

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

December 4 - 7, 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, DECEMBER 4 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: David Baerwald's Triage (1993)

Baerwald, known mostly for his collaborations, created this obscure knock-out of an album which ranges from hard-hitting rock to sensitive ballads. The lyrics have been described as "sardonic, "angry," and "comical."

Triage has been called "rock'n'roll noir." Thematically the songs touch on romance, Armageddon, loneliness, AIDS, relationships with parents, society-out-of-control, and deliverance. A blog described Baerwald as "the Charles Bukowski of rock." Wikipedia calls Triage "an ambitious narrative song-suite about the fringe-dwellers of America's paranoid and disaffected subcultures."

Triage uses many-layered instrumentation and samples for most of the tracks, and depending upon the song, Baerwald's voice is tender or full of rage.

Presenters: Steve Koenig and Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

Course: THE GREAT GATSBY (In-person only)

Room: 15-17

During our final class we will discuss Chapter 9, the last chapter of The Great Gatsby, and further explore the major themes of the book. Gatsby's father comes from Minnesota to attend his son's funeral. What more do we learn from him that extends our understanding of Gatsby's character? Why do you think Meyer Wolfshiem refuses to attend the funeral? Why does the owl-eyed man come? What major decision does Nick make about his future? Nick's chance encounter with Tom Buchanan confirms his harsh view of Daisy and Tom. How does he

express it? Read carefully the last beautifully written page of the novel and think about what Fitzgerald means. In the end, how do you feel about Gatsby? Is he the tragic hero that Nick seems to believe he is?

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

Tech Support: Bob Reiss

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 12:10 PM – 12:50 PM

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (In-person only)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Brainstorming

Join us for a planning meeting where your voice matters. Dive into discussions about innovative Lunchtime activities, brainstorm for Q'xtra events that add that special touch to Quest, and stride alongside like-minded individuals in our SoleMates walking and socializing initiative.

Your active participation is the key to crafting an interesting Spring Semester. Let's come together, eat our lunch, share ideas, and pave the way for a vibrant and engaging Quest experience - see you at the planning session.

Presenters: Sheryl & Andrea

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: COMEDY CENTRAL (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: An Intimate Look at Stand-Up Comedy

In this final Comedy Central class, we'll take an intimate look at stand-up comedy. What inspires a person to stand up before a roomful of strangers and tell jokes? What special skills separate stand-up comics from the rest of us? What are these comics' biggest dreams? What are their biggest fears?

To help answer these questions will be Quest scholarship winner and aspiring stand-up comic Darresa Rodriguez. In addition, nine brave Quest members have volunteered to take the stage to perform brief stand-up routines. Is it easier telling jokes in front of friends or in front of strangers? On Monday, we'll find out.

Presenter: Wayne Cotter

Special Guest: Darresa Rodriguez

Volunteer Stand-Up

Comics: Beth Callender, Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Arlynn Greenbaum, Frieda Lipp, Bob Reiss, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro, Pete Weis

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 conclusion of the novel begins with the Election Day Celebration, one of the few days when Puritans allowed themselves to show a little joy. This is followed by the third and final scaffold scene with its dramatic climax and solution. The novel ends with Hawthorne “explaining and moralizing” about his story, a common practice among 19th century novelists.

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Overthrowing Mossaddegh: The Origins of the 1953 Iranian Coup

In 1951, Time Magazine's Man of the Year was Iran's Prime Minister Mohammad Mossaddegh. Two short years later Mossaddegh was toppled in a coup that brought Western-backed Mohammad Reza Shah back to power and landed Mossaddegh in jail. What happened?

In this session we'll explore the issues that led to the coup and what we know (and don't know) about the roles played by the United States and Britain. Some contend that the 1953 coup, directed by the CIA and its British equivalent MI6, set the stage for unrest in the Middle East up to the present day.

We'll also discuss the controversial film "Coup 53," which sheds fascinating new light on the British role in the coup. Those wishing to view the film prior to the session (for a small fee), can go to coup53.com for more information.

Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Victor Brener

Course: WORLD OF THEATRE (In-person only)
Room: 15-17
Subject: The Perspectives of the Creators of Theatre

Quest theatergoers know what it's like to enjoy a play or musical, let alone be transported to another time, mood and space. But what do we know about what it is like to be on the other side of the "fourth wall" as an actor, director, playwright or choreographer? What do these professionals experience watching their ideas come alive by others as well as the mood, message and impact they hoped to create on the

stage? Our last session of this season will pose these questions to a panel of creators whose former professional theatrical activities will give you insights you may never have heard before.

Come join us for a fun and interesting time learning about the past lives of some of our colleagues that also will enhance your understanding of the theatrical experience.

