

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

May 8 – 11, 2023
This is an A 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

MONDAY, May 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ROCK & ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: Dr. John's Gumbo (1972)

Dr. John takes us on a survey of New Orleans blues and funk music. Emphasizing the songsmith tradition and the savory piano music of NOLA stalwarts such as Professor Longhair, Earl King and Huey Smith, the album is the next best thing to being at Mardi Gras. Highlights include the good Dr.'s versions of "Iko Iko" and "Big Chief."

Presenters: Steve Koenig and Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: INVISIBLE MAN BY RALPH ELLISON (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

For our last class we will discuss Chapter 24, 25, and the Epilogue. Can we condone the narrator's purposely dishonest behavior with the brotherhood? Why does the narrator arrange a tryst with the wife of one of the Brotherhood's white leaders? When he is called back to Harlem, he is injured in the angry riots taking place. What are his complicated motives for not doing anything at all to try to stop the violence and destruction of Harlem? What does he come to realize about why these race riots, led by Ras the Destroyer, are taking place? Escaping from Ras who wants him lynched and then the police, the protagonist falls down a manhole and becomes trapped. What is the significance of his burning all the papers in his briefcase? After a long period in his underground lair thinking and writing his story, what conclusions does he come to?

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, May 8 @ 12:05 – 12:55

Noontime Knowledge

Room 15-17

Candidates for Quest Council will introduce themselves and answer questions in Room 15-17 and via Zoom from 12:05 to 12:50 pm.”

MONDAY, May 8 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY CENTRAL (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium, PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE

Subject: The Business of Comedy: *A Session with David Miner*

In this session, Quest is honored to welcome comedy television producer and talent manager David Miner. David, who was born and raised in New York City, became seriously involved in comedy in the late 1980s when he founded Skidmore College’s first improvisational comedy group as an undergraduate.

After graduating from Skidmore, David became a producer and comedy member of Chicago City Limits, a seminal improvisational theatre company founded in 1977.

In 1995 he relocated to Los Angeles to explore the business side of comedy, eventually becoming a Partner in 3 Arts Entertainment, a major talent management and production firm.

David is the long-time manager of comedy legend, Tina Fey and has served as Executive Producer for some of the most critically acclaimed comedy shows of the 21st Century, including 30 Rock, Parks and Recreation, Brooklyn Nine-Nine and Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt.

Today’s highly interactive session will offer a rare opportunity to explore comedy from both the business side and the performance side.

Special Guest: David Miner

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Vince Grosso, Michael Wellner

Course: ELIZABETH GASKELL (*In-person only*)

Room: 27

Book: Mary Barton

We will finish the book and discuss the ending and what other endings could have been. We will also celebrate Elizabeth Gaskell.

Coordinators: Arlene Curinga, Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane

Course: ACTING WORKSHOP II (*In-person only*)

Room: 15-17 (PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE)

The class will continue to rehearse The Laramie Project. The play is about the murder of Matthew Shepherd and how the people of the town responded. It will be presented in Great Plays on May 15.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Panny Marshall, Art Spar

TUESDAY, May 9 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (*Hybrid*)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Viktor Orbán's Hungary: An Illiberal Democracy (Hybrid)

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, this self-made man of Hungarian politics, believes the time of liberal democracies has come to an end. He is being hailed by the far-right as a strongman and a symbol of a new ethnic nationalism. Orbán's ruthless crackdown on refugees, his open break with democratic values: curtailing media

freedom, judicial independence, checks and balances, takeover of the finance sector, as well as his corruption and undisguised admiration for authoritarian leaders mean his methods pose a formidable challenge to the survival of liberal democracies. Orbán has built a closely knit and super-rich oligarchy which holds unfettered power. His ambitions are far-reaching, and he is a one-man dictatorship with free but unfair elections.

Presenters: Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston and Bob Gottfried (Sandy & Glenn presenting from home)

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried, Glenn Johnston

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY (*Hybrid*)

Room: 15-17

This semester's focus was on Middle Eastern poetry leading to the discovery of wonderful poets, famous and obscure, contemporary and ancient. Israeli poets inspired by the Akedah, the eloquent Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, Constantine Cavafy also known as the Alexandrian, Omar Khayyam's thrilling Rubaiyat, the lyric Turkish poet Nâzım Hikmet, the medieval Sufi mystic Rumi and Enheduanna, the high Priestess, writing 2,000 years before Homer. Our final class will offer each member the opportunity to read his or her favorite poem (or as portion thereof since many are long) with a brief discussion of why the poem was chosen. It will profoundly close a semester of discovery for all of us.

Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, May 9 @ 12:05 – 12:55

**Noontime Knowledge
Room 15-17**

Candidates for Quest President will introduce themselves and answer questions in Room 15-17 and via Zoom from 12:05 to 12:55 pm.

TUESDAY, May 9 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

**Course: FOLK MUSIC (Hybrid)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Pete Seeger**

Pete Seeger was an extraordinary human being. As a folk singer, political activist, and citizen, he contributed much to our understanding of music in building communities for political struggle and having fun at the same time. In this class we will sketch Pete's life from his friendship with Woody Guthrie while working for the Archives of American Folk Music and singing together with the Almanac Singers, to the Weavers, Pete being called before HUAC and blacklisted for a decade, his work with the Civil Rights Movements and the Anti-Vietnam War movements in the 1960's, and his leadership through the Clearwater in cleaning up the Hudson River. We will hear Pete's voice; we will hear him and others sing his music: and we will sing ourselves, with a guest guitar player, Erland Zygmontowicz.

**Presenter: Barbara Barnes
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried**

**Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS (In-person only)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: The Royal Society of London**

In November 1660 a group of twelve 'natural philosophers' met to establish what would become, with the patronage of King Charles II, the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge. From

that day to this and the reign of Charles III, the Society has been and is the preeminent scientific institution of England. Tracing its history becomes the story of the Scientific Revolution in Great Britain. This presentation will consider that history and the individual scientists who played a part in the Society's activities. Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton and Ben Franklin, for example. And what about Elon Musk? What, indeed?

Presenter: Jim Brook

Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Marion Schulteis, Judy Weis

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP *(In-person only)*

(NOTE: *This class runs until 3 p.m.*)

Room: 27

Explore and enjoy sharing your writing with fellow Questers in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere. Every class begins with a prompt for ten minutes of writing (sharing is optional).

Bring your writing in any genre (fantasy, memoir, romance, mystery, humor, science fiction), in poetry or prose. (Prose should be kept to 750 words or less but longer pieces can be read over several classes.) Various aspects of writing are discussed, such as dialogue, characterization, setting, openings, using the senses, and vivid description.

Bring a notebook for in-class writing and 10 copies of your piece to share with the class.

Need ideas for a topic? How about Imagination or something you've been thinking a lot about lately.

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

WEDNESDAY, May 10 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Art Heists: The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Art Theft

Globally, art pieces valued at \$6 billion are stolen annually and include art and antiquities stolen from museums, galleries, private homes and archeological sites, although it is museum thefts that gather the most attention. Currently the Art Loss Register shows 170,000 still missing pieces around the world, and that number is believed to be grossly underreported.

So, who are these thieves, how and why are they stealing art, and since they can't exactly sell it on eBay, what do they do with it afterwards? Are the heists planned by wealthy masterminds? The Mafia? Petty criminals? And how is the art eventually found – IF it is found. No talk on art heists would be complete without including the largest heist of all time: the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. We will take a look at the many ways art has been stolen, by whom, and the specialized art-theft agents who work the cases.

Presenter: Susan Diehl

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian

Course: SHAKESPEARE (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Play: Taming of the Shrew

The class will read aloud and discuss Act V. We will continue our exploration of the play as more than just the story of Petruchio as an abusive sexist bully and Katherine as a violent ill-tempered woman slugging it out for domination with the male winning by force of muscle. Rather, we suggest that by the play's end, the two have built a relationship full of respect and love. A clip from the 1978 Central Park

production starring Meryl Streep and Raul Julia will be shown to support this idea.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY May 10 @ 12:05 – 12:55

**Noontime Knowledge
Room 15-17**

Candidates for Quest Council will introduce themselves and answer questions in Room 15-17 and via Zoom from 12:05 to 12:50 pm.”

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

**Course: QUEST’S CLASSIC MOVIES (QCM) (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium**

Showing Today:

- 1. “THE APARTMENT” Reviewed by Michele Mackey –Rotten Tomatoes: 93/94. Stream it at slight charge at Amazon Prime, Apple, VuDu. Insurance worker C.C. Baxter (Jack Lemmon) lends his Upper West Side apartment to company bosses to use for extramarital affairs. When his manager Mr. Sheldrake (Fred MacMurray) begins using Baxter’s apartment in exchange for promoting him, Baxter is disappointed to learn that Sheldrake's mistress is Fran Kubelik (Shirley MacLaine), the elevator girl at work whom Baxter is interested in himself. Soon Baxter must decide between the girl he loves and the advancement of his career.**
- 2. IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT” Reviewed by Gale Spitalnik - Rotten Tomatoes: 95/92. Stream it at a slight charge at Amazon Prime, Apple, VuDu. African-American Philadelphia police detective Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier) is arrested on suspicion**

of murder by Bill Gillespie (Rod Steiger), the racist police chief of tiny Sparta, Mississippi. After Tibbs proves not only his innocence but that of another man, he joins forces with Gillespie to track down the real killer. Their investigation takes them through every social level of the town, with Tibbs making enemies as well as unlikely friends as he hunts for the truth.

3. **“SOPHIE’S CHOICE”** Reviewed by Hedy Shulman - Rotten Tomatoes: 85/85. Stream it at a slight charge Amazon Prime, VuDu, and FREE on Peacock. Stingo (Peter MacNicol), a young writer, moves to Brooklyn in 1947 to begin work on his first novel. As he becomes friendly with Sophie (Meryl Streep) and her lover Nathan (Kevin Kline), he learns that Sophie is a Holocaust survivor. Flashbacks reveal her harrowing story, from pre-war prosperity to Auschwitz. In the present, Sophie and Nathan's relationship increasingly unravels as Stingo grows closer to Sophie and Nathan's fragile mental state becomes ever more apparent.

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

Course: UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES *(In-person only)*

Room: 15-17

For this week's class we are delighted to have Dr. Susanna Rosenbaum, CCNY Professor of American Studies (that's all the Americas), lead our discussion. She hails from Central America and will share her unique perspective on our long-standing immigration problems. She will provide an overview of the key historical moments in which immigration became a flashpoint in the US, discussing the importance of race in defining our borders. This will frame our current debates about immigration and immigrants, showing how the challenges are enduring, as well as how they help to clarify what it means to be “American.”

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks

THURSDAY, May 11 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: AGING (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Wrapping Up Our Thoughts On Aging

This will be the concluding class in our Aging course. Come to class prepared to discuss the following questions:

- **Question One: What keeps you up at night when you think about aging?**
- **Question Two: Are there differences in what keep men and women up at night?**
- **Question Three: Why do men die before women?**
- **Question Four: Do your thoughts on spirituality impact your thoughts on death?**
- **Question Five: Do aging people have nagging thoughts about “Shoulda, Coulda, & Woulda.”**
- **Question Six: What are you most proud of in life?**

Presenter: Art Spar

Coordinators: Art Spar, Bryn Meehan, Larry Shapiro

Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE (In-person only)

Room: 27

We will have a presentation on some of the interesting questions that have been raised about the way sex and reproduction is organized among animals, plants, and other organisms, and how evolutionary theory can offer insight on these questions. We will also discuss recent new developments in science.

Discussion leader: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Marion Schultheis

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

Course: WATER (Hybrid)

Room: 27

Subject: Let's Talk About The Weather

**Everybody talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it.
(Mark Twain)**

What is weather? What causes rain, snow, hail, hurricanes, tornadoes? Why do some areas of the world have less rain, more rain, not enough rain, too much rain? Why does weather change? Hint: It's all about atmospheric water as affected by the sun and the Earth's rotation.

This talk is dedicated to the memory of Caroline Thompson who was originally planning to do it last fall.

Presenter: Pete Weis

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Stories to read:

1. "Lemonade" by Eshkol Nevo Presenter: Anita Hunter

Eshkol Nevo is a very successful, much-awarded Israeli author. One of his interests is morality, which he sees as being relative. "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade", we say. Come and discuss Eshkol's morality tale "Lemonade".

2. "Inyang" by Mary Okon Ononokpono Presenter: Mary Buchwald

Mary Okon Ononokpono describes herself: "I'm a Nigerian Brit." born in Calabar (SE Nigeria). "I'm deeply drawn to history and the unearthing of stories that remain untold. *Inyang* is a coming-of-age historical fiction story set in 17th century Calibar where the role of water is

integral to the forceful dispersal of Africans in the Atlantic slave trade. In 2018, she was awarded the Florence Staniforth Prize for excellence in Creative Writing.

Links for the two stories have been sent in a separate email to all Questers via QuestBusiness.

A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the lunchroom,

**Any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye@earthlink.net.
Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp**