

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

May 9 – 13, 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=c0ZVbm5lRGEvbG9WWHlxbFl4YnRwdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0UmhTbDRXQ0RDQT09>

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=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek15bmlTNlIjUT09>

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 May 9, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters except Monday's Near East class and Tuesday's Science and Scientists class. Please note that all lunchtime activities (except the French class) are in person only.

REMINDER: Our gala year-end luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 13th, at Lavo Restaurant, 39 East 58th Street, at 12 Noon. See you there.

QReview is calling for your Poetry, Prose, and Art

List of possible summer activities: reading, travelling, hiking, picnicking, contributing to the QReview

Do you like to write poetry or prose? Do you enjoy creating art?

Why not offer something to our annual literary and arts magazine?

Now is the time! Beat the November 1st deadline by emailing your prose (800 word maximum) to our prose editor Donna Ramer at donnaramer1@gmail.com and your poetry (38 line maximum including the spaces between stanzas and 64 characters per line) to our poetry editor Art Spar at arthur.spar@gmail.com.

If you are submitting artwork, contact our art editor Paul Adler at adlerworks@verizon.net for details.

Summer is the perfect season to share your creativity with Quest

MONDAY, May 9 @ 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Course: THE NEAR EAST
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Jordan

Jordan – a land, a country of contradictions. A history that stretches from 13,000 BCE to the present. An independent country that has been part of so many different cultures and empires over its history. The home to more than 2 million Palestinian refugees and nearly 700,000 Syrian refugees who are part of the country and yet not part of the country. A constitutional monarchy that is not an autocracy. We'll look at these contradictions.

Presenters: Sandra Abramson
Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: WOMEN IN GREEK DRAMA
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: *Electra* by Sophocles

This play is notable for not only one of the finest female roles in Greek tragedy, *Electra*, but also for two other prominent female parts: her sister *Chrysothemis* and her hated mother *Clytemnestra*.

Clytemnestra who, with her lover, *Aegisthus*, murdered her husband and *Electra's* father, *Agamemnon*, on his victorious return from *Troy*. According to *Electra*, *Clytemnestra* killed *Agamemnon* so that she could be with *Aegisthus* and deserves to be punished for her actions. *Clytemnestra* paints a very different picture of the murder. She says that she was exacting revenge for *Agamemnon's* unnecessary sacrifice of their daughter *Iphigenia* at the start of the *Trojan War*. *Chrysothemis* tries to convince *Electra* to “let sleeping dogs lie” but the unforgiving *Electra* longs for her brother *Orestes* return to avenge her father's

assassination in the form of matricide. We will listen to all arguments and you can decide whether the “blood for blood” end is justified.

This play is a timeless moral debate and argument about such opposites as: revenge and justice, betrayal and forgiveness; vengeance and compromise; memory and forgetting; honoring the dead and honoring the living.

Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly,

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz , Donna Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly

MONDAY, May 9 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GREAT PLAYS

Room: Auditorium

Play: *From Serious to Silly*

The Acting Workshop will present “*From Serious to Silly.*” The production promises to be both thought provoking and fun. It features Scenes and Skits by a number of authors including Tennessee Williams, A.R. Gurney, Lewis Carroll, and Bob and Ray.

The presentation is in the Auditorium. It will not be on Zoom, but will be recorded.

Coordinators: Roy Clary and John Spiegel.

TUESDAY, May 10 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Regeneration of body parts.

While our ability to regenerate body parts is very limited, many other animals have much greater abilities. For example, lizards can regenerate their tails, salamanders can regenerate limbs, fish can regenerate fins, and some invertebrates can be cut in half and each half is able to regenerate the other. What underlies these amazing abilities? And why can't we do it?

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

Course: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Indian Independence: The End of an Era

Indian independence is the appropriate end to our course about the Rise and Fall of the British Empire. Why? Because after World War II, Britain was depleted of its resources and heavily in debt. Meanwhile, the movement for independence in India had been gathering momentum and, by 1945, the Atlee government realized that independence was inevitable. When this happened in 1947, the era of the Raj came to an end and arguably this proved to be the final nail in the coffin of the once great British Empire. We'll look at the key events and characters involved in bringing this about. It's a fascinating and complex story.

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

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

Course: **CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS**
Room: **Classroom 52-53**
Sujet: **Douze des femmes les plus importantes de l'histoire**

Nous allons regarder douze femmes extraordinaires qui ont changé la face du monde. Je vais vous présenter plusieurs candidates et puis nous discuterons si vous êtes d'accord ou non — vous aurez l'occasion de partager et défendre vos opinions.

