

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 11 - 15

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 <https://zoom.us/> 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.

FOR ALL AUDITORIUM CLASSES (click on “AUDITORIUM” below):

AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 813 5977 7119

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES (click on “ROOM 15-17” below):

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 893 8196 3761

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES (click on “ROOM 27” below):

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 834 6569 8593

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: 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, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: CLASSICAL MUSIC (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Did Beethoven plagiarize in composing his Ninth Symphony?

Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 is regarded as his masterpiece. It is a supreme achievement in the history of music and is one of the most frequently performed symphonies in the world. The pinnacle of the symphony is the 4th Movement: Ode to Joy (Choral Movement). Was this movement foreshadowed in other works by both other composers and Beethoven himself? This talk will present some possible antecedents of the Choral Movement. Was this plagiarism? You be the judge.

Presenter: Bob Reiss
Coordinators: Sol Makon, Peter Dichter, Pete Weis, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

Course: TONI MORRISON: THE LEGEND (In-person)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Beloved and Rememory

The legacy of slavery continues to haunt us today. Toni Morrison's novel Beloved is not just the story of Sethe, or Denver, or Paul D, or even Beloved. It tells the collective history of formerly enslaved people, the "Sixty Million and more" to whom Morrison dedicates the book. In this class session, we will consider Beloved as Morrison's re-writing of the classic slave narrative, looking at how Morrison uses the concept of "rememory" to reconstruct both an individual and shared past. We will discuss some of the symbols of trauma that Morrison uses to represent the physical and psychic consequences of slavery. We will also talk about the power of community and the power of imagination to create healing spaces, out of which new stories can emerge. Note: Beloved pre-reads were sent separately.

Presenter: CWE Professor Kathlene McDonald
Coordinators: Donna Ramer, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 12:10 -12:50 P.M.

Course: ART TALKS (In-person only)
Room: 15-17
Subject: What's at the Museums?

In our inaugural session we will be diving into the captivating world of museum exhibitions that are currently gracing the halls of museums and galleries. Bring your lunch and join us as we embark on an exploration of thought-provoking exhibitions currently showing in the New York City area. At current count there are 145 museums in the city vying for your attention – what to choose can make your head swim.

Let's kick back, share some museum love, and have a good time together. Looking forward to hearing your thoughts, recommendations.

Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

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

No staged production will be presented. Instead, a video clip of August Wilson will be shown. Wilson wrote to challenge theater artists and audiences to open their awareness to Black life, presented on stage on its own terms. Through an unwavering love for his people; their vibrant speech patterns, traditions, rituals, shared knowledge, ancestral legacy, music, art, and mythology, Wilson declared to the

world that these stories are epic, profound and universal. His 10-part “American Century Cycle” spans the 20th Century decade by decade. His plays won numerous awards and Fences won both the Pulitzer and Tony Award for best play. Following the video showing, there will be ample time for discussion.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward

Course: SIXTIES (Hybrid)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Ocean-Hill Brownsville, A Community Fights for The Black

My presentation will entail the 1968 struggle in the Ocean-Hill Brownsville school district for Community Control of the educational institutions in said district. Unlike my previous presentations, this presentation will consist of a more personal touch. I grew up in Ocean-Hill.

Presenter: Richard Byrd
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Diane Reynolds
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

Course: MEXICO: SOUTH OF OUR BORDER ((In-person)
Room: 27
Subject: Archaeology and the history of ancient Mexico

For our first class about Mexico, we will delve into the origins of Mesoamerica, from prehistoric times through the arrival of the Spanish. Who were the first people to populate Mexico? What was their life like, and what did they leave behind for archaeologists to discover? We will explore some of the famed historical sites in Mexico, their original purpose and the meaning of many of the symbols frequently used in both art and architecture. We will also learn about the various groups of people who built these sites, and try to understand the significance of their customs, most notably human

sacrifices. How did the Old World arrivals view these practices, and what did they do about it?

Presenter: Tamara Weinberg
Coordinators: Tamara Weinberg, Harriet Dubroff, Joyce Sabella
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Bob Reiss

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Cave Painting

Looking at ancient cave paintings makes us wonder what it means to be human. Were these painted as memories? as magic? for initiation rites? as art?

Indeed, all continents except Antarctica have cave paintings. Many of us know of the masterful paintings of bison and horses of the ancient art of the caves of Altamira, Spain and Lascaux, France, but far fewer of us know those of the eland antelope of the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa or the guanacos (llamas) of Argentina. We shall look at, and muse upon, the cave paintings of all these venues, and we cannot fail to be moved by their beauty.

Presenter: Ellen S. Shapiro
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: Susan Diehl, Ellen Shapiro, Bob Reiss

Course: **WATER (Hybrid)**
Room: 27
Subject: Antarctica

In this first of two sessions on this remote frozen continent, we cover its geography and geology, plants and animals that live there (both on land and in the water), and its changing environment of melting ice. While climate change/melting is the largest environmental stress, it is not the only one. And what happens there can affect the whole world.

