

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**April 17 – 21, 2023**

**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." 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 APRIL 17 @ 10:30- Noon**

**Course: CLASSICAL MUSIC (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Banned Classical Music**

**Periodically, passionate and violent arousal of superstition, political turmoil, prurience and homophobia have been factors in banning classical musical performances. We will examine some of the circumstances involved.**

**The Church prohibited a discordant musical interval. A Pope banned all performances of opera. Occupying Austria was unnerved by an Italian Verdi opera chorus. A satirical opera enraged Nicholas II. Israel banned the production of Wagner's operas. Occupying Germany forbid the playing of Poland's Chopin piano music. Occupying Russia forbid the orchestral performance of Finland's Finlandia. Stalin threatened Shostakovich's life. U.S. Senator McCarthy attempted to stain Copland's reputation. Florida cancelled a six man a cappella concert.**

**You will listen to some examples of the classical musi performances that were prohibited. What were the motivations behind such measures?**

**Presenter: Peter Dichter**  
**Coordinators: Sol Makon, Bob Reiss**

**Course: A WEEK IN PARIS (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: Debussy in Paris**

**Claude Debussy was a genius, and quintessential French composer of the Belle Epoque, often credited with opening the doors to 20th century musical modernity. He had a truly independent spirit, breaking rules not only with his music, but in his relationships with**

women. Come hear about his life and listen to highlights of his ground breaking compositions, some played live on our Quest keyboard.

**Presenter:** Arlene Hajinlian

**Coordinators:** Laura Lopez, Donna Basile, Ellen Rittberg

**MONDAY, APRIL 17 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

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

**Room:** Auditorium

**Play:** Address Unknown by Kathrine Kressman Taylor

In an era of austerity, recession and rising nationalism, two friends are torn apart when the Nazi regime infiltrates their friendship. Based on a bestselling book from 1938 which was written as an anti-fascist call to arms, Address Unknown is a warning of how humanity can fail in the face of extreme ideology.

**Cast:** Roy Clary and Peter Dichter

**Presenter:** Roy Clary

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

**Course:** **THE SIXTIES** (Hybrid)

**Room:** Classroom 15-17

**Subject:** The 'Vietnam' War: An American tragedy

The Vietnamese called it the 'American War' and after 1,000 years of occupation by China + 100 years by France we were merely a 12 year hiccup in their struggle for independence. But human cost to America was huge - were any lessons learned? We still live with the aftermath - it affected all our lives - how did it affect yours?

**Presenters:** Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

**Coordinators:** Richard Byrd, Diane Reynolds

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 18 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Maya Lin**

**“Walking through this parklike area, the memorial appears as a rift in the earth -- a long, polished black stone wall, emerging from and receding into the earth.”**

**So begins the competition entry submitted in 1981 by a Yale undergraduate for the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. -- subsequently called "as moving and awesome and popular a piece of memorial architecture as exists anywhere in the world." Its creator, Maya Lin, has been nothing less than world-famous ever since. From the explicitly political to the literary to the completely abstract, her simple and powerful sculptures -- the Southern Poverty Law Center Civil Rights Memorial, the Yale Women's Table, Wave Field, Ghost Forest, NYC's Museum of Chinese in America, The Confluence Project, What is Missing, The Obama Presidential Center's Ann Dunham Water Garden and so much more, her design talents have defined her as one of the most gifted creative geniuses of the age.**

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

**Course: SYMPOSIUM (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: Mutually Assured Destruction: Is it MADness if it works?**

**Even though the Geneva Gas Protocol banning the use of chemical and biological warfare was signed in 1925, poison gas attacks never completely stopped. There is no corresponding international prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons. Why then have there been no atomic or hydrogen bombs dropped on people since 1945? We will discuss how the world-ending potential of nuclear weapons has prevented their use. Will fear always be enough to keep the world safe?**

**Presenter: Andrew Epstein**

**Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

**Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish Conversation) (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 27**

**Frank Montaturo will be leading the class in reading and discussing two poems by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda from one of his early experimental poetry collections titled: Veinte Poemas de Amor (20 Love Poems). Neruda, a Nobel prize winner in Literature, was encouraged to write poetry early on by his teacher, Gabriel Mistral, the first Latin American Nobel Prize winner in Literature. Neruda is arguably the best Spanish language poet of the 20th century. He was also a diplomat and an active supporter of Republican Spain during the Spanish Civil War.**

**Come whatever your Spanish level is. Questions and conversation are always welcome—in Spanish, of course.**

**Presenter: Frank Montaturo**

**Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Rosemary Feal**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: HISTORY OF GERMANY (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Germany Under Nazi Leadership (Part 2)**

**In our last two lectures, David Grossman examined the rise of Hitler, and Steve Allen looked at the political background to the Nazi seizure of power. This lecture will continue these themes. David and Steve will lead a discussion of their differing views about the primary cause of the German public's willingness to embrace Nazi leadership, with David emphasizing ideas that were central to the thinking of many Germans and Steve emphasizing the role of specific institutional arrangements and historical events. We will also look at how the Nazi regime worked to control the lives of German citizens beyond the normal political sphere.**

**Presenters: Steve Allen, David Grossman**  
**Coordinators: Steve Allen, Linda Downs**

**Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: Zora Neale Hurston**

**Zora Neale Hurston, a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance, championed the uniqueness of Black culture and its African roots. Despite having a difficult childhood, she went from rural Florida to earn degrees from Howard, Barnard and Columbia University where she studied anthropology with Franz Boas. We will look at her extraordinary life and how it relates to her writings. She wrote both as a novelist and as an anthropologist and described the inventive, joyous, and outrageous creations of her people. In class we will read from her books. Her most famous novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is beautifully written and fun to read. Her pride and joy in Black culture is central to her work and her life.**

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

**Course:** **MODERN OPERA: THE 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES** (NOTE: NOW  
HYBRID)

**Room:** Classroom 27 - New Location

**Subject:** The Red Line by composer Aulis Sallinen (1978)

The Red Line is based on a 1909 novel which concerned itself with the first free general election in Finland, in 1907, and its unfulfilled promise. The main characters are a crofter and his wife.

There is a great deal of obvious reference to decisions being made for Finns in distant quarters—Petrograd, Moscow—and the whole thrust of the opera's sometimes-Brechtian political level is the achievement of autonomy (not independence, mind you; that would be too much to ask).

The music style is modern eclectic—you hear traces of Penderecki, Weill, Prokofiev, Puccini, and most of all the Bartók of Bluebeard.

English subtitles.

**Coordinators and Presenters:** Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, Victor Brener

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

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

**Room:** Classroom 27 - PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE

**Subject:** The Upswing: How America Came Together  
a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again  
By: Robert D. Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett

## **NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

**Unprecedented political polarization, a fraying social fabric, accelerating inequality, alienated youth - Is this the worst of times? Authors Putnam and Garrett argue no. In fact, they say, we've been here before.**

**In "The Upswing," the two authors analyze economic, social, and political trends from the "Gilded Age" of the late 1800s until the present time. It's a story of how the U.S. went from an individualistic "I" society to a more communitarian "we" society only to slip back - beginning in the late 1960s - to today's largely "I" society.**

**Can the trend be reversed? Come hear the authors' views on the likelihood and desirability of such a transformation and see if you agree.**

**Presenter: Wayne Cotter**

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

**Course: TONI MORRISON: THE LEGEND (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Desdemona Part II**

**In Desdemona, Toni Morrison re-imagines Shakespeare's heroine who speaks to the audience from the grave about the traumas of race, war, class, gender and the transformative power of love. This week, we will continue reading the play, picking up at Part 7. We will also discuss Toni Morrison's only short story, Recitatif.**

**Co-Presenters: Mary Ann Donnelly & Donna K. Ramer**

**Coordinators: Donna K. Ramer, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg**



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: QUEST'S CLASSIC MOVIES (QCM) (Hybrid)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17 – PLEASE NOTE DAY AND ROOM CHANGE**

**Join us and add your comments as we look back and review three academy award nominees**

**DO THE RIGHT THING (Rotten Tomatoes 92/89) (1989) – STEVE KOENIG.** Stream it at Amazon Prime, Apple, VuDu. Salvatore "Sal" Fragione (Danny Aiello) is the Italian owner of a pizzeria in Brooklyn. A neighborhood local, Buggin' Out (Giancarlo Esposito), becomes upset when he sees that the pizzeria's Wall of Fame exhibits only Italian actors. Buggin' Out believes a pizzeria in a black neighborhood should showcase black actors, but Sal disagrees. The wall becomes a symbol of racism and hate to Buggin' Out and to other people in the neighborhood, and tensions rise.

