

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

October 2 - 5, 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.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: Painted by Memory by Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach (1998)

After writing the song “God Give Me Strength” for the film Grace of my Heart, collaborators Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello decided to record a full album together. It at first appeared an unlikely pairing but in all his post-Hal David years, Bacharach has never teamed up with such a formidable writing partner as Costello. The album represents a high-water mark in both their musical careers.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of this exceptional LP’s release and neither its power nor beauty has diminished over the past quarter-century. If you’re a fan of either Bacharach or Costello and you’re not familiar with this album, this session will be a revelation.

Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

Course: THE GREAT GATSBY (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

After some comments about the concept of the American Dream, we will finish discussing Chapter I. In addition to Chapter 2, please read Chapters 3 and 4. At Myrtle Wilson’s party in Chapter 2, notice the ways Fitzgerald reveals issues of class, ethnicity, and misogyny among the participants. In Chapters 3 and 4, Nick meets and then spends time with Jay Gatsby. What impressions does Nick have about Gatsby, and how much does he believe about what Gatsby tells him about his life? What shocks him about Meyer Wolfsheim?

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

Tech Support: Bob Reiss

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (In-person only)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Tasty Bites

Inaugurating yet another fun Lunchtime Activity - we invite you to embark on a journey through the world of cheeses and their perfect companions.

With “Say Cheese” we will delve into the art of pairing as we explore the harmonious marriage of cheeses with their ideal accouterments. To add to the fun, we will have a Cheese Quiz.

Calling all cheese enthusiasts to share your passion and culinary discoveries with your fellow Questers! Whether you have a weakness for the creamy embrace of Brie, the bold flavors of aged cheddar, or the exotic allure of Gouda, we want to hear about your favorite cheeses. Bring a slice of your preferred fromage to exchange and ignite conversations that will surely tantalize the senses. We will provide the wine.

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

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

Course: COMEDY AND SATIRE (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Classic Tonight Show Hosts: Allen, Paar, Carson

Steve Allen, Jack Paar, and Johnny Carson dominated the first four decades of NBC’s classic late-night TV talk show: The Tonight Show. The three were all raised in the Midwest, grew up during The Great

Depression, and helped transform countless unknown comedians, musicians and actors into household names.

They also changed the landscape of late-night television prompting millions of weary-eyed Americans to switch their channels from musty, old black-and-white movies to lively talk and zany antics.

This session will feature some hilarious segments from these shows and should trigger many fond memories.

Presenter: Wayne Cotter and special guest John Shyer

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

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ellen Shapiro

Course: THE SCARLET LETTER (In-person only)

Room: 27

Subject: Chapters 5 through 9

Continue the dark and light imagery and develop the relationships and symbolic names of the three main characters. The narrator describes Hester's life after her release from prison and her choice to remain in Boston although she is free to leave.

The second part of the session will concentrate on the single-minded and exclusive Puritan society where "religion and law were almost identical."

Presenter: Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curringa, Susan Keohane

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Political Cartoons: Pictures to Ponder

Cartoonists across the political and social spectrum apply their skills to capture the foibles, hypocrisies and other head-slapping events in the world of politics and social issues. The fruits of their labors are cartoons that can be clever, entertaining, informative, ironic, as well as engage and enrage readers of all political stripes. These cartoons help make complex issues and personalities more accessible. They can jump over politics and current events, encouraging the formation of opinions and decision making. Who will show the president that he has no clothes?

Please join us in this interactive class by examining the evolution of political cartoons while you can help provide the “why” these images can cast a powerful interpretation on the issues of the day.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried presenting in-person, editorial comments by Sandy Frank & Glenn Johnston from home

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Victor Brener

Course: WORLD OF THEATER (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: American Theater: The Dramatic Work of Eugene O’Neill and Its Significance

Eugene O’Neill, one of the greatest playwrights in American history, was the first American dramatist to regard the stage as a literary medium and the first U.S. playwright to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. His poetically titled plays were among the first to introduce into the U.S. the dramatic techniques of realism, earlier associated with playwrights Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen, and August Strindberg.

Through his emotionally probing dramas, O'Neill addressed with a deep psychological understanding the complexities of the human experience. A tormented soul, he drew on the tragic events of his dysfunctional family's life to produce some of the most powerful dramas of the American theater. Come and see how his play Long Day's Journey into Night transformed his life circumstances into a profoundly moving artistic experience.

Presenter: Ruth Ward

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

Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Ellen Shapiro

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS (In-person only)

Room: 19

Subject: La Rue Cases-Nègres

La Rue Cases-Nègres : En classe nous écouterons l'histoire de Joseph Zobel, qui raconte son enfance dans la Rue Cases-Nègres de la Martinique dans les années 1930, où les descendants d'esclaves continuent de couper la canne à sucre du matin au soir pour subvenir à aux besoins de leurs enfants non scolarisés. La grand-mère de Joseph est unique en ce qu'elle lui offre l'opportunité de faire des études et de devenir l'un des premiers auteurs réalistes de la vie aux Antilles.

La Rue Cases-Nègres: In class we'll hear the story of Joseph Zobel, who recounts his growing up in Martinique's Black Shack Alley in the 1930s, where the descendants of slaves continue to cut sugar cane from morning to night to provide for their unschooled children. Joseph's grandmother is unique in providing the opportunity for him to get an education and to become one of the first realistic authors of life in the Antilles.

Presenter: Ruth Ward

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Carole King

Carole King was the most successful female songwriter of the later half of the 20th century in the U.S. She wrote or co-wrote, 118 pop hits on the Billboard Hot 100. She began performing her songs in concert and on her breakout album, Tapestry, which topped the U.S album chart for 15 weeks in 1971. Learn about her fabulous career, and sing along to some of her most popular songs including I Feel the Earth Move, So Far Away, It's Too Late, Beautiful, You've Got a Friend, and many more.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Jill Altman

Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (In-person only)

Room: 27

Subject: James Webb Space Telescope

A history and examination of the James Webb Space Telescope and its amazing discoveries. Long overdue and over cost, this amazing instrument is one of the most complex feats of engineering ever achieved in the pursuit of knowledge of the Universe. We will learn who James Webb was, the challenges this instrument had to meet and continues to meet, and view the incredible images it has already returned

Presenter: Michael Hamburg

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: Memoir Writing

The class will focus on writing memoirs.

We welcome you to bring any genre of writing to class to share and get feedback from the other writers in this small, friendly environment. Please make 12 copies of your writing and keep prose writing to 750 words per class if you have longer pieces.

Each class begins with a prompt and ten minutes of writing about wherever the prompt takes you. Responses always vary widely. Prompts are not critiqued and, as in all in-class writing, you choose whether to share it with the group. Want ideas for writing? How about: My Siblings or My life as an Only Child.

Presenter: Judy Hampson

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Tech Support: None Assigned

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Empire of Pain. Patrick Radden Keefe

The book "Empire of Pain" describes the Sackler family saga. Before selling OxyContin, the Sacklers made a fortune selling Valium and other drugs and became famous for their philanthropy. The opioid epidemic began in the 1990s when Purdue Pharma, owned by the Sackler family, started marketing highly addictive painkillers.

In this presentation, we will explore the Sackler family history, and how Purdue Pharma successfully marketed OxyContin to unsuspecting patients. We will also look at how Purdue circumvented the regulatory process, while making \$36 billion and killing 500,000 people.

Presenters: Vince Grosso, Bob Reiss

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 Act II. In this Act, Leontes, the King of Sicilia, convinced that his wife, Hermione, has committed adultery with his lifelong friend, Polixenes, the King of Bohemia, has her arrested. He announces that he has sent couriers to the shrine of Apollo to obtain the god's advice about what action he should take. There will be ample time for discussing such themes as patriarchy, sexual anxiety, and jealousy.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 @ 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.

Presenter: Richard Elrauch

Coordinator: Richard Elrauch

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CINEMA QUEST (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

"LIVING" (British-Current)

To be reviewed by: Tamara Weinberg

Rotten Tomatoes: 96/91

Streaming: Vudu-Prime-Netflix-Apple

Trailer: https://youtu.be/OVo5kLt_-BU

The London drama "Living" puts Bill Nighy at the center of a story: he plays Williams, the head of the Public Works Department, who receives a terminal health diagnosis and, after a period of shock, begins taking stock in his life and essentially trying to be the best person he can before he goes. ("Living" is a loose adaptation/remake of Akira Kurosawa's "Ikiru" (aka "To Live"))

"ON THE BEACH" (Classic)

To be reviewed by: David Judlowitz

Rotten Tomatoes: R/T: 80/80

Streaming: Vudu-Prime-Google Play

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/8gITuHT2B28?t=139>

An unnerving Cold War classic about those frightening years when the complete ruination of the world through nuclear war seemed a real possibility and where "Waltzing Matilda" takes center stage. (Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, Fred Astaire)

"FULL TIME" (French-Current)

To be reviewed by: Paul Adler

Rotten Tomatoes 98/90

Streaming: Apple-Vudu-Prime

Trailer: https://youtu.be/IVJp_I1pYv0

(Multi-International Award Film)

Single mother Julie (César award-winning actress Laure Calamy) works a grueling job as a head chambermaid in a five-star Parisian hotel. Julie's daily balance of commuting from her remote suburb into Paris, tenuous childcare, and search for a new job to get her out of debt becomes unmanageable during a paralyzing transport strike in Paris. Running from dawn to sunset to get to her career and back home in time to fetch her children, Julie is constantly on the verge of a breakdown.