Presenter: Judy Weis, (presentation created by Sandy Frank & Glenn Johnston, edited by J. and P. Weis)
Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Steven Chicoine

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation) (In-person only)**
Room: Classroom 19
Subject: Show and Tell

Who said Show and Tell is only for kids? In this friendly and lively first lunch session class we are asking everyone to bring in something that represents a subject or cultural item that relates to Spain or any country where Spanish is the primary language. Food is fine. So are imitation bull's ears, books (they don't have to be in Spanish, for example, Hemingway's Death in the Afternoon), sculpture or whatever is meaningful to you. Don't show it to us until after we try to guess what it is by asking questions in Spanish, of course).

And please note: you don't have to be fluent, and your Spanish does not have to be perfect!

Presenter: Ellen Rittberg

Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Ward

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FILM FOR THOUGHT (In-person only)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Award winning short films

Join us for our first class of “Film for Thought” presenting 3 or 4 award winning short films, both foreign and domestic.

Like an excellent short story, where less can be more, these short film dramas will delight, provoke and provide an opportunity for thoughtful discussion, analysis and enjoyment.

Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

Course: HARLEM RENAISSANCE (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance

My presentation will introduce the period in Black History known as the Harlem Renaissance. The purpose of my presentation will be an overview of the course, as the respective presenters will delve deeper into the people, places, and events which contributed to this period. The purpose of the course is to show how said people, places, and events contributed to this period in World History, and made an impact which still resonates today.

Presenter: Richard Byrd

Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Ilene Winkler, Hedy Shulman, Stuart Parker

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Ilene Winkler

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: American Psychosis: A Historical Investigation of How the Republican Party Went Crazy
By: David Corn

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

What is a psychosis? A severe mental condition in which thought and emotions are so affected that contact is lost with external reality.

In his 2022 book, American Psychosis, political journalist and investigative reporter David Corn tells the painful story of the Republican Party's decades-long relationship with far-right extremism, bigotry, and paranoia that continues into our polarized present. At the start of this year-long project, Corn didn't envision his account being so timely and relevant. Yet as a debate has persisted over the role of MAGA extremism in the GOP and the value of dubbing Trumpism as fascist - or semi-fascist - this history provides an illuminating context for our present moment and for figuring out what should be done.

Presenter: Ruth Ward
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

Course: UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES (In-person only)
Room: 15-17
Subject: "The State of Book Bans in the US and Threats to the Freedom to Read"

In classrooms, school districts, and libraries across the country, the freedom to read is under assault. In our first session of the new semester, guest speaker Kasey Meehan, Program Director of the PEN America Freedom to Read team, will discuss the landscape of censorship efforts plaguing public schools and public libraries and highlight effective actions to defend free expression. The conversation will focus on reviewing research findings from PEN America Banned in the U.S.A series about the book ban crisis and outline practical ways for you to get involved.

Kasey Meehan is leading PEN's initiatives to protect the rights of students, individuals, and communities to freely access literature in public preK-12 schools and public libraries. Kasey oversees and supports research on schoolbook bans, communicates widely on the state of book banning in the US, drives advocacy and mobilization actions, and supports parents, students, and authors in defending the freedom to read.

Presenter: Kasey Meehan, Program Director of the PEN America Freedom to Read team
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Michael Wellner

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 12:10 – 12:55 P.M.

Course: BOOK CLUB (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 27
Book: Demon Copperhead
By: Barbara Kingsolver

Equal parts hilarious and heartbreaking, this Pulitzer Prize winning novel re-imagines David Copperfield, set in contemporary Appalachia where the unforgettable title character contends with poverty, addiction and abandonment - - and survives.

Presenter: Hilda Feinstein

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Title: Philip Johnson and the Glass House: At Home with Art and Architecture

Speaker: Hilary Lewis, Chief Curator and Creative Director of The Glass House

Hilary Lewis is the inaugural Chief Curator & Creative Director at The Glass House, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and former home of the architect Philip Johnson. She is co-author of two books on the architect.

The Glass House in New Canaan, Connecticut is one of the nation's most innovative architectural environments. This former home of architect Philip Johnson, first built in 1949, but expanded over decades, continues to preserve a nearly 50-acre landscape that is as much a part of the visual design as the architecture itself.

Johnson was best known in the world of architecture, but he played an equally powerful role as a patron of art. He was one the largest donors to New York's Museum of Modern Art. The talk will look both at the property, best known for its signature work of modern architecture, and the extraordinary (and complex) figure behind this special property, which served as both a laboratory for architecture and a salon for the arts.

Please join us for this special presentation.

**Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: The Bronx and the Grand Concourse

During the 20th Century The Bronx was known for its gang activities, arson, and poverty stricken neighborhoods. The Bronx has changed beyond recognition in recent years to become one of the “trendy” areas of New York.

Presenter: Michele Mackey
Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: Paul Golomb, Ilene Winkler

Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE (In-person only)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Scientific Updates

Another new semester! We will kick off with scientific updates on some of our old topics: weight loss drugs, lab grown meat, and AI. We will then pick up on some new topics that intrigued us this summer: extreme tourism and extreme weather.

As always, we look forward to lively and wide ranging discussions of these and whatever topics pop up!

Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

Course: WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD (B WEEK) (Hybrid)
Room: 27

**Subject: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Chapters 4, 5, and 6**
By: Maya Angelou

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Maya learns early on that discrimination is prevalent in segregated Stamps, Arkansas. Distinguishing her heroes from her bogey-men, in chapter 4 she admires the suit-clad Mr. McElroy for being a home-owning, independent Black man. However, the local white children taunt Maya's family relentlessly. In chapter 5, a "powhitetrash" girl reveals her pubic area to Momma in a humiliating incident that leaves Maya in a state of outrage. Black Reverend Howard Thomas visits Stamps in chapter 6 and eats the best parts of the chicken at Momma's Sunday dinner. When her brother Bailey shares with Maya the gossip he overheard from the Reverend, the young girl doesn't understand why the whitefolks killed and mutilated a Black man, "all because the whitefolks said he did "it" to a white woman. Want to hear more? Come to this captivating class.

Presenter: Ruth Ward and The Class
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CONSTRUCTION BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR (In-person only)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Creation of Titanic

And while you all know about her demise, few know the story of her birth - in the Belfast shipyard of Harland & Wolf - my hometown.

Growing up in Belfast she was NOT spoken of - a collective guilt. And it was not until 1997 when James Cameron - in process of making his blockbuster movie "TITANIC" - came to Belfast and told us she had been a great vessel and we should be proud of her.

Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash
Tech Support: Ilene Winkler, Steve Chicoine

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY (Hybrid)
Room: 27
Subject: Martha Nussbaum on justice for animals

For our class discussion, please read an essay called "A Peopled Wilderness" by eminent philosopher Martha Nussbaum. The essay is adapted from Nussbaum's new book, Justice for Animals. The meaning of the book title seems obvious, but Nussbaum's understanding of what humans owe to fellow-animals is controversial. Even the idea that we "owe" something to animals is open to debate, and I hope we'll discuss that, along with Nussbaum's applications of the idea to specific actions we need to take. Reading Martha Nussbaum is always a stimulating and I think entertaining experience, and I hope it will leave you with questions to bring to class.

The essay will be distributed via Quest Business.

Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen
Tech Support: Larry Shapiro

Course: POETS' WORKSHOP (In-person only)
Room: 19
(Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)

Write a poem using the cue word "irony" 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
Tech Support: None Assigned**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 2:30 P.M.

Course: SOLE MATES (In-person only)

Gather in the lobby by elevators of 25 Broadway @ 2:45

On the first 'SOLEMATES Walk' of our Fall Semester with Andrea and Marian leading us along the Hudson River - we'll start at Battery Park and head north - always ending with option of a 'rest' spot for drinks & chats. It is up to you how far you walk. No signups – No commitments just serendipity - community and a healthy heart. A great way to end a week of Questing.

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22th 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

CultureQuest

METROPOLITAN OPERA DRESS REHEARSAL

"DEAD MAN WALKING"

Friday, September 22nd, 10:00am-1:30pm

(In-Person)

American composer Jake Heggie's masterpiece, the most widely performed new opera of the last 20 years, has its highly anticipated

Met premiere, in a haunting new production by Ivo van Hove. Based on Sister Helen Prejean's memoir about her fight for the soul of a condemned murderer, Dead Man Walking matches the high drama of its subject with Heggie's beautiful and poignant music and a brilliant libretto by Terrence McNally. Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium for this landmark premiere, with mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato starring as Sister Helen. The outstanding cast also features bass-baritone Ryan McKinny as the death-row inmate Joseph De Rocher, soprano Latonia Moore as Sister Rose, and legendary mezzo-soprano Susan Graham—who sang Helen Prejean in the opera's 2000 premiere—as De Rocher's mother.

WHEN: Friday September 22, 2023 Please arrive by 10:00am

WHERE: Lobby of the Metropolitan Opera House

COST: Free. We are limited to 25 tickets at this time. This is a special opportunity to see a full length opera at no cost. If additional tickets become available those on the waitlist will be contacted in the order in which they requested a seat.

TO RESERVE: Send an email asap to Estelle Selzer: eselzer19@gmail.com. Please put Dead Man Walking in the subject line. We are unable to accept any reservations until NWAQ has been sent to the entire membership. We will have a waitlist.

Important Note—Please sign up only if you intend to come. We will have a wait list. Anyone who doesn't show or fails to cancel will only be placed on future wait lists when they sign up to attend another CultureQuest tour.

Thank you for your understanding.