Panelists: Roy Clary; Frieda Lipp; Ellen Rittberg; Ze'eva Cohen; and Ruth Ward

Moderator: Yona Rogosin

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

Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Ellen Shapiro

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: DEJEUNER FRANCAIS (In-person only)

Room: 19

Dans notre dernière classe nous parlerons d'un voyage que nous avons fait, ou dans notre jeunesse ou plus récemment. Après avoir visionné une courte vidéo sur un voyage au magnifique Mont-Saint-Michel en Normandie, nous parlerons avec un partenaire de nos propres voyages. Veuillez nous rejoindre pour parler ou simplement pour écouter.

In our last class we will talk about a trip we took, either in our youth or more recently. After watching a short video about a trip to the magnificent Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy, we will talk with a partner about our own travels. Please join us to speak or just to listen.

Presenter: Ruth Ward

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: James Taylor

James Taylor is an American singer, songwriter and guitarist. His music belongs to several genres: soft or light rock, folk pop and folk rock. He is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 100 million records worldwide.

Taylor was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and received 6 Grammy Awards as well as other lifetime achievement awards.

Musicians including Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon and Carole King have performed with him many times.

Come learn more about James Taylor and sing-along to songs such as “Fire and Rain,” “You’ve Got a Friend,” “Mockingbird,” “Sweet Baby James” and more.

Presenter: Karen Levin

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Jill Altman

Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (In-person only)

Room: 27

Subject: Relativity and the Universe

Einstein's theory of relativity plays a key role in our understanding of the universe – knowing that no possible signal can travel faster than light means that we know the outer limits of how far we can hope to see and closely ties distant observation to looking into the past. Thinkers going back to the ancient Greeks were well aware of the relativity of motion – that we would observe the same thing if the earth rotated around the sun, or the sun rotated around the earth. The new mechanics of Galileo and Newton in the 1600's relied heavily on the relativity of motion. But it was only Einstein who developed a theory of relativity of

both motion and time. This talk will look at the history of the idea of relativity in physics and explore the path that led to Einstein's theory.

Presenter: Steve Allen
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Vickie Costa
Tech Support Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (In-person only)
(NOTE: This class runs until 3:00 PM)
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 Time Marches On or write about one of your life's experiences? And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

Presenters: Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran
Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: None Assigned

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Afrofusion, Rock Paintings & Trance in Contemporary South African Dance

Sylvia Glasser revolutionized the world of contemporary South African dance, and “her choreography changed the conversation around gender, race, and social equality issues.” During the apartheid era, her mixed-race company challenged segregationist politics, as well as Western-

based aesthetics by developing the Afrofusion dance style. Her seminal work “Tranceformations,” was inspired by the San Bushmen trance dances and their ancient rock paintings. Glasser’s artistic and humanitarian work transformed the lives of hundreds of young South Africans. This presentation will include photographs of the rock paintings that inspired “Tranceformations” and video excerpts from Glasser’s choreography and from works created by two of her most successful.

Presenter: Ze’eva Cohen

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

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg

Course: **SHAKESPEARE** (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Play: A Winter’s Tale

1. The class will read aloud Act V, Scenes 2 and 3.
2. The class will discuss the play...especially its major themes of Restoration and Reconciliation. To aid our understanding, we will see a video clip of the last scene as presented by the Royal Shakespeare Company.
3. Lauren Gee will lead the class in singing several songs from The Winter’s Tale.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

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, DECEMBER 6 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: CINEMA QUEST (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Cinema Quest travels back in time. First stop: the 1950s and the life of teenagers in rural TEXAS. Next to OKLAHOMA at the turn of the 20th century and the newcomers' ongoing scheme to steal whatever they could from the incredibly oil-rich Osage Indians and finally to EUROPE and the great Napoleon from his conquests to isolation and confinement.

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW (classic) - Reviewed by Sol Makon

R/T: 98/89 Stream on VUDU, Prime, Apple

Two best friends in rural 1950s Texas in the lull between World War Two and the Korean Conflict. Enduring that awkward period between boyhood and manhood, the boys pass their time the best way they know- with the movie house, football, and girls. Jacy is Duane's steady, wanted by every boy in school, and she knows it.— award-winning Director: Peter Bogdanovich.

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON – Reviewed by Hedy Shulman

R/T: 93/84 Currently: Theaters Only – Soon: Netflix

At the turn of the 20th century, oil brought a fortune to the Osage Nation, who overnight became some of the wealthiest people in the world. The wealth of these Native Americans immediately attracted white interlopers, who manipulated, extorted, and stole as much Osage money

as they could before resorting to murder. Dir: Scorsese – De Niro-
Decaprio

NAPOLEON – Reviