

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

December 12 - December 16, 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, December 12, 2022 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: THE NEAR EAST (In-person only)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Saudi Arabia

The Arabian Peninsula does not have a history of famous empires like many other areas of the Near East. It is known as the birthplace of Islam, and the first Islamic Caliphate did cover the entire peninsula in the 600s CE. But the caliphs moved north and ruled greatly expanded areas from Damascus and then Baghdad. No emirate or kingdom after the Caliphate ruled over a major area of the peninsula until the 1930s, when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded by family of Saud. For most of its history, the kingdom has been a friend of the United States. This seems to be changing, so we will look at what changes are occurring, particularly within the kingdom.

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

Course: CONTEMPORARY BRITISH CULTURE (Hybrid)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: British Theatre

For our final presentation on British Culture, we will be discussing several British playwrights.

Taking one of Oscar Wilde's quotes to heart – Laughter is not at all a bad beginning for a friendship – the coordinators and Andrea Irvine will attempt to perform the first act of his play: The Importance of Being Ernest.

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

MONDAY, December 12, 2022 @ 12:10 – 12:50 P.M.

Course: ART TALKS (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Paul Signac

Donna will introduce us to the art of Paul Signac, a Parisian landscape painter and anarchist. Together with Seurat and Pissarro he formed the group called “scientific impressionists.” They developed the technique of pointillism consisting of dividing the tones into little brush strokes or dots of pure color, packed in tightly against each other. We will discuss the evolution of this genre and view several of Signac's paintings.

Presenter: Donna Basile
Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Sheryl Harawitz

MONDAY, December 12, 2022 @ 1:00– 2:30 P.M.

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

Two one-act plays from past Best Plays Anthologies will be presented.

Cast: Vince Grosso and Yona Rogosin star in "The Way to Miami" and Larry Shapiro and Gloria Peropat are the actors in "Dissonance."

Presenter: Gloria Peropat
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Course: PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE (Hybrid)
CLASS CANCELED

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

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: They Captured New York (in Photographs)

New York City has been captured by talented photographers from all angles (both literally and figuratively). From social ills to high fashion, this talk illustrates how photography has illuminated the many facets of life in the big city. Photographers including Jacob Riis, Lewis Hine, Berenice Abbott, Margaret Bourke-White, Paul Strand, Walker Evans, Bill Cunningham and others will be shown.

Presenter: Bob Reiss
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian

Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Anna Halprin, a dance artist in service of social change, personal and community healing

Anna Halprin is known as the “mother” of the postmodern dance movement. She started her artistic work in collaboration with her husband, the landscape architect, Lawrence Halprin, envisioning dance as an environmental study, dancing in and with nature. She developed rituals for communities around the world as vehicles for protesting and celebrating urgent issues.

In the 1960’s, she was one of the first artists in the USA to have a mixed-race dance company. She developed democratic methods of creating dance works, and endowing non-dancers with an artistic vision and power.

Ze'eva Cohen will present a lecture and screen interviews with Halprin as well as excerpts from her major and diverse works over her lifetime.

Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen

Coordinators: Ellen Gottfried, Bob Gottfried

TUESDAY, December 13 2022 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: LAW AND ORDER (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The End of Law & Order

Well, this is it! The end of Law & Order --- certainly at Quest, for this is the last class in this long-running course, but perhaps also for our (somewhat) long-running country. Has Donald Trump's past presidency and current candidacy marked the end of civil discourse and the rule of law in America? Many think so, and the evidence is certainly available. Join us for a discussion of this most important topic, after the '22 and ahead of the '24 elections. It should be an interesting ninety minutes!

Presenter: Michael Wellner & Hedy Shulman

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried and David Judlowitz

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

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Music of Sweet Honey in the Rock

Sweet Honey in the Rock, a Black women's singing group, grew out of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and remained a powerful political and musical force through the early 21st century. Founder/Director Bernice Johnson Reagon led the group in performing music of several different genres – spiritual, gospel, folk, jazz, pop and

others. Themes ranged from spiritual uplift and political struggle to love and personal relationships.

This class will include lots of music and some commentary. There will be space for your thoughts and reflections on this rich and beautiful music.

Presenter: Barbara Barnes

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

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

Subject: From the House of the Dead by Leoš Janáček (1928)

Janáček's final opera came from several stories from the novel in which Dostoyevsky described his experiences in prison. The opera is a kind of mosaic made up from the stories of the individual prisoners, linked by one idea - the desire for freedom.

The opera requires a vast orchestra, including chains as a percussion instrument to evoke the sound of the prisoners. The words of prisoners' songs are mainly from the Dostoevsky novel.

Sung in Czech with English subtitles.

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

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

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America by Dahlia Lithwick

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Women lawyers determined to "hold the line" when Trump was elected President. Unknown to each other, they worked to maintain the rule of law: by fighting the Muslim travel ban, by maintaining civil rights for the poor, by doing pro bono social justice work. Women lawyers, known and unknown to the public, organized and became active to keep democracy alive. We shall explore how they brought lawsuits and struggled to enact laws themselves.

Dahlia Lithwick, the author, is a Canadian-American lawyer, writer, and journalist. Lithwick is currently a contributing editor at Newsweek and senior editor at Slate.