**PRIDE OF THE YANKEES (Rotten Tomatoes 94/89) (1942) - STAN LIEBLEIN.** Stream it at Amazon Prime. This moving biographical drama follows the life of revered baseball player Lou Gehrig (Gary Cooper). Championed by sportswriter Sam Blake (Walter Brennan), Gehrig eventually gets recruited by the New York Yankees, joining a team of heavy hitters that includes the legendary Babe Ruth. When Gehrig marries his spirited sweetheart, Eleanor (Teresa Wright), things look up for him, but he is soon sidelined by a terrible illness that he bravely tries to battle.

**ON THE WATERFRONT (Rotten Tomatoes 99/95) (1954) – KAREN LEVIN.** Stream it at Amazon Prime, Apple, VuDu. Dockworker Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) had been an up-and-coming boxer until powerful local mob boss Johnny Friendly (Lee J. Cobb) persuaded him to throw a fight. When a longshoreman is murdered before he can testify about Friendly's control of the Hoboken waterfront, Terry teams up with the dead man's sister Edie (Eva Marie Saint) and the streetwise priest Father Barry (Karl Malden) to testify himself,

against the advice of Friendly's lawyer, Terry's older brother Charley (Rod Steiger).

**Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold, Vince Grosso**

**Course: UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 27 – PLEASE NOTE DAY AND ROOM CHANGE**  
**Subject: Freedom of Speech and Government's Role in Education**

**Today our focus will be on the government's role in education, particularly as it relates to:**

- **The current disputes regarding book banning in school libraries**
- **The legal restrictions in course content and selection (including book and education material)**
- **The value based selection and dismissal of faculty and school boards**

**If you are interested in other aspects of the first amendment, and the current controversy over the education of our children, please join us.**

**Presenter: Tracey Barrett Lee**  
**Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks**

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 20 @ 10:30 A.M.– NOON**

**Course: NYC NEIGHBORHOODS (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: Coney Island**

**Coney Island - NYC's own resort. A Place for Fun for many generations: Going to the beach, riding on the Cyclone, Wonder Wheel, Parachute**

**Jump, the rides in Steeplechase, Luna Park, and more. A Place of Education about marine Life: The NY Aquarium, part of the Wildlife Conservation Society. A place to eat - the original Nathan's Hot Dogs. A Place of Tragedy - after Hurricane Sandy, many residents were left with destroyed houses or apartment buildings without heat or running water. A Place of Recovery - how it rebuilt in the decade following. A Place of Hope - the Coney Island Beautification Project to care about the place and the residents. Pamela Pettyjohn, the founder and president of the project, will be joining us to speak.**

**Presenter: Judy Weis**  
**Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss**

**Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Classroom 27**  
**Subject: Poet's Workshop Poets**

**At this class, we will hear poems written by our own contemporary poets. Current and former members of Poets' Workshop will read their poems and answer questions about each poem and their personal writing process and style. The use of the "cue" word will be explained as well as the organization of the Poets' Workshop class.**

**Presenter: Judy Winn**  
**Coordinators: Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Classroom 27**

**Following up on our March 16 session, we will again be looking at some issues of personal moral choice. We will use examples taken from Kwame Appiah's Ethicist column in the New York Times Sunday Magazine, along with some articles that have been written in response to Appiah's columns. These readings will be distributed through QuestBusiness. In addition to sharing our own views on these ethical issues, we will also question what ethical principles guide Appiah's advice.**

**Discussion leader: Steve Allen**

**Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Jane Lubin**

**Course: FOOD: BEYOND JUST CALORIES (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Say Cheese!**

**Cheese is the chameleon of the food world, as well as one of its greatest delights. From fresh and light to funky and earthy, cheese comes in a variety of flavors and textures. Its discovery changed the course of western civilization.**

**We will investigate the history and science of cheese, and also discover the pleasure of umami, our fifth taste sensation.**

**Presenter: Marion Schultheis**

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

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

**Room: Brooklyn Room (Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)**

**Write a poem using the cue word "direct" 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, APRIL 20 @ 2:45 P.M.**

**Event: SOLE MATES (In-person only)**  
**Our Q'xtra Fortnightly event in "B" Week**

**Meet: by elevators on 7th floor.**

**Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine & Laura Lopez will lead us 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.**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023 @ 10:00AM**

**CultureQuest**  
**American Museum of Natural History**

**"Tiny Treasures" and Imax Movie**  
**"Serengeti"**

**This tour is fully booked**  
**The waitlist is closed**