

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**October 24 – 28, 2022**

**This is a “B” Week**

## **Instructions for Zoom Classes**

**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.

**MONDAY, October 24 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: THE NEAR EAST (*In-person only*)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: People Without a Homeland**

**When the Colonial powers decided to carve up the Near East, they had no interest in the people who lived in the lands they wanted. This presentation is about two groups that were stranded without a home. The first group to be discussed are the Kurds. For the second half, I hope to have a lively discussion, since the presentation will be about the Palestinians from their point of view.**

**Presenter: Ellen Gottfried**  
**Coordinators: Ann Goerd, Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried**

**Course: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH CULTURE (*Hybrid*)**  
**Room: Classroom 15/17**  
**Subject: British Contemporary Art**

**On Monday, we will take a step back and examine multiple threads that make up Contemporary British Art. Diotima says, “Eros achieves its ends by means of creation, the continual production of something new or young to replace what is old.” We will explore the evolution of British Contemporary Art. Where did it come from, what is it replacing, and is art an act of love? What are the current trends in British Art, and is it encompassing an ever-growing circle of inclusion?**

**Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz**  
**Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer**

**MONDAY, October 24 @ 12:10 – 12:50 P.M.**

**Course: THEATER/OPERA TALKBACK (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 15/17**

**Come join us for a short talk on MEDEA currently at The Opera House, Lincoln Center followed by lots of discussion and sharing of theater and opera we have seen or have tickets for.**

**In the recent Quest Survey, the most votes were for a course on THEATER. Let's see if together we can create such a course for our Spring Semester.**

**Presenters: Sheryl & Andrea**  
**Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

**MONDAY, October 24 @ 1:00– 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: GREAT PLAYS (In-person only)**  
**Room: Auditorium**

**In celebration of Halloween, the class will listen to a recording of the Orson Welles/Mercury Theatre radio presentation of *The War of the Worlds*. On the evening of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans were panic-stricken by a broadcast purported to describe an invasion of Martians which threatened all of humanity. If you dare, come listen and discuss.**

**Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**

**Course: PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Elena Ferrante**

**Elena Ferrante has been called the Greta Garbo of the literary world and the greatest living chronicler on the inner lives of women. She wrote a well-received first novel, *The Days of Abandonment* in 2005 followed by two other fairly short novels, *Troubling Love* in 2006 and *The Lost Daughter* in 2008. The four volumes known as the Neapolitan Quartet, were published between 2012 and 2015. In addition, her publisher, Europa, has brought out *Frantumagli: A Writer's Journey* in 2016 and a children's book, *The Beach at Night* in 2016. And that's where the discussion on Quest's last presentation on Ferrante ended. She has since published the novel, *The Lying Lives of Adults* (2020), a slim volume of essays on writing, *In the Margins* (2022), and a collection of newspaper columns she wrote for The Guardian, *Incidental Inventions*. And then there are the films of all of her work, the earlier ones in Italian being reissued, and the ones in English most recently released, the three season HBO series, *My Brilliant Friend*, and Maggie Gyllenhaal's *The Lost Daughter*. All of this has contributed to Ferrante's world-wide fame. In addition, of course, there is a plethora of academic writing about her work. Come join us for a discussion on the universality of some of the motifs, images, and themes in Ferrante's work.**

**Presenter: Joyce West**

**Coordinators: Joyce West, Steve Allen, Carolyn Thompson**

**TUESDAY, October 25 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: A Woman Who Broke Boundaries: Lee Miller, Photographer**

**Why did the story of Lee Miller intrigue me and motivate me. Her life story, together with her audacious pursuit to develop her photography skill, her connection with art influences and her perseverance to make**

**her life one that was significant, was absolutely irresistible. If it was written as a novel, it would not have moved from a publisher's desk in its absurdity. However, this was a life burgeoning with spirit, and with a gift exploited to its fullest!**

**Presenter: Sandy Gordon**

**Coordinators: Linda Downs, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro**

**Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS (*In-person only*)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: THE ROBBER BARONS OF THE GILDED AGE**

**The Gilded Age, roughly the time after the Civil War until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was a time of rapid industrialization and enormous economic growth, progress that was led by a small class of ruthless businessmen. The expanding America of the era was a paradise of free booting capitalists—untrammelled and untaxed. Within a quarter of a century, they developed the half-empty continent, spanning it with a railway network and heavy industrial plants. They transformed the country and, in turn, amassed enormous personal fortunes.**

**This presentation will look at a few of the most prominent of these “robber barons,” their lives, their impact on society and their legacies.**

**Presenter: Toni Dickenson**

**Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried**

**TUESDAY, October 25 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: LAW AND ORDER (*Hybrid*)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: THE EXPERT WITNESS – SCIENCE AND ‘JUNK SCIENCE’ AT TRIAL**

**In an adversarial legal system like our own, all evidence must be presented to the jury via the testimony of one of the witnesses. Some witnesses are characterized as expert witnesses, whose testimony will be based on her or his knowledge, skill, training, or education relevant to the case being tried.**

**Who qualifies as an expert witness? How is the judge to determine whether the offered testimony meets the standard allowing for its being admissible? What distinguishes valid scientific evidence from inadmissible “junk science”?**

**And how did Kim Kardashian get herself involved in all of this?**

**Presenter: Jim Brook**

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

**Course: BLACK WOMEN’S VOICES (*In-person only*)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Maya Angelou, A Phenomenal Life**

**Maya Angelou led an extraordinary life. We know about her impoverished rural childhood in Arkansas, memorialized in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. We remember her dramatic reading of her poem “the Pulse of Morning” at President Clinton’s inauguration in 1993. She was also an actress, dancer, teacher, civil rights activist, friend to James Baldwin and Malcolm X, and a mentor to Oprah Winfrey and many other Black women. She became an American icon, lauded for her inspiration, honesty and wisdom. And most important to her, she was a mother and a daughter. Come learn about her life and enjoy the powerful impact of her poetry readings.**

**Presenter: Ilene Winkler**

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

**Course: CONTEMPORARY OPERA (Zoom-only Use Room 27 link to  
enter session)**

**Subject: *El Público (The Audience)* by Mauricio Sotelo (2015) Part  
Two**

**You needn't have seen Part One to follow this abstract opera based on  
a play by F. García Lorca, about a Theater Director struggling with the  
desire to gain a larger audience versus being true to his artistic vision  
while preparing a performance of Romeo and Juliet.**

**The sets and costume designs are now brilliant with color, and the  
narrative becomes more cohesive. Musically, it uses flamenco  
elements both in the fore (vocals, guitar, percussion, rhythm) and as a  
substrate for the orchestration. Theatrically, it has elements from  
the theater of the absurd.**

**Subtitles in English.**

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

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**WEDNESDAY, October 26 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (Hybrid)**

**Room:** Auditorium  
**Subject:** *Code Name: Lise: The True Story of the Woman Who Became WW II's Most Highly Decorated Spy*

**By:** Larry Loftis

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

*Code Name: Lise: The True Story of the Woman Who Became WW II's Most Highly Decorated Spy* is the story of Odette Sampson, who in 1942 made the painful decision to leave her three young children and become a spy for the UK. After grueling training and five failed landing attempts, she finally arrived in occupied France to begin her mission. Larry Loftis, the author, weaves together a touching romance between Odette and her commanding officer Peter Churchill, and the German spy catcher, Hugo Bleicher. This book is not only a moving love story and heart-pounding thriller, it is a portrait of courage, resilience and patriotism of two of World War II's most fearless operatives. Come to "Fascinating Non-Fiction" to learn more details about these amazing people.

**Presenter:** Bob Gottfried  
**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

**Course:** **SOCRATES & THE PROBLEM OF PHILOSOPHY** (*In-person only*)  
**Room:** Classroom 15-17

During our next class, we will discuss Plato's famous defense of Socrates in the dialogue, *The Apology of Socrates*. As we shall see, Plato addresses every charge Aristophanes makes against Socrates in *The Clouds* and argues that philosophers are benefactors to decent societies and should be honored rather than condemned.



**Presenter: Sandy Kessler**  
**Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Steve Allen**

**WEDNESDAY, October 26 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER SERIES**  
**(Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**  
**Speaker: Letty Cottin Pogrebin**

**Subject: *Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy***

**Letty Cottin Pogrebin, a writer, activist, and national lecturer, is a founding editor of *Ms.* magazine, and the author of twelve books. Her works include the Jewish feminist classic, *Deborah, Golda, and Me: Being Female and Jewish in America*, the novel, *Single Jewish Male Seeking Soul Mate*, and her latest title, *Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy*.**

**Letty will speak about her new book. *Shanda* tells the story of three generations of complicated, intense 20th-century Jews for whom the desire to fit in and the fear of public humiliation either drove their aspirations or crushed their spirit.**

**She was also the editorial consultant on Marlo Thomas' acclaimed children's book, *Free to Be, You and Me*. Ms. Pogrebin's articles have appeared in *The New York***

***Times, The Nation, Washington Post, Huffington Post, Tablet, The Forward* and many other publications. She is a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, the UJA Task Force on Women, and the Ms. Foundation for Women, and is a past president of the Authors Guild and of Americans for Peace Now.**

**Please join us for this special presentation.**

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

**WEDNESDAY, October 26 @ 2:30 P.M.**

***Questers, come join us for a Chocolate and Prosecco Social next Wednesday, at 2:30, in the lunchroom immediately following our much anticipated guest speaker, Letty Cottin Pogrebin***

***Stay a while, socialize and enjoy a glass of Prosecco, and lots of your favorite chocolate treats....***

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**THURSDAY, October 27 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** (*Hybrid*)**  
**Room: Room 27**  
**Subject: Gravity, How Pure Thought Helped Us Understand This Ever Present but Mysterious Force**

**Gravity is a truly universal force – universal because it impacts every type of matter and energy in the universe; universal because every type of matter and energy contributes to the gravitational force; universal because it is the key driver of the shape of galaxies, stars, and planets, the key driver of the periodic table of elements, and the source of all usable energy. It is natural that scientists have long sought to understand this force.**

**And yet gravity is an extremely weak force at small scales. This makes it hard to design good experiments to understand gravity. Scientists have been forced to use their imaginations to construct thought experiments instead. In this talk, we'll look at how great thinkers – Aristotle, Galileo, Newton, Einstein – used their imaginations to understand gravity and we'll also take a close look at the results of their studies.**

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

**Course: AUSTRALIA: DOWN UNDER (*In-person only*)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: The Great Barrier Reef**

**Coral reefs are among the most productive and most diverse ecosystems in the world. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the longest Barrier Reef in the world and it is in big trouble. But what is a barrier reef? And why is it in trouble?**

**We will talk about the structure and function of coral reefs, what makes one a barrier reef, and the various problems they are having, mainly due to climate change.**

**Presenter: Judith Weis**  
**Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash**

**THURSDAY, October 27 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course:      **CREATIVITY WORKSHOP** (*In-person only*)**  
**Room:        Auditorium**  
**Subject:     Creativity through Yoga**

**It is well known that the ancient art of yoga promotes health and well-being, but a great side benefit of regular yoga practice is it dramatically supports and broadens creative expression. So, breathe, relax, press the pause button and join Margaret to practice slow, mindful chair/standing yoga. You will learn two breathing exercises to relieve stress and five things Margaret has learned about practicing yoga. Suggest you wear comfortable clothes. All are welcome.**

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

**Course:       **GREAT CONVERSATIONS** (*Hybrid*)**  
**Room:        Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject:     Hekabe or Hecuba by Euripides**

**In ancient Greece, theatrical productions of tragedies were religious festivals with playwrights competing for prizes. Euripides won first prize for the first time in 442 BCE. Aristotle complimented him as "the most tragic of dramatists."**

**Unlike the characters in the plays of Aeschylus and Sophocles, his older contemporaries, the characters in Euripides plays are portrayed with a subtle sense of psychological realism that makes them immediately recognizable people whose downfall is the result of their own troubled personalities and passions. Noted for his skillful and complex portrayals of women, his plays also convey a profound**

**doubt concerning religious and ethical principles, disturbing ingredients that make for great popular artistic appeal.**

**We will spend 2 sessions on this play.**

**Discussion leader: Jane Lubin**

**Coordinators: Jane Lubin, 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 “bird” 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 Safran**

**THURSDAY, October 27 @ 2:45 P.M.**

**Course: SOLE MATES (*In-person only*)**

**Our Q'xtra Fortnightly event in “B” Week**

**Meet: by elevator on 7th floor**

**Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine & Laura Lopez will lead us on our THIRD walk along the Hudson River.**

**Leaving Quest at 2:45, we will proceed to Battery Park and then head North. It is up to you how far you walk - lots of transport options in the**

**Oculus Train Station with option of ending at a 'watering hole' for wine and good cheer before heading home.**

**No signups, no commitments - just serendipity, community and a healthy heart.**

**A great way to end a week of Questing.**

**Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Laura Lopez, Marian Friedman**

## **CultureQuest**

**Friday, October 28<sup>TH</sup>, 10:15am-12:50pm**

**EDWARD HOPPER'S NEW YORK**

**WHITNEY MUSEUM**

**99 Gansevoort Street, NYC**

**(IN-PERSON TOUR WITH DOCENT LINDA SWEET)**

**The city of New York was Edward Hopper's home for nearly six decades (1908-67), a period that spans his entire mature career and coincides with a historic time of urban development. As skyscrapers punctuated the skyline and elevated trains and construction sites roared below, Hopper's New York betrays only glimpses of the broader changes underfoot. His city was human-scale, decidedly non-iconic and largely rooted in a past that had fallen out of step with the present; "I just never cared for the vertical," Hopper reflected in 1956. This exhibition will be the first of its kind to focus on Hopper's rich and sustained relationship with New York: how the city served as the subject, setting and inspiration for so many of the artist's most celebrated and persistently vexing pictures.**

**Edward Hopper's New York will take a comprehensive look at Hopper's life and work through his city pictures, from his early impressions of New York in sketches, prints and illustrations, to his late paintings, in which the city served as a backdrop for his evocative distillations of urban experience. Drawing from the Whitney's extensive holdings by the artist and amplified by key loans, the exhibition will bring together many of Hopper's iconic city pictures as well as several lesser known yet critically important examples. The presentation will be significantly informed by a variety of materials from the Museum's recently acquired Sanborn Hopper Archive- printed ephemera, correspondence, photographs, and journals that together inspire new insights into Hopper's life in the city. By exploring the artist's work through the lens of New York, this exhibition offers a fresh take on this formidable figure and considers the city itself as a lead actor.**

**COST: Free entry with Quest/CUNY ID or Whitney Membership Card/ or AAM or UCOM Membership Card/ or Senior ticket \$18**

**To reserve your place, please send an email asap to Linda Down [LADowns18@gmail.com](mailto:LADowns18@gmail.com)**

**Limited to 25 participants. Linda will have a waitlist.**