

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

November 13 - 16, 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, November 13 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: “Sonny and Brownie” by Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee (1973)

The folk-blues duo of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee achieved considerable success throughout the 1940s and 1950s. However, their careers exploded in the early 1960s with the folk music boom. Sonny, who went blind at the age of 16, learned harmonica to make a living. Brownie was a talented guitar player who appeared in several Broadway productions, including Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

Together they created musical magic.

In the early 1970s, the duo began to explore various musical genres that went beyond traditional folk and blues. For this 1973 album, they perform songs by contemporary songwriters, such as Curtis Mayfield and Randy Newman, as well as traditional blues numbers. They are joined by a stellar ensemble of musicians, including John Mayall and John Hammond, Jr.

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

Read the three remaining chapters of the book which we will be discussing during our last two classes. Chapter 7 is the climax of the novel. Gatsby, Nick, and Jordan go to lunch at the Buchanan’s home where Tom observes with dismay the loving glances Gatsby and Daisy exchange. The group decides to go to the city. At the Plaza hotel Tom begins a brutal confrontation with Gatsby who answers by telling him

Daisy never loved him. What do both Tom and Gatsby demand of Daisy and how does she respond? What does Nick realize has happened? Why does Tom send Daisy and Gatsby back to East Egg together? What are the circumstances of the car accident that kills Myrtle Wilson? Where does Nick find Gatsby when he returns to East Egg? What does Gatsby tell him?

**Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler
Tech Support: Bob Reiss**

MONDAY, November 13 @ NOON. – 12:45 P.M.

**Course: ART TALKS (In-person only)
Room: 15-17**

Today we will have 2 presenters - two separate current exhibits to review.

Ellen will bring us the "Manet/Degas" exhibition at the MET MUSEUM which opened to wide acclaim. Born only two years apart, Edouard Manet and Edgar Degas sometimes socialized together and took part in the lively world of late 19th century Paris. Though they were well aware of each other's art and sometimes painted the same content, they each developed strong personal styles. The Met blurb says, "Their groundbreaking bodies of work would have been vastly different, if not unthinkable, without the creative exchanges that punctuated their careers from the time of their meeting in the early 1860s."

Andrea will introduce us to Barkley Hendricks at the FRICK MADISON - first artist of color to be given a solo show and the last major show before the Frick returns to its home on Fifth Avenue. Hendricks was somewhat neglected until the 1970's but now deemed to have revolutionized contemporary portraiture with his vivid depictions of Black subjects that emphasized the dignity & individuality of his sitters. Currently 14 large-scale portraits are on view.

Come get a taste of these wonderful exhibitions – then go see them in person!

Presenters: Ellen Shapiro, Andrea Irvine

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, November 13 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY CENTRAL (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Tina Fey and Amy Poehler

For nearly 30 years, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler have been ‘best friends’ and two of TV’s most beloved comic actresses. Our focus will be on their collaborations, from meeting in the 1990s in Chicago, to their current 2023 national tour called ‘Restless Leg.’ Some of the duo’s comedic highlights include their numerous films, hosting the Golden Globes four times, and their roles on Saturday Night Live. Be prepared to have your funny bone tickled by these two amazingly talented women.

Presenter: Arlene Hanjinlian

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

Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ellen Shapiro

Course: THE SCARLET LETTER (In-person only)

Room: 27

The Scarlet Letter was set in the years 1642 to 1649 where Puritanism was the dominant force in the community where “religion and law were almost identical”. We will begin with a short presentation about when and why the Puritans began to lose power.

We will then discuss the continuous dramatic action in chapters 16 through 19 which set the stage for the climax of the novel.

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane
Tech Support: Steven Chicoine

TUESDAY, November 14 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The U.S. Promotion of Freedom/Liberty and Human Rights in International Relations

The U.S. values freedom, liberty and human rights, and promotes them in relations with other countries. These values seem to be meaningful to other nations because they are also supported by the United Nations. At the same time, the number of countries that are fully democratic are far out-numbered by the countries that are authoritarian. What values do those countries hold?

The values associated with the U.S. were set by the founding fathers, who looked to a long tradition of thought about governance, law, and citizens' rights. What is the basis for the values held by authoritarian countries? If we better understood authoritarian countries, would it help to communicate with them more effectively?

This presentation will look at the basis for some of the values that have led to democracy or to autocracy. It will then be open for discussion regarding the possibility of using such information to promote better international relations.

Presenter: Ann Goerd

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: Rodgers and Hammerstein

Many, if not most of us, have seen and loved the musicals of Rodgers and Hammerstein. But how much do we know about these men and what made their work so memorable and lasting? Using commentary, interviews, photos and videos of their musicals, this session focuses on their backgrounds, their collaborative process, important traits of their work including the structure and style of their musical forms, and how they pushed the boundaries of American theater at that time. Come learn about the men behind their music and relive your enjoyment of their iconic work.

