectful of fellow members and sign up only if you intend to come. There will be a waitlist and those people will be contacted if there are cancellations. Anyone who doesn't show and doesn't cancel will be placed on future waitlists when they sign up to attend live CultureQuest events.