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

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

In our final class this fall we will consider Nietzsche's attack on Plato's understanding of philosophy and his own understanding of this subject. We will then discuss Albert Camus' view of philosophy in

"The Myth of Sisyphus." Finally, we will ask whether Plato's Socrates can still guide us as we strive to understand ourselves, our world, and the ultimate nature of reality.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Steve Allen

WEDNESDAY, December 14 @ 12:10-12:55 P.M.

Course: BOOK CLUB (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 52-53

Subject: The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway

The novel takes place in war-torn 1990s Sarajevo. Defying the ever-present snipers, a cellist stations himself on the site of a mortar attack to play music in tribute to the 22 victims killed there. Against this, the author weaves the stories of three ordinary townspeople and their efforts to retain their humanity in a place where the most routine tasks, such as simply getting water, are transformed into life-threatening challenges. This extraordinary novel is based on the true story of a cellist's resistance to the devastation of war.

Presenter: Madeleine Brecher

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

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

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER SERIES (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Speaker: Kermit Roosevelt III

Subject: The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story

Kermit Roosevelt III is a distinguished legal scholar and a professor of constitutional law at The University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is the great-great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt, first cousin (three times removed) of Eleanor Roosevelt and distant cousin of FDR.

Professor Roosevelt will speak about his new book. *The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story* which tells the story of America's founding and the origins of its most important and fundamental values.

The book challenges the narrative that attributes core American ideals such as equality and liberty to the vision of the country's founders. Roosevelt argues that they originate instead in the Civil War and as the hope of Reconstruction. Through a deeply informed historical lens, and with persuasive passion, Roosevelt makes the case that the common American story is not only untrue—it has also outlived its usefulness.

A former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice David Souter, he is also the author of *The Myth of Judicial Activism*, as well as two novels, *Allegiance* and *In the Shadow of the Law*.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

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

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (Hybrid)**

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: The Grand Unified Theory

The world around us is the result of interactions of fundamental forces. Physicists long ago were able to unify the electrical and

magnetic forces into the electromagnetic force. More recently, they combined the electromagnetic force with the weak force. The grand unified theory would combine those with the strong force that holds atoms together. No one has done it, yet.

Is finding a grand unified theory a reasonable goal? Could it then lead us to a theory of everything, which would also include the force of gravity?

Presenter: Andrew Epstein

Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: AUSTRALIA: DOWN UNDER (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15/17

Subject: New Zealand - So Close, So Far

New Zealand is not Australia. It's not even a part of Australia. It is a separate country about which much can be, and will be, said. This presentation will introduce the unique flora and fauna of New Zealand (cue the kiwi) and a brief look at the country's history. We will focus on the similarities and differences between New Zealand and Australia, with a comparison of how the treatment of Australia's Aborigines and New Zealand's Maori, today and in the past.

We will conclude with a step-by-step recounting of the procedure by which the full electorate considered a change of the nation's flag. And what was the result?

Presenter: Jim Brook

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash

THURSDAY, December 15 @ 1:00-2:30 P.M.

Course: CREATIVITY WORKSHOP (In-person only)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Water Dance

Water is essential to life as is Art and for our final class we will be learning, dancing, and creating basic movements inspired by water. Responding to stylistically different songs that celebrate the power and vitality of water, participants, whether sitting, standing and/or moving, will have the opportunity to experience the joy of dance. We will move to music as related to mental images, rhythms, and communal folk-like dancing that celebrate water as guided by Quest's own dance master, Ze'eva Cohen. Suggest you wear comfortable clothes. All are welcome.

Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen

Coordinators: Mary Ann Donnelly, Beth Callender

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: "Putting Cruelty First" by Judith N. Shklar

Our reading is "Putting Cruelty First," by Judith Shklar, whose "American Citizenship" we discussed in October. It opens as a reply to a friend who wonders why liberals consider cruelty the worst human trait when there are other candidates. For Shklar, a political philosopher, cruelty comes first because it is the mightiest in its consequences. For leaders of state, it has been an irresistible tool.

Her interest in history as a theater of ideas makes her argument irresistible reading for history buffs. "Putting Cruelty First" also has the distinction of being employed to save humanity in the final season of the Netflix series The Good Place, and for fun, we should discuss this, too. Let's also consider what it adds to Shklar's interpretation of the history of citizenship in America.

I will distribute a link to the essay via Quest Business.

Discussion Leader: Larry Shapiro

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 "poetry" 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, December 15 @ 2:45 P.M.

Course: SOLE MATES (In-person only)

Our Q'xtra Fortnightly event in "B" Week

Meet: by elevators on 7th floor

Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine, and Laura Lopez lead us on our sixth walk along the Hudson River. We leave Quest at 2:45 and proceed to Battery Park and then head north.

It is up to you how far you walk - there are lots of transport options in the Oculus train station with the option of ending at a "watering hole" for beverages and good cheer before heading home.

There are 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 Friedmann

FRIDAY, December 16, 12:00 Noon

**Quest's Annual Gala
Holiday Luncheon**

**Lavo Restaurant,
39 East 58th Street.**

Advance Reservations Are Required