Presenter: Yona Rogosin and Mary Ann Donnelly

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

Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Ellen Shapiro

TUESDAY, November 14@ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: DEJEUNER FRANCAIS (In-person only)

Room: 19

Subject: Les formules sociales et l'étiquette de cuisine

Lors de cette réunion nous aborderons des aspects de la culture française - ses valeurs, les moeurs, les traditions, la gastronomie et l'étiquette. Un peu de tout, ridiculement ambitieux, forcément superficiel, et, on espère, amusant.

At this gathering we will discuss some aspects of French culture - values, manners, traditions, gastronomy and etiquette. A little bit of everything, ridiculously ambitious, necessarily superficial, and, one hopes, fun.

Presenter: Richard Elrauch
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, November 14 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK (Hybrid)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Good Morning Vietnam: Songs of Strength & Resistance

Protest songs have existed for hundreds of years. As long as people have faced oppression, they have expressed stories of their fights and galvanized others into action through music. In the 1960s and early 1970s some of the most famous songs emerged in response to the Vietnam war. These songs provide a window into the mood of the period: one of anger, alienation, and defiance. These songs stir emotions and bring attention to anti-war causes. They offer a powerful and passionate testimony to those suffering, while urging listeners to lend support and solidarity in response. Listen, sing along, and voice comments on this period.

Presenters: Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston, & Bob Gottfried
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Jill Altman
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (In-person only)
Room: 27
Subject: This Just In!

First of all, this class will examine all the latest developments that have happened in the ever-changing conditions of the Earth's environment. We look especially at the crisis of our rapidly warming climate. In addition, we will take a look at our continuing exploration of the Solar System, the latest findings about planets around other stars and the implications for finding a second Earth or at least some bio-signatures. Next, we will also review some of the biggest developments in

technology impacting human spaceflight. We will also look at new findings about neutron stars, black holes, and gravitational waves. And of course, we will take a look at all the latest from the spectacular James Webb telescope! Questions for discussion are always welcomed!

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

As always, we'll start with a 10-minute exercise using a prompt and leave time to share our prose, poetry or short script written at home. Reminder: Prose pieces should not exceed 750 words and plays should be about five minutes. Need some inspiration? How about An Object That Is Precious to Me or write about one of your life's experiences? And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Tech Support: None Assigned

WEDNESDAY, November 15 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Rivalry of Manet and Degas

Paris in the late 19th Century was the mecca for the world's literati and those who had paint in their heads and hearts. The artists yearned for

the recognition that would then catapult them to fame and fortune. Two of these artists were Edouard Manet and Edgar Degas.

The present and much acclaimed exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, *The Rivalry of Manet and Degas*, is a rare gift to us in New York. The depth of presentation of their art, their influences, and the so-called “rivalry,” which might better be referred to as a “competition,” is revealed in the myriad of canvases, with narratives, that draw you into the intimate lives of these artists!

Two-and-a-half years ago, I presented this very same subject! Was there someone from the Met at Quest that day???

Presenter: Sandy Gordon

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

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg

Course: **SHAKESPEARE (Hybrid)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: *A Winter’s Tale*

The class will read aloud and discuss the play beginning with Act IV, Sc. 4, Line 185. We will continue to discuss such themes as Country vs. Court, jealousy, parental intervention, as well as Restoration and Reconciliation . . . and why the play is a Comedy. Insights from several scholars will be introduced in order to help our understanding and appreciation of both Shakespeare and this play.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, **Jim Brook, **Ellie Schaffer****

Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer**

WEDNESDAY, November 15 @ 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, November 15 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CINEMA QUEST (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

This week' films take us from Spanish Harlem to Singin' and dancing in the rain on a backlot in Hollywood, to Korea, to NYC.

“A THOUSAND AND ONE” Reviewed by Lois Cardillo

R/T: 96/85 Streaming on PRIME, APPLE, VUDU Free on Peacock.

After unapologetic and fiercely loyal Inez kidnaps her son Terry from the foster home system, mother and son set out to reclaim their sense of home identity and stability in a rapidly changing East Harlem.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBM0_6JJw1s

“SINGIN' IN THE RAIN” Reviewed by Kathy Cook

R/T: 100/95

Streaming on PRIME, MAX, APPLE, VUDU

A silent film star falls for a chorus girl just as he and his delusionally jealous screen partner are trying to make the difficult transition to talking pictures in the 1920s.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-NJHUasYVA>

“PAST LIVES” Reviewed by Madeline Brecher

R/T 97/90 Streaming on PRIME, APPLE, VUDU

Nora and Hae Sung, two deeply connected friends, are wrested apart after Nora’s family emigrates from South Korea. Twenty years later, they are reunited for one fateful week as they confront notions of love and destiny.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA244xewjcl>

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 discuss what Tocqueville considered the pathologies of democracy. These include an excessive passion for equality, individualism, materialism, economic inequality, and democratic despotism. As always, we will first try to understand Tocqueville’s thoughts on these matters and then consider their relevance to American life today.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

THURSDAY, November 16 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Cooking

Much of what happens in cookery is best described as chemistry. Chemistry explains why egg white hardens before the yolk does, why food sticks to the bottom of your skillet, why meat “browns” and becomes savory, why flour can become either gravy thickener or cake, and why cake is soft while cookies are firm. Have you been particularly impressed by a good meal in a restaurant? That's because the chef is a fantastic organic chemist!

