

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 18 - 21, 2023

This is an “A” 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.

NOTE: We are aware that a small group of members have been experiencing poor or no audio from hybrid classes. We are investigating this problem.

If you are having a problem hearing a presentation on Zoom, please use the chat function to notify the person on the Quest monitor of the problem. Please do not open your mic and break into the session; such interruptions are disruptive to the class.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: Electric Warrior by T. Rex (1971)

T. Rex's second album Electric Warrior was #1 on the UK charts in 1971. Often credited as the first "glam-rock" album, Electric Warrior's mega-hit single "Get It On (Bang A Gong)" was a worldwide smash.

The rock quartet's sound is unique, and augmented with strings and falsetto background vocals by Howard Kaylan and Mark Volman of the sixties' rock group The Turtles. The album is variously moody and excitingly celebratory.

One musician described the album as "cartoony, sexual, and humorous." The seemingly cryptic lyrics can be more fun than profound, and then you wonder if that's true, but either way you find yourself singing the choruses.

Presenters: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

Course: THE GREAT GATSBY (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Our first class of The Great Gatsby will begin with a brief biography of its author, F. Scott Fitzgerald. The reading assignment for the class is the first two chapters of the book which we will then begin discussing. Nick Carraway introduces himself to the reader as the narrator of the story, as well as part of the story himself. From what he tells us, should we trust him to be mostly honest and objective?

With the exception of Jay Gatsby, we meet all of the most important characters in the novel: Daisy and Tom Buchanan, Jordan Baker, Myrtle and George Wilson. What impressions do we have of them? It is possible to read this novel superficially for the rather simple story and miss the exquisite skill with which the author addresses crucial issues in American society such as wealth, class, race, and ethics. So, read thoughtfully!

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

Tech Support: Bob Reiss

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (In-person only)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Music of the Heart - Arias



Embark on a musical journey that touches the soul! Join us for "Music of the Heart," a series that celebrates the profound connection between music and emotions. In our inaugural lunchtime session, we invite you to bring your lunch and share in the magic of our cherished arias.

Presenters: Mary Ann Donnelly + Sheryl Harawitz

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY AND SATIRE (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Funniest Decade: The 1930s (Part III –Theatre)

Could the funniest decade in U.S. history really be the 1930s, a period characterized by bread lines and unemployment? Although the notion may seem counterintuitive, Wayne Cotter will present strong evidence supporting the idea.

Today's class is Part III of a three-part series. Part I, presented last fall, focused on comedy films of the era, while Part II covered radio. In this session, we'll cover Noel Coward, George Kaufman, Moss Hart and many other comic geniuses who kept Depression-era theatregoers laughing.

We'll also learn about the 1937 show "Pins and Needles, the only hit Broadway musical comedy ever produced by a union!

Presenter: Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: W. Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Vin Grosso, Michael Wellner

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ellen Shapiro

Course: THE SCARLET LETTER (In-person only)

Room: 27

After a presentation of the biographical background of Hawthorne, we will discuss the introductory Custom House and the first four chapters of the book.

In these chapters, Hawthorne presents the seventeenth-century Puritan settlement in Boston and introduces the three main characters: Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale, Roger Chillingworth, and Hester Prynne, one of the first great female characters in American literature.

Many members have chosen to read the pdf version of the book. Those who prefer a print copy may choose any edition since all assignments

will be by chapters. I will be using Signature Classics 2020 edition available at Amazon.

Presenters: Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curringa, Susan Keohane

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Israel: Our Most Significant Ally?

There are about 200+ countries in the world, yet one that is sure to be almost always on our mind is Israel, our closest ally in the volatile Middle East region. Never has this been truer than in the recent period since the last Israeli election. And never has Israel --- and our relationship --- been more threatened from within. Join us as we examine recent events in the Middle East --- and what they imply for Israel's future.

Presenter: Michael Wellner

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Victor Brener

Course: WORLD OF THEATRE (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Theatre Across the Pond: The Royal Theatre of England and Irish Playwrights and their Works

We travel across the pond to England and Ireland. First, we will look at the Royal National Theatre of England. Beginning with Laurence Olivier, the National Theatre has benefited from a succession of talented artistic directors who have expanded its repertoire and made visionary changes to theatre endeavors. With a worldwide reputation, the Royal National Theatre has become an exemplary model of what modern theatre can be at its very best.

We then cross the Irish Sea to get an overview of Irish theatre which, considering the size of this small country, has made a disproportionate contribution to the world of theatre. Irish theatre has been praised for its great storytelling, social commentary, lyrical language, and black humor. This class will focus on the works that have been performed in NY, on and off-Broadway. We'll talk about works of Shaw, Wilde, Synge, O'Casey and Beckett and more contemporary plays from the likes of Brian Friel, Conor McPherson, Martin McDonagh, and Marina Carr.

Presenters: Lynnel Garabedian, Mary Ann Donnelly

Coordinators: Yona Rogosin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Panny Mitchell, Nan McNamara

Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Ellen Shapiro

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS (In-person only)

Room: 19

Subject: Aven Armand

L'Aven Armand fait partie des plus belles grottes de France et du monde. Elle est située au cœur du Parc National des Cévennes et des "Causses et Cévennes", territoire inscrit au patrimoine Mondial de l'Unesco. Elle a plus de 400 stalagmites, et la plus élevée est la plus grande stalagmite connue au monde. Nous allons explorer cette grotte ensemble en regardant de belles images de ce trésor national.

Aven Armand is one of the most beautiful caves in France and in the world. It is located in the heart of the Cévennes National Park and the "Causses et Cévennes," a territory listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are more than 400 stalagmites, and the highest at 30 meters is the largest stalagmite known in the world. We will explore this cave together looking at beautiful pictures of this national treasure.

Presenter: Donna Basile

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Evolution of Gospel Music

From its roots in the 18th century as an expression of enslaved people in the deep south, gospel music has grown into an international phenomenon. Today in the U.S., gospel recordings continue to outsell jazz and classical combined.

In this class, you will go on a musical journey that highlights the beginning of gospel through its evolution to the present and its influence on current church culture.

Presenter: Mary Beth Yakoubian

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Jill Altman

Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (In-person only)

Room: 27

Subject: Missions to Outer Space – Past, Present, and Future

We humans have been venturing into space since October 4, 1957, when the USSR launched Sputnik. During the time that has passed since then, astronauts have travelled to the moon, probes have explored our solar system, and instruments in space have discovered thousands of planets around other stars. I'll discuss some of these missions, as well as space trash and space tourism.

Presenter: Marion Schultheis

Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Vickie Costa

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (In-person only)

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

Room: Room 19

Subject: Breathing Life into Characters

How do you develop a character to linger in your readers' minds long after they turn the last page. According to author Anne Lamott, "Plot grows out of character. If you focus on who the people in your story are, something is bound to happen." In this class, we will take a close look at how to develop characters and create personalities that bring them to life, rather than leave them lifeless on the page.

As always, we'll start with a ten-minute exercise using a prompt and leave some time so anyone can share a prose, poetry or short script written at home.

Reminder: Prose pieces should not exceed 750 words and plays should be about five minutes so there is time for others to share (and please bring 12 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group). Need some inspiration? How about My Favorite Fictional Character?

Presenter: Donna Ramer

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Tech Support: None Assigned

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The 1619 Project

Nikole Hannah-Jones is a 46-year-old American investigative journalist, known for her coverage of civil rights in the United States. She is responsible for the Pulitzer prize-winning 1619 Project, a long-form

journalism undertaking she developed with writers from The New York Times, and The New York Times Magazine. Its controversial aim is to “reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of United States history.” Launched in August 2019 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in colonial Virginia, her work has engendered a children’s book, a podcast series, and a docuseries. Please join us in an investigation of this eye-opening work.

Presenter: Ruth Ward

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg

Course: **SHAKESPEARE (Hybrid)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: The Winter’s Tale

The class will read aloud and discuss Act 1, sc.2. We will continue to explore what triggers Leontes’s jealousy. We will question why he is so suspicious of his loyal wife, why he suspects her of having an affair with his lifelong friend, and why he wonders if his young son is really his. We will note that in a time when male heirs were critical to dynastic survival, wifely adultery was a great fear. A number of themes and images will be noted and discussed.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: ITALIAN CONVERSATION (In-person only)

Room: 19

This is an informal Italian conversation group for all 'Questini' who want to speak, practice, learn and/or be exposed to La Bella Lingua.

Some bilingual material will be offered to stimulate discussion. English will be used to further our purpose. Program and process will be determined in consultation with the group. There's one requirement: the ability to say "buongiorno" with a smile.

Coordinator: Richard Elrauch

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20@ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CINEMA QUEST (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

BARBIE (no, you are not required to wear pink!)

To be reviewed by Arlynn Greenbaum

Rotten Tomatoes: 90/90

Streaming: Theaters – VuDu (as of 9-12-23)

Greta Gerwig has created a coming-of-age feminist self-aware masterpiece in Barbie with a heart of gold that both subverts and matches expectations.

TEVYE (in Yiddish with English subtitles)

To be reviewed by Bob Reiss (in English)

Rotten Tomatoes: 92/71

Streaming: Kanopy (free) and YouTube (free)

The Yiddish language film industry produced some 130 full-length motion pictures and 30 shorts during its heyday from 1911 to 1940. Yiddish film almost disappeared after World War II, due to the Holocaust and the linguistic acculturation of Jewish immigrants, though new pictures are still made sporadically.

A great Yiddish film of the era, Tevye, was directed by Maurice Schwartz in 1939. Think Fiddler on the Roof without the music. Starring Schwartz as Sholem Aleichem's milkman, the film had a particularly high budget of \$70,000 and a dark, contemplative plot, unlike most Yiddish productions which were popular melodramas. Schwartz portrays Tevye as gruff with flashes of wit and humor. Filmed on Long Island, it became the first non-English production to be selected for preservation by the American National Film Registry in 1991.

The film on YouTube is subtitled in English. (See separate email for link). Sometimes the white subtitles have white backgrounds and are hard to read but stick with it; the story is not hard to follow.

AFTER LOVE

To be reviewed by Judy Winn

Rotten Tomatoes: 94/87

Streaming: Prime, Apple

The film is set in the English port town of Dover where Mary Hussain suddenly finds herself a widow following the unexpected death of her husband. A day after the burial, she discovers he has a secret twenty-one miles across the English Channel in Calais.

Presenters: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Judy Winn

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

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Tamara Weinberg

Course: TOCQUEVILLE'S DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA: A CLASSIC FOR OUR TIME (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Our class this week will consider Tocqueville's understanding of the nature of American democracy. The topics we will cover include Tocqueville's views on the role of the Puritans in shaping American political life, the triumph of the democratic idea in America, the pros and cons of American political life in the early 19th century, and the phenomenon he calls the "tyranny of the majority. As always, we will relate all parts of our discussion to American political life today.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Climate Change and the Ocean

Our planet is warming. Our planet is more than 2/3 ocean. This presentation will explore the relationship between them. How does the ocean affect climate change? How does climate change affect the ocean? How can the ocean help to reduce the effects of climate change? After the hottest summer on record, these questions are more relevant than ever.

Presenter: Judy Weis

Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Octavio Paz

A 1990 Nobel prize winner, Octavio Paz Lozano was a Mexican writer, poet, and diplomat and one of the most important literary figures of the postwar period in Latin America. He founded and edited several journals and believed poetry constitutes “the secret religion of the modern age.” We will explore some of his wonderful poems to confirm his belief.

Presenter: Ellen Rittberg

Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp

Tech Support: Ilene Winkler

Course: WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD (A WEEK) (Hybrid)

Room: 27

**Subject: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Chapters 7, 8, 9,10**

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

As the story continues, Maya recalls the terrible Christmas when her father sent a photo of himself as a Christmas gift, followed by an actual visit by the "blindingly handsome" man. He had come to take her and Bailey away. To where and for how long? Come join us and share in the reading.

