

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 12 – 16, 2022

This is a “B” Week

There are three links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, 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 the [Zoom Website](#) 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.

AUDITORIUM:

Meeting ID: 886 445 6806

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17:

Meeting ID: 821 1094 3310

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27:

Meeting ID: 875 6632 5995

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway and are listed as either “Hybrid” or “In-person.” “Hybrid” classes are available to members attending at 25 Broadway and to members attending from home via Zoom. “In-person only” classes are presented solely at 25 Broadway with no Zoom option.

The *QReview* is Eager for Your work

**As we settle into the fall semester
QReview, our annual literary and arts magazine,
is calling for your Poetry, Prose, and Art**

**How to fully enjoy this fall semester? By sending your creative work
to the *QReview***

Do you like to write poetry or prose?

Do you enjoy creating art?

Beat the November 1 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

MONDAY, September 12 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: THE NEAR EAST (*Hybrid*)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: TURKEY: Ancient civilizations, history, religions, architecture, & natural wonders

Turkey is a country rich in ancient history, striking architecture, and natural wonders. The antiquities of Anatolia are truly in an ancient land where its surviving monuments and exceptional archaeological surprises link the present to the past. Turkey is called the other Holy Land as it has more biblical sites than any other country in the Middle East. The land that is now Turkey was at the heart of human civilization, trade, religion, technology, and history.

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

Course: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH CULTURE (*Hybrid*)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: From the Coronation to the Platinum Jubilee 1953 - 2022

What is culture, and how does it change over the years? This presentation focuses on the latter part of the 20th century, and the major influences that impacted music, the theatre, fashion and lifestyle during that time in Great Britain. Growing up in the north of England during that period, I take a personal journey through the highs and lows of this postwar era.

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

MONDAY, September 12 @ 12:10 – 12:50 P.M.

Course: ART TALKS (*In-person only*)
Room: Classroom 15/17

Bring your lunch and settle in for conversation & discussion as Andrea introduces us to the work of Joan Semmel. A 90 year old American feminist painter, professor, and writer best known for her large scale realistic nude self-portraits.

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz and Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, September 12 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GREAT PLAYS (In-person only)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: The Theater of Stephen Sondheim

In the Los Angeles Times obituary for Stephen Sondheim the Times' theater critic, Charles McNulty, wrote: "Sondheim deserves a spot on playwriting's Mt. Rushmore, for his contribution to the theater is as significant from a literary as it is from a musical standpoint. In truth, you can't separate the words from the notes in his scores any more than you can pry apart form from content in his shows. When Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize in literature in 2016, I thought an equally smart outsider choice would have been Sondheim, who similarly approached songwriting as a dramatic art. It is no exaggeration to say that Sondheim changed the nature of theatrical storytelling."

In today's class, we'll present and discuss video recordings of several striking illustrations of Sondheim's theatrical inventiveness.

Presenter: Steve Allen
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Course: PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE (Hybrid)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: The Nigerian Prince Scam/Tax Season Scams

The infamous Nigerian Prince Scam is just one example of what are known more generally as "advance-fee" scams. This presentation first examines how the Nigerian Prince Scam plays out and then looks at other examples of this type of scam. What, for example, is the Pet Scam?

The presentation then turns to an ever-growing number of scams devised to steal from the American taxpayer her or his hard-earned dollar.

What can be done to avoid being taken in by such a scam? Can anything be done to catch these scam artists and bring them to justice? How might we defeat -- or at least annoy -- these scam artists?

Presenter: Jim Brook

Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen, Caroline Thompson

TUESDAY, September 13 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: *Children in the City: The Photographs of Helen Levitt and Bob Adelman*

Helen Levitt and Bob Adelman each took extraordinary photographs of children playing in our city. Both Levitt and Adelman found and photographed private, intense games played out in the streets, involving courage, fear, humor, friendship, excitement, and compassion.

As Adelman wrote, “Play is truly civilized. It can be serious. Wit and cunning are used to overcome difficulties. A punch is deflected to laughter by ritualized insult.” The horrors of the adult world are enacted as though in a “fun-house mirror.” Players see behind superficial looks to the true person inside.

Levitt began photographing in the 1940’s; Adelman in the 1960’s. Levitt extended her work into silent films for a while. She was also a pioneer in the making of still color photographs.

Adelman and Susan Hall, a writer, found and accompanied groups of children. Hall recorded their talk while Adelman photographed their play. Then Adelman and Hall published what might be called films in book form.

Come enjoy the treasures that were discovered on New York City streets.

Presenter: Ellen S. Shapiro
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro

Course: **MOVERS AND SHAKERS (*In-person only*)**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: LBJ

Lyndon Johnson was a master politician. He had a very long career. I am focusing on the period of the Cuban missile crisis and the assassination of JFK.

Johnson assumed leadership of the country. He was able to pass important legislation including tax reduction, civil rights and Medicare. Please join me for a look at this important time in our history.

Presenter: Susan Keohane
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

TUESDAY, September 13 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **LAW AND ORDER** (*Hybrid*)
Room: **Auditorium**
Subject: **America's Next Civil War**

We are all familiar with World War I, followed by World War II. In our undeniably divided country, is it inevitable that our "first" Civil War is about to be followed by a second? Join us as we explore this disturbing but important and very timely topic.

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

Course: **BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES** (*In-person only*)
Room: **Classroom 15-17**
Subject: **What Makes It Ella Fitzgerald?**

Ella Fitzgerald was born poor, was abused and, for a time, was homeless. Yet she rose to the pinnacle of American pop and jazz singing, idolized by millions for her tender ballads and electrifying scat improvisations.

In my presentation, I will focus on Ella's musical artistry. I will first explore her early life and then discuss her major characteristics. The rest of my talk is dedicated to uncovering what exactly Ella does with her sublime voice, as we explore the creativity we hear in her songs.

To tweak a famous Duke Ellington song title, it don't mean a thing if you don't hear her sing. Come and listen!

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

Course: **CONTEMPORARY OPERA** (*Zoom Only*)
Room: Use the Room 27 link to enter the session
Subject: Tommy by Pete Townshend, performed by The Who
and guests. (1969)

Tommy is considered the first rock opera, it being performed by a rock band, but with a tough-story and resurfacing motifs as in traditional opera.

Tommy is a youth suffering from PTSD after witnessing his father murder his mother's lover. He becomes "deaf, dumb and blind." He escapes the trauma via his mastery of pinball. On his odyssey he encounters many striking characters who affect his self-image and future.

We'll watch a filmed live performance with narration between the songs (arias). The lyrics are easy to understand, but we're sending a PDF of the libretto for those who prefer knowing the full story and lyrics in advance.

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

WEDNESDAY, September 14 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NON-FICTION** (*Hybrid*)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: *Talking Hands: What Sign Language Reveals About the Mind* by Margalit Fox

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

In 2007, Margalit Fox, New York Times reporter and Quest guest speaker (*Sherlock Holmes for The Defense*), published this, her first book. *Talking Hands* is one of the books I am most likely to mention in conversations about language and often I think about it when I try to hear in a noisy room.

In a Bedouin village in Israel with a large deaf community, there is a unique sign language that is used by both deaf and hearing residents. A new language, it offers a rare opportunity for a team of linguists, accompanied by the author, to study how a language is born and develops, possibly an example of how all languages develop. But first they must decide whether it is a real language that can take root and flourish, as much as English or Hungarian.

Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

Course: **SOCRATES & THE PROBLEM OF PHILOSOPHY** (*In-person only*)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Socrates and the Problem of Philosophy

For our first class we will read and discuss the "Allegory of the Cave" from Book VII of Plato's Republic. The "Allegory" is a beautiful introduction to Plato's Socrates and to several issues related to his

understanding of the nature of philosophy. These include the difference between appearance and reality, the role of authority in society, the nature of intellectual freedom, philosophy and the quest for truth, and the relationship between philosophy and good governance.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Steve Allen

WEDNESDAY, September 14 @ 12:10 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.

Course: BOOK CLUB (*In-person only*)
Room: Classroom 52-53
Subject: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Fun, clever and surprisingly upbeat, it's the story of a Russian aristocrat trapped in a luxury Moscow hotel during the tumultuous 1920s and 30s. Both the novel and the Gentleman himself brim with intelligence, humor and insight.

Presenter: Hilda Feinstein
Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

WEDNESDAY, September 14 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER (*Hybrid*)

Room: Auditorium

Speaker: Al Franken

Subject: An Afternoon with Al Franken

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

We are pleased to start the Fall semester with our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker – former U.S. Senator, author, comedian and producer Al Franken. With his unique background, he will discuss the issues of the day and more.

Al Franken served in the U.S. Senate from 2009 to 2014 representing Minnesota. He was a writer for Saturday Night Live for 15 seasons, specializing in political satire. He has written 4 best-selling books including *LIES AND THE LIARS WHO TELL THEM: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*. He had a radio talk show from 2004-2007 and won 5 Emmys. He has a popular podcast and is a sought-after speaker. Mr. Franken requests that we submit our questions in advance and he will answer them after his talk. Please e-mail your questions to Arlynn Greenbaum (arlynnj@cs.com). We look forward to a stimulating afternoon.

Members only for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, September 15 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** (*In-person only*)
Room: Room 27
Subject: This Just In!

This class will examine all the latest developments that have happened in the past year in our knowledge of the ever-changing conditions of the Earth's environment and especially our climate, and the exploration of our Solar System. we will also review some of the biggest developments in technology and human spaceflight. We will also look at the latest findings about planets around other stars and the implications for finding a second Earth or at least some bio-signatures. There have also been new findings about neutron stars, black holes, and gravitational waves. And of course, we will take a look at all the latest from the spectacular James Webb telescope! Questions for discussion are always welcomed!

Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: **AUSTRALIA: DOWN UNDER** (*In-person only*)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Oz. The Land Down Under. The Lucky Country.

However you call it, Australia is a fascinating and unique country. Let us explore this place's improbable rise from a penal colony in the farthest reaches of nowhere to one of the richest and most stable of countries. From an unlikely crucible of freed convicts, mineral riches, and an over arching culture of xenophobia, we will explore the good, the bad, the ugly, and the wonderful that are Australia.

Presenters: David Bartash, Andrea Irvine
Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash

THURSDAY, September 15 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **CREATIVITY WORKSHOP** (*In-person only*)
Room: **Classroom 52-53**
Subject: **Finding Your Creativity**

Don't think you're creative? You'd be surprised! In "Finding Your Creativity" we'll show that we're ALL creative; it's an essential part of being human and has enabled us to thrive. The class will offer insight into the creative impulse, along with tips and exercises to help you unlock your own abilities and put them to use. Join us to be inspired, learn something new and have fun.

And be sure to mark your calendar for all the Creativity Workshop classes as Quest members share their own forms of creative expression, from drawing, collage and jewelry making, to storytelling, yoga and dance.

Presenter: **Beth Callender**
Coordinators: **Mary Ann Donnelly, Beth Callender**

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY** (*In-person only*)
Room: **Classroom 15-17**
Subject: **Is Philosophy Useful?**

"Is philosophy useful?" is a question that I know some of our discussion participants have asked from time to time. This week we'll take a look at one way in which it is useful – in providing new ways of thinking that inspire scientists to create new theories.

We will have a brief discussion of the impact that the philosophers David Hume, Immanuel Kant, and Ernst Mach had on the development

of Einstein's theory of relativity, but primarily we will focus on a parallel example that has real consequences in how each of us reaches decisions in our lives. This example is how twentieth century biologists, neurologists, and psychologists understand the reliability of our perceptions and our memory, building on the pioneering work of Hume and Kant and of more recent philosophers such as Gilbert Ryle and Daniel Dennett.

Suggested readings will be circulated in advance on Quest Business, but advance readings will not be needed to participate in the discussion.

Discussion

Leader: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro

Course: POETS' WORKSHOP (*In-person only*)

Room: Classroom 27 (Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)

Write a poem using the cue word "intrigue" or a word of the poet's choice. Authors will read their poems and bring copies of each poem to the class for a second reading by a classmate. A discussion of the poem will follow.

Coordinators: Judith Winn, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

THURSDAY, September 15 @ 2:45 P.M.

Course: SOLEMATES (*In-person only*)

A Q'xtra fortnightly event in "B" Week

Meet: Cunard Building Lobby

We meet in the lobby of 25 Broadway after the classroom sessions. Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine, and Laura Lopez will lead us on walks along the Hudson River.

We leave 25 Broadway at 2:45 PM, proceed to Battery Park, and then head North. It will be up to each of us to decide how far we wish to walk.

There are no signups or commitments, just serendipity, community, and a healthy heart, a great way to end a week of Questing.

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Laura Lopez, Marian Friedmann

CultureQuest

Friday, September 16th, 11am - 12:15pm

CHELSEA ART GALLERIES

(In-Person Walking Tour)

The Chelsea art district in New York is one of the most important and influential in the world. It features dozens of galleries including top names as well as emerging ones. The director of our tour founded his company twenty years ago and each month, he previews hundreds of New York exhibits and selects the most fascinating ones for his groups to tour. At each stop on this Chelsea walking tour, he will talk about the artist, describe the artworks, and lead the group in a lively discussion. Our tour takes place no matter the temperature or the weather as the art is all indoors. Come and see what is extraordinary in Chelsea!

COST: \$12- check made out to Quest. Limited to 25 participants. To reserve your place, please follow these two steps:

- **Send an email asap to Madeleine Brecher at madbrech@gmail.com. First come, first served. We will have a waitlist.**
- **Make out a check to Quest for \$12, put it in an envelope marked CultureQuest and place it in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office.**



Join us for lunch after the tour at the Spanish Diner just a short walk on the Highline at Mercado Little Spain in Hudson Yards. Ole!

Important note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancel will be placed on "future waitlists only" when they sign up to attend live CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.