Presenters: Tamara Weinberg, David Judlowitz, Paul Adler

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

In our class this week we will analyze Tocqueville's understanding of how Americans think and of the role of religion in American life. Tocqueville believed that religious faith is essential to America's political health and that Americans have little intellectual freedom despite our belief that we think for ourselves. We will consider these controversial claims in relation to our individual lives and to the grave political crisis facing our country today.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Buggy Planet

Insects are everywhere, in vast numbers and astonishing diversity. They are connected to human life in many profound and intimate ways. Without insects to pollinate plants, be food for animals, and decompose both, a great many species – including our own – would likely not survive. We will discuss insect evolution and why some scientists say “ants rule the world. In this class we will also learn what it means to be eusocial, and why some species bring to mind this quote: “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.”

Presenter: Marion Schulteis

Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Pablo Neruda, The Man and his Poetry

Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet considered the great Spanish poet of the 20th Century, was controversial in life and now even in death. The winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, a diplomat, and would-be politician, Communist, friend to Allende and enemy of Pinochet, he has been described as “seven different poets . . . there is Neruda for everyone.”

Presenter: Frieda Lipp

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: Chapter 14-16

NO ADVANCED READING REQUIRED

We'll read chapters 14-16 in class. In Chapter 14, the recently traumatized Marguerite is happy to return from Saint Louis to the barrenness of Stamps. Meanwhile, her brother Bailey used his new celebrity status to exaggerate the superiority of Saint Louis over Stamps.

In Chapter 15, refined Mrs. Flowers encourages silent Marguerite to read aloud by reading her the first chapter of A Tale of Two Cities, loaning her a book of poems, and telling her to memorize one to read back to her at their next visit.

In Chapter 16, Marguerite learns the finer points of home economics in the house of wealthy Mrs. Cullinan. However, when at a friend's suggestion, Mrs. Cullinan calls her Mary for short, the girl breaks the woman's heirloom Virginia China. And then, and then . . . ? Come to class to find out.

Presenter: Ruth Ward and The Class

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward

Tech Support: Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: HISTORY OF MEDICINE (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Jewish, Moslem and Medieval Medicine

What was known about medicine in biblical times? What was known about medicine during the Middle Ages? Who were the leading

physicians? Were there text books? How did religion influence or impede the advancement of medical knowledge? Were there medical schools? Were there required qualifications to practice medicine?

This presentation attempts to answer these questions and trace the development of the field of medicine. Some of the answers may surprise you.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

Coordinators: Karen Cullen, Donna Ramer, Michael Wellner

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Ilene Winkler

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: 27

Stories to read for class:

1. “The Kitchen God” by Hiromi Kawakami

Presenter: Bobbie Gold

Hiromi Kawakami (born 1958) is a Japanese writer known for her off-beat fiction, poetry, and literary criticism. This story's genre is magical realism. A housewife sees small three-faced creatures in her kitchen. Her mother explained to her what they were when she was a child. The Kitchen God is a combination of one of the countless gods in Shinto folk belief and the mystical side of Buddhism.

2. “The Country in the Woman” and “The Gilded Six Bits”

by Zora Neale Hurston

Presenter: Susannah Falk Lewis

Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance, wrote short stories, novels and nonfiction. A trained anthropologist, she wanted to document and celebrate her heritage, both its roots in Africa and its unique flowering in the U.S. She closely observed how couples related, and wrote about the social forces, especially the Great Migration from South to North, that impacted these relationships. These two stories - one in which a woman "cheats" on her

husband, and the other where the husband "cheats" on his wife - demonstrate her incisiveness and wit, as well as her feminist stance.

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

Theater exercises and monologues will be performed. Helpful and constructive criticism will be offered as appropriate.

Coordinator: Roy Clary, Panny Mitchell, Art Spar
Tech Support: None

CultureQuest

African Fashion Exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum

Friday, October 13, 2023, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

(In Person Tour)

Brooklyn is home to one of the most diverse and dynamic African diasporic communities in the country. The Brooklyn Museum is the perfect showcase for this dazzling array of textile design, jewelry, haute couture and easy to wear fashion. We will hear about the iconic designers from 20 African countries who have been pivotal in illuminating Africa's cultural renaissance. Here, as in all cultures, clothing has a political dimension.

PLEASE JOIN US!

To Reserve: Please send an email to Lois Klein

Loisnataliek@gmail.com

The Brooklyn Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway. Twenty Questers will be accepted on the tour. We will meet in the Museum lobby no later than 11:15 a.m. There will be a waitlist. I will confirm your request by October 6. The tour is free of charge. (Remember please, if you've been on two CultureQuest tours this fall, we must give others an opportunity to join.)

IMPORTANT: Sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who fails to cancel will be placed on a future waitlist when they sign up for another CultureQuest tour. Thank you for your understanding.

Optional lunch: We have scheduled a lunch at the Museum's Norm restaurant for 1:15 p.m. Please review the restaurant link below and let me know if you'd like to join us for lunch. <http://thenormbkm.com/>