Robert Loomis, who edited I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, recalled the time he asked Maya Angelou to write a memoir. "Absolutely not," she said. "It's just as well," Loomis replied, "because to write an autobiography as literature is just about impossible." Angelou, who liked a challenge said, "I'll start tomorrow."

Presenters: Larry Shapiro and The Class

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward

Tech Support: Ruth Ward

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: HISTORY OF MEDICINE (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: How Society Deals with Mental Illness

The story of mental health in America is made up of fascinatingly complex social currents. Covering over 250 years of treatment of the insane, this session will trace the origins of the philosophy of ‘moral treatment,’ the evolution of institutional treatment in asylums, the development of the medical specialty of psychiatry, and the impact of the Great Awakening on institutional treatment. We will also see how World War II, psychiatric drugs and the community mental health movement of the 1960s led to treatment improvements and deinstitutionalization. Finally, we’ll discuss the current successes and failures of community treatment and whether our society is less safe when many people with mental illnesses are not able to access treatment and housing.

Presenter: Tracey Lee

Coordinators: Karen Cullen, Donna Ramer, Michael Wellner

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Ilene Winkler

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: 27

1. “The Night Face Up” and “The Continuity of Parks” by Julio Cortazar

Julio Cortázar born 1914 in Argentina, is considered one of the most innovative and original authors of his time. He was a master of history, poetic prose and short stories, and a creator of novels. Also known as one of the founders of the Latin American Boom, Cortázar influenced an entire generation of Spanish-speaking readers and writers in America and Europe. He broke with tradition by playing with non-linear time and magical realism. In these two very short stories, two distinct worlds collide. Which one is real?

Presenter: Donna Basile

2. “Do You Love Me?” by Hila Blum

Hila Blum, born 1959 in Israel, worked as a journalist and is an editor at one of Israel’s top publishing companies. The winner of one of Israel’s most competitive literary prizes, the 2022 Sapir Prize for her novel, How to Love Your Daughter, Blum has also lived in Hawaii, Paris, and New York. Her first novel, The Visit, was shortlisted for the 2012 Sapir Prize.

Presenter: Ellen Rittberg

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

Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Michael Russo

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

Room: Auditorium

A variety of theater exercises will be presented by members of the class. The exercises help actors understand the value of using objects and in relating to their surroundings.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Panny Mitchell, Art Spar

Tech Support: None

CULTURE QUEST

The Gilded Age: “THE HEYDAY OF HIGH SOCIETY TOUR”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(In-person walking tour)

Fans of The Gilded Age are eagerly awaiting the second installment of Julian Fellowes’ sumptuous period drama on HBO Max. The tale of opulence, scandal, and secrets is poised to grace the screen once again this September, delivering a lavish end to summer and welcoming the start of a bumper season for film and TV.

We invite you to join us on CultureQuest’s “Gilded Age Tour.” It takes you back through the history of the American Industrial Revolution and explores the lives and dynamics of the titans of American business including: John Jacob Astor, Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and J.P. Morgan.

Discover their inspiring rise to great fortune and power, the dynamics of the empires they built, and the power struggles among them. Get to know the high times and intimate details of their personal lives. On this tour, you will travel through Millionaire’s Row to see some of their lavish mansions, elite private social clubs, and museums that house treasures of the self-made American royalty.

Points of interest will include: The Metropolitan Club, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Carnegie, Frick, and the Duke Mansions.

PLEASE JOIN US

WHEN: Friday, September 29, 2023, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please arrive by 10:45 a.m.

WHERE: North side of the fountain in front of the Plaza Hotel - Rain or shine!

TO RESERVE: Send an email ASAP to Dena Kerren (dena@kerren.us).

COST: When you are confirmed, please put a check made out to Quest for \$15 in an envelope marked CultureQuest Gilded Age Tour and place it in the CultureQuest mailbox in the Quest office by September 22. We expect a quick sellout. The tour is limited to 20 persons.

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.

LUNCH (Optional): Serafina, 2178 Madison Ave. 79th Street