

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 25 - 29, 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=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH
NxbFI4YnRwdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH
NxbFI4YnRwdz09)**

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0Um
xTbDRXQ0RDQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0Um
xTbDRXQ0RDQT09)**

Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGI
pWnBGeFNCdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGI
pWnBGeFNCdz09)**

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 25252

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek1
5bmlTNIIjUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek1
5bmlTNIIjUT09)**

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 25, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters except Thursday's Across the Universe class. Please note that all lunchtime activities (except French class) are in person only.

NEW MEMBER MEETING - IN PERSON ONLY

Our New Members Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 12 Noon in the official Lunch Room (you may bring lunch). If you won't be attending, please plan to have lunch in the Auditorium Lounge, the Brooklyn Room, or Room 15-17.

Guest

speakers: Wayne Cotter and Michael Russo

MONDAY, April 25, 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Course: THE NEAR EAST

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Iran

Iranians trace their history back 2,500 years to Cyrus the Great, the founder of the Achaemenian Empire, who freed the Jews from Babylon and expanded his reign from China to Macedonian Greece. Persians contributed to the development of medicine, mathematics and technology. They were admired for their literature, art and architecture. Today, Persian culture remains at the center of Iranian life despite current politics.

Iran is now a major international supporter of terrorism and it punishes its own citizens who dare to carry out protests. Iran's religious leaders view their aggression as a continuation of the holy war that began in the 7th century when, as new converts to Islam, the Persians played a major role in aggressively spreading Islam throughout the Mediterranean world.

This presentation will be part political and cultural history, part travelogue and an up-to-date review of Iran's nuclear ambitions and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Presenters: Linda Downs
Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

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

Clytemnestra is a principal figure in the Greek legend of the cursed House of Atreus. She plays a prominent role in three of the well-known tragedies (and one more if you count her ghost). We will consider these plays, working through the story of this ill-fated family, the House of Atreus. The central question running through these plays is the place of an individual's right, if there is any, of vengeance in a civil society.

Presenter: Jim Brook
Coordinators: Donna Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

MONDAY, April 25 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Mozart's Women: Cosi Fan Tutte

The Mozart's Women course is returning from last fall for one more class, to take up the question of Mozart's most perplexing and, some would say, most beautiful, opera. In the words of the great critic Donald Tovey, *Così fan tutte* is "a miracle of irresponsible beauty." The words of the title, using the feminine plural, mean "that's the way they are," and it's not a compliment. Does the opera not contradict the theme of *Mozart's Women*, that the composer was guided and inspired by women and expressed his love and gratitude in the characters he created through music? I have some thoughts to share about this and I hope you will too, while we listen to excerpts from this controversial masterpiece.

**Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen**

**Course: LAW AND ORDER
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Self Defense**

The concept of self defense is a widely accepted legal doctrine that acknowledges that one has the right to use force to protect himself or herself from harm. The right extends to the protection of others and in some cases property. This behavior is appropriate even when the action under all other circumstances would be considered a crime. Every state in the nation has a version of self-defense laws.

What is a sufficient level of force or violence when defending oneself? What goes beyond that level? What if the intended victim provoked the attack? Do victims have to retreat from the violence if possible? What happens when victims perceive a threat even if the threat doesn't exist? What if the victim's apprehension is subjectively genuine, but objectively unreasonable?

You, the jurors, will decide if a defense is validly interposed, based on facts to be related to you. After you make your decision, I will tell you the decision in the case.

As this lecture will be a live presentation, and as a jury of 12 is required, your in person attendance of at least 12 persons will be appreciated.

Presenter: David Judlowitz

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz

TUESDAY, April 26 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Global Warming and Climate Change: Part II

This is the second of a two-part class on global warming and climate change. The 1st session focused on the causes of global warming and the science of the “Greenhouse Effect.” We summarized key findings of scientists who first sounded the alarm and we analyzed those greenhouse gases whose unchecked emissions have been driving global warming. In this 2nd session, we’ll quickly review those topics to get us all on the same page and then we’ll examine some of the more obvious climate impacts of global warming with a special focus on the consequences of just plain hotter weather and of warming and rising oceans. We will then explore climate adaptation strategies – how we will have to learn to live with global warming. Finally, we’ll move to the critical questions of mitigation – how science (and common sense) might help us slow, stop, or even reverse these dangerous trends of warming and climate change.

Presenter: Brian Bosworth

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis, Judy Weis

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: The Caribbean Colonies After Emancipation

In the 18th century, Caribbean sugar provided the enormous profits that fueled Britain's early industrialization. But in the 19th century, the Caribbean colonies declined in importance. The slave trade was abolished in 1807 and slavery itself in 1833. The slaveowners were richly compensated by the British treasury but the former slaves were left to fend for themselves. To replace those who fled the plantations, nearly a half million indentured servants were recruited in India—many of whom did not survive their own brutal middle passage. By the twentieth century, Afro-Caribbeans and Indo-Caribbeans were fighting for independence and migrating to Britain and the US, and tourism had become the major industry of many former colonies.

We will talk about how all this happened, and if you have traveled to any of these islands we are eager to hear about your impressions of the former British Caribbean.

Presenter: Ilene Winkler
Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, April 26 @ 12:10 P.M. – 1:00 PM

Course: NEW MEMBER MEETING - IN PERSON ONLY
Room: Lunch Room

The New Members Meeting is designed to develop familiarity with all aspects of Quest and to encourage new members to participate in our Lifelong Learning Community.

Presenters:

Wayne Cotter - Vice-president, council member, co-chair Technology Committee, and has served on the bylaws committee. He has actively

participated in numerous committees and courses. He will discuss and share his experiences with the new members.

Michael Russo - Webmaster. He will discuss the following points of our web system: (1) the website in general, (2) members only area, (3) committee and governance area, and (4) available archives.

If you won't be attending, please plan to have lunch in the Auditorium Lounge, the Brooklyn Room, or Room 15-17.

Co- Chairs: Pam Gemelli, Betty Farber & John Spiegel

TUESDAY, April 26 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Hunger

More than enough food is grown or produced every year to provide every man, woman and child on the planet with a healthy, nutritious diet. Why then, are massive numbers of people starving? The answers will be discussed during this presentation.

Presenter: Ellen Gottfried
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried, Glenn Johnston

Course: MYTHOLOGY
Room: Classroom 1517
Subject: Ancient Japanese Mythologies

Indulge in the stark, sometimes raunchy, sometimes comic universe of ancient Japanese myths as veteran storyteller Ellen Shapiro engages us with a retelling of portions of these tales, written down in 712 A.D. from earlier, lost, written and oral sources. We'll have a lot to discuss: the strange ways deities come into existence; the absence of a central divinity or hero/heroine; the roles of women; the combination of heroic and extremely contemptible qualities in the same character; as well as the possible life values, ideals, and political concepts of ancient Japan. Contrary to our Western expectations, the exploits of the Male Who Invites, the Female Who Invites, the Sun Goddess, and the Valiant Swift Impetuous Male Deity make for startling retellings.

Presenters: Ellen Shapiro

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 Room 52-53 link to enter session - Note 2:00 P.M. start time)

Room: Classroom 52-53

**Opera: György Kurtág: Fin de partie [Endgame],
Act 1. (2018)**

In this World Premiere performance from La Scala, the great Hungarian composer Kurtág has set Samuel Beckett's play Endgame as an opera. If you're scared of the Beckett connection, don't be; the humor and existential irony come to the fore via a family in a cramped house by the sea. Musically, it's modern but accessible and fun.

Sung in French, with English subtitles.

**Coordinators and Presenters (all Zoom): Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp,
Victor Brener**

WEDNESDAY, April 27 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION
Room: Auditorium
Subject: The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI, by Betty Medsgar

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

The never-before-told story of the break-in at the FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania by a group of unlikely activists - quiet, ordinary, hard-working Americans - that made clear the shocking truth and confirmed what many had long-suspected - that J. Edgar Hoover had created and was operating in violation of the U.S. Constitution, his own shadow Bureau of Investigation. Come to Fascinating Non-Fiction to learn the whole story.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: LITERARY HEROINES
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Olive Kitteridge and Olive Again

Elizabeth Strout has created a heroine that is brusque, sensitive and surprising. Olive Kitteridge is our complicated aging heroine of both books.

The 13 stories are set in a fictional coastal town in Maine. The lives of Olive and her neighbors are described through small events that take place over a span of 25 years. The stories illuminate what

people understand about others and what they understand about themselves.

Olive, Again, written 11 years later, presents Olive in a more reflective manner.

I will send a copy of a short story from Olive Again called Motherless Child via QuestBusiness which will hopefully prompt a good discussion. There is also a mini HBO 4 part series of Olive Kitteridge which is wonderful.

Presenters: Lois Klein

Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, April 27 @ 12:15 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME SINGALONG - IN PERSON ONLY

Room: Classroom 15-17 – in person only

Bring you lunch. Bring your voices and have fun with our favorite resident artist, Arlene.

Know Carole King? If not, we'll have the words on the screen. Always remember that at Quest . . . 'You've Got A Friend'

Musician: Arlene Hajinlian

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz & Andrea Irvine

WEDNESDAY, April 27 @ 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: Kevin Coughlin, co-author of UNBLINDED
Title: Gifts of Blindness: Sobriety, Serenity and Gratitude

Imagine losing your sight when you are 36, adapting to being blind, and then 20 years later, have it miraculously return. That is Kevin Coughlin's remarkable story which he tells in his bestselling memoir written with Traci Medford-Rosow -- **UNBLINDED: One Man's Courageous Journey through Darkness to Sight.**

At the time of his blindness, at 36 years of age, he was a successful Fundraiser/Event Planner. Since then Kevin has inspired a CNN story chronicling his experience living as a blind person in New York City which was instrumental in establishing its first blind advocacy program. He lives in New York City with his beloved dog Elias.