Subject: **Twelve of the Most Important Women in History**

We're going to look at twelve extraordinary women who changed the face of the world. I will introduce you to several candidates and then we will discuss whether you agree or not — you will have the opportunity to share and defend your opinions.

Presenter: **Laura Lopez**
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward, Donna Basile**

TUESDAY, May 10 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
Room: **Auditorium**
Subject: **The Geopolitics of Climate Change**

The exploitation of Earth's carbon resources to fuel global economic growth over the past two centuries led to geopolitical decisions and relationships that often seemed problematic (strange global bedfellows), but almost immutable. Now things are changing – very quickly. As we are committing (one hopes) to decarbonize our world economy, a whole new set of geopolitical and security realities emerge.

In this session we'll broadly scan some larger trends of geopolitical change and we'll examine a few cases in detail. This is a new environment, even for (perhaps especially for) foreign policy experts, so come prepared to discuss, and help figure out, how we adapt geopolitics to global climate change.

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

Course: MYTHOLOGY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: The Mythology of Our Native Americans

The cultures and customs of the original 100 tribes that inhabited what is now the contiguous 48 states (and the current 574) shared one common belief: the universe was bound together by spirits of natural life, including animals, water, plants, the sky, and the Earth itself. Through the myths of several tribes, we will discuss some of the unseen forces that specific Native American tribes believe are greater than themselves — the spiritual power of things that surpass understanding — and have been passed down through the generations.

Presenters: Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz, Donna Ramer
Coordinators: Donna K. Ramer, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, May 10 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: CONTEMPORARY OPERA
(Note: Zoom only, 2:00 P.M. start time)
Room: Classroom 52-53
Opera: György Kurtág: Fin de partie [Endgame],

Conclusion (2018)

Recap: Last session we met Nagg and Nell, an older couple who've fallen on hard times. They live in a shack with their wheelchair-bound son Hamm and his buddy Clov. What is to become of them?

In this World Premiere performance from La Scala, the great Hungarian composer György Kurtág has set Samuel Beckett's play *Endgame* as an opera. Musically, it's modern but accessible and fun.

Sung in French, with English subtitles.

Coordinators

and Presenters: Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, Victor Brener

WEDNESDAY, May 11 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION
Room: Auditorium
Subject: After the Fall: Being American in the World We've Made By: Ben Rhodes

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Why is democracy threatened in America and around the world? And what can we do about it? Ben Rhodes, former White House aide and close confidant to former President Barack Obama, urgently searched for answers in his three-year investigative journey around the globe.

In the last thirty years, the assumption of American exceptionalism has collapsed. However, we now have the opportunity to reclaim the mentality of the melting pot, "to make capitalism about something more

than money, to make normal national security about something other than subjugation, to make technology work better as a tool for human enlightenment." After the fall we must reconstruct what it means to be American.

Presenter: Ruth Ward
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: **LITERARY HEROINES**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Kate Minola from the *Taming of the Shrew*
Dorothea Brooke from George Elliot's *Middlemarch*

Both Kate Minola (*Taming of the Shrew*) and Dorothea Brooke (*Middlemarch*) are fascinating studies of women with strong moral characters navigating the limits placed on the role of women. We'll examine the motivations behind their choice of husbands and those they made to overcome the consequences of those choices. Finally, we'll compare: Dorothea's character, choices, and societal limits to that of Renee Feuer, the modern literary heroine and narrator of Rebecca Goldstein's semi-autobiographical 1983 novel *The Mind Body Problem*; and compare Kate's character to Xanthippe, Socrates' wife.

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz and Steve Allen
Coordinators: Bryn Meehan, Sheryl Harawitz, Lois Klein

WEDNESDAY, May 11 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

Course: **BOOK CLUB - IN PERSON ONLY**
Room: Classroom 52-53
Book: *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann

Longlisted for the Booker Prize, *Apeirogon* tells the story of two fathers, one Palestinian and one Israeli, who have both lost daughters to the violence that surrounds them. In short vignettes, the novel traces how the two men's lives intertwine as they attempt to use their grief as a means toward peace.