Presenter: Pete Weis

Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Emily Dickinson, The Belle of Amherst

When Emily Dickinson was a teen she said, “I am growing handsome, very fast indeed. I expect I shall be the belle of Amherst when I reach my 17th year.” Though Emily ultimately became a recluse rather than a “Belle,” William Luce wrote a play about her life titled, The Belle of Amherst, which includes many of her well-known poems and brilliantly captures her voice. In class, we will do a reading of the play. Although the play is a monologue, our readers will include many Emilys – about 10 – all volunteers welcome. Emily Dickinson is dearly beloved, maybe because, sooner or later, Emily speaks for all of us.

The play will be sent out via Quest Business and there will be hard copies available in class.

Presenter: Martha Drezin

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 27-29)

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

"In San Francisco," Maya remembers, "for the first time, I perceived myself as part of something." America is at war, and the victimization of the city's Japanese Americans creates opportunities for her own victimized people. San Francisco "became the ideal of what I wanted to be as a grownup," and unexpectedly at the age of 13, she finds herself free to pursue different ideals of glamour, sophistication, and achievement. People inspire her: a teacher at her new school, her precociously wise brother Bailey, and her shapeshifting mother, among others. Some of her mentors would turn out to be undesirable role models.

Presenter: Larry Shapiro and The Class

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward

Tech Support: Ruth Ward

THURSDAY, November 16 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **HISTORY OF MEDICINE (Hybrid)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The History of Racism in Medicine

When one thinks of the medical profession, images of dedicated individuals going above and beyond to preserve life and ease suffering

come to mind. However, throughout United States history, and current times, there has been a dark side in the medical community, when it comes to people of color.

Presenter: Richard Byrd

Coordinators: Karen Cullen, Donna Ramer, Michael Wellner

Tech Support: Pete Weis, Ilene Winkler

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: 27

Stories to read for Thurs, November 16 at 1 pm

1. “I See You Bianca” by Maeve Brennan

Presenter: Rica Fujihira

Maeve Brennan. From 1949 to 1981, Irish-born Maeve Brennan worked as a staff writer at the New Yorker magazine. For much of this time, Brennan wrote the Talk of the Town column, under the pen name, the “Long-winded Lady.” She also contributed short stories to the magazine — often chronicles of life in her adopted city. Her New York stories are a bittersweet tribute to what she called the “most reckless, most ambitious, most confused, the saddest and coldest and most human of cities.” “I See You, Bianca,” captures the pervasive uncertainty of the urban renewal era of the 1960s, when change came to every neighborhood and affected many lives in our city.

2. “The Writer in the Family” by E. L. Doctorow

Presenter: Ted Cohen

E.L. Doctorow was born in New York City in 1931 and died there in 2015. He is best known for his novel, Ragtime, which was named one of the 100 best novels of the 20th century by the Modern Library editorial board. He was a professor and a publisher before devoting himself to writing full-time in the 1970's. Most of his fiction is set in New York City.

Links for the two stories have been sent by Nancy 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**

Class members will continue to work on theater exercises and monologues in a fun and creative environment.

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

FRIDAY, December 1 @ 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

CultureQuest

**The Museum of the City of New York
“Celebrating the Centennial at MCNY”
(In-person tour)**

Since 1923, The Museum of the City of New York has documented New York’s stories and celebrated our greatest moments of reinvention. Quest has arranged for a guided tour of its Centennial exhibition: This Is New York: 100 Years of the City in Art and Pop Culture, which conveys the essence of New York City through the eyes of artists and creators, inventors and pioneers, locals, and visitors. Our tour will cover some of

the hundreds of objects that have conveyed New York City through the last 100 years, from paintings, sculptures, and photographs to costumes, books, vinyl records, and much more. After the one-hour tour, we highly recommend you stay for an additional 20 minutes as you will not want to miss “You are Here: An Immersive Film Experience” featuring 16 screens and hundreds of clips from movies set in New York City.

WHEN: Friday, December 1, 2023. Please arrive by 10:45. The tour will begin promptly at 11 AM

WHERE: 1220 Fifth Avenue (103 St.)

COST: \$10 – Limited to 20 participants. Please leave a check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning in our CultureQuest mailbox in the Office by November 20.

TO RESERVE: Send an email asap to Hedy Shulman at hedy.shulman@gmail.com Please put Museum of the City of NY in the subject line of your email. Your email will be acknowledged within a few days.

****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. Anyone who doesn't show or cancel will be placed on 'future waitlist only' when they sign up to attend future CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch (optional):

There is a very cute Mexican place called Conmigo that is just south of Mount Sinai on the east side of Madison Ave. between 98th and 97th St. I thought it was quite good. There is a Le Pain Quotidien which is casual and usually has good seating even if the group must break up a bit.