Kevin will tell us how his story illustrates that anyone can use the challenges that life serves up as an opportunity to grow and become the true person they were always meant to be.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, April 28 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Room: Classroom 52-53
Subject: The Telescope

We live in a vast and somewhat intimidating universe. For most of humanity's existence the universe remained undiscovered. Looking at the sky was for the most part fertile ground for superstition and mythologies. A revolution occurred with the invention of the telescope at the beginning of the 17th century which revealed the true nature of the cosmos for the first time. From Galileo's early instruments through the development of larger and more telescopes, more accurate pictures of the universe emerged. With the addition of spectroscopy and photography, humans delved deeper and deeper into the mysteries of the cosmos. Then we became able to put telescopes above the blurring effects of the Earth's atmosphere and even send them to other worlds. We will trace the exciting developments and creation of the telescope including bold projects that are just seeing first light and those ideas that are still on the drawing board.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES
Room Classroom 15-17
Subject: Bell Hooks on Love

All About Love: New Visions by bell hooks, an African-American writer who died last year, is a recent surprise best seller on the New York Times list. Written twenty years ago and reprinted last year, the book advocates an understanding of love as essential for both personal

growth and political movements' success in working for equity and democracy.

bell hooks wrote mostly about feminism and its relationship to patriarchy, white supremacy, and capitalism. We will also look at her views on education—teaching and learning—within this framework, including children's books she has written which reflect her core values.

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

THURSDAY, April 28 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FASCINATING ISLANDS
Room: Classroom 27
Subject: Islands with Contemporary Issues

This lecture will discuss a wide array of formidable and disparate challenges confronting insular countries in various seas - the political impetus of Chuuk to separate from Micronesia-The continuing volcanic threat to Montserrat The persisting struggle between the two most populous islands of the Solomon Islands- The unanticipated offshore eruption near Tonga and the precipitous agricultural and then political collapse of Sri Lanka.

Presenter: Stephen Baker
Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis

Course: GREAT CONVERSATIONS
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Human Personality - Simone Weil

The short life of Simone Weil, the French philosopher, Christian mystic and political activist, was one of unrelenting self-sacrifice from her childhood to her death. For her uncompromising ethical commitments, Albert Camus described her as “the only great spirit of our time.” In her essay, “Human Personality,” she asks us to think about liberalism’s response to Nazi Germany through the U.N.’s Declaration of Human Rights as a struggle between the personal and the impersonal. While Weil was responding to the crisis of Western democracies confronting the challenge of fascism, her essay can also help us think about our own crisis of political governance and legitimacy. Concerned with the issues that arise when modern industrial society uproots spiritual values but offers nothing adequate in their place, this essay is her argument for restoring the transcendent sacredness of the human person.

Discussion leader: Jane Lubin

Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, April 28 @ 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 “goodbye” 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 Tour

"Jewish Harlem"

Friday, May 6th, 11:00 a.m.- Noon

In-person guided tour

Walk and study with Professor Jeffrey Gurock as he recounts the history of Harlem that, in its heyday before 1917, was home to the second largest Jewish community in America. See their institutional remnants and learn about both the poor and wealthy Jews who made up what was often contentious groups of immigrants and their children.

Jeffrey S. Gurock is the Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies of Yeshiva University. He is the author or editor of twenty-three books, including *A Modern Heretic* and *A Traditional Community: Mordechai Kaplan, Orthodoxy and American Judaism* (Columbia University Press) which in 1998 was awarded the Saul Viener Prize from the American Jewish Historical Society for that year's best book in the field. His *Jews in Gotham: New York Jews in a Changing City* (NYU Press) won, in 2012, the Everett Family Foundation Prize for the Best Book from the Jewish Council. Gurock is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Jewish Research and the New York Academy of History and has been designated by the Association for Jewish Studies as a Distinguished Lecturer. His most recent academic work, *Parkchester: A Bronx Tale of Race and Ethnicity* (NYU Press) appeared in October, 2019.

Our tour is limited to 20 guests.

We are meeting in front of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church located at the corner of W.120th St. and Lenox Avenue at 10:45. The 2 and 3 trains go to 116th St. and it is a short walk from the subway. Please sign up if you are sincerely interested in attending.

More information to follow upon confirmation. Reserve your place by email to hedy.shulman@gmail.com

Extending an Invitation to all Members

May 3rd at 1pm, Classroom 27

Come join us to welcome Harriet Shapiro, a librarian at the New York Society Library, as she visits the class on Reading Edith Wharton.

Harriet will tell us about this amazing Library. The oldest cultural institution in NYC, established 1754, when NY was the capital of the US. It was the de facto Library of Congress - established over 100 years before the NY Public Library and was used by the Wharton Family.

Harriet will also discuss Edith Wharton and in particular her popular book *The Age of Innocence* set in NYC in the 1870s. Below are some links to the book and to Martin Scorsese's great film of the same name.

We anticipate a relaxed and interesting conversation between Harriet and members.

Link to a YouTube description of main characters/themes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pb_ypL5MSY0

Link to YouTube audiobook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6v44E117rw>

or

View Martin Scorsese's film on Prime for \$3.99.