Presenter: Hedy Shulman

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

WEDNESDAY, May 11 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CREATIVITY AT QUEST ANNUAL EVENT

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Auditorium

Event will be live at 25 Broadway and can be seen at home by using the auditorium link

Join us for this year's Creativity Event, highlighting the talents of fellow Quest members. It could inspire you to unleash your own creative spirit! This year's lineup includes:

- Poetry and prose readings: Art Spar, Betty Farber, Dennis Sherman, Helen Saffran, Judith Winn, Ruth Ward and Steve Koenig**
- Arts and craft works: Beth Callender, Brian Bosworth, Deborah Yaffe, Diane Figueroa, Gary Friedland, Lorraine Weberg, Marilyn Weiss, Mary Beth Yakoubian, Michael Russo, Pete Weis and Yona Rogosin**
- Song and Dance performances: Andrea Irvine, Frieda Lipp and Ze'eva Cohen**
- "Wine and Spirits" skit: Bob Gottfried, David Judlowitz, Dena Kerren, Leslie Goldman, Mariann Friedman, Michael**

Wellner, Susan Diehl, Vincent Grosso and Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Beth Callender, Mary Ann Donnelly

THURSDAY, May 12 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Room: Classroom 52-53
Subject: Asteroids Approaching!

They're coming! They're coming! It's not if but only when rocks from space collide with the Earth. There are tens of thousands of these potential missiles roaming the Solar System. The majority orbit the Sun between the paths of Mars and Jupiter. Most behave; however, there is a special group known as Near Earth Objects (NEOs) which occasionally put our planet in their crosshairs. We have clear evidence that in our planet's long history some of these space rocks have changed the very nature of life on Earth. Just as recently (in geological time) as 66 million years ago, an asteroid as wide as Manhattan extinguished over 70% of all life forms on Earth. 50 thousand years ago a huge 50 meter meteorite smashed into the American southwest and sent a shockwave equivalent to 10 megatons. Another huge object exploded above the forests of the Tunguska River Valley in Siberia in 1908. And most recently, a twenty meter object exploded over the Russian city of Chelyabinsk in 2013 with the force equal to 400-500 kilotons.

While it is true that asteroids and other space rocks can bring death and destruction, it is also believed that they were the carriers of much of Earth's water and perhaps even the deliverers of the elements of life (if not life, itself).

There is no imminent threat as of this writing. I repeat – no imminent threat, but . . .

We will explore the history, characteristics, and the future potential threat of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids. We will learn the differences between meteoroids, meteors, and meteorites and why the latter may make some people very rich. As always there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES
Room Classroom 15-17
Subject: Unsung Heroines

This presentation deals with the contributions of two women who advanced African-American human rights and self determination. Elizabeth Jennings won the fight against discrimination on public transportation in New York City a century before Rosa Park's heroic endeavor. I chose Ms. Jennings because her fight illustrates that racism and discrimination were/are not just a southern abomination.

The second woman is Ms. Gloria Richardson. She was an advocate/activist for African-American positive self-assertion in the 1960's. She was a local leader based in Cambridge, Maryland. The fact that she was not a national figure meant her contributions and efforts were not as well known as a lot of her peers. However, her contributions were just as viable, and her impact was just as profound as more well known figures.

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

THURSDAY, May 12 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FASCINATING ISLANDS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Contemporary issues 2

This lecture will describe three morally questionable behaviors, each controversial and disruptive, enabled by an insular setting. One, the French destabilized the Comoro archipelago by detaching Mayotte and causing a chronic emigration focus. Two, in Kiribati, Ocean Island a played out phosphate deposit, sought to become part of Fiji without legitimate permission. And three, Nauru always hard up for cash recurrently made its mark by signaling a favorable UN vote one day and after being compensated for the favor renounced their support the next day

Presenter: Stephen Baker
Coordinators: Stephen Baker, Pete Weis

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Loyalty and Justice

At every stage of our lives, we make decisions that require us to balance the demands of loyalty and justice. We can even say the fate of the planet depends on getting it right. Let's discuss this with the help of essays by a philosopher and a novelist. Richard Rorty's essay, "Justice as a Larger Loyalty," examines the arguments of two philosophers, Kant and Rawls, who formulated solutions that give primacy to the requirements of justice. Rorty is dissatisfied with both, and inclines toward narrowing the differences between loyalty and justice. I think you will find this philosophical debate intriguing and helpful in our own decision-making. Richard Powers' delightful essay, "A Little More Than

Kin,” proposes a different path, through evolutionary theory and the imagination, to bring loyalty and justice closer together.

The readings will be sent separately via Quest Business. Let me know if you have trouble opening them.

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

THURSDAY, May 12 @ 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 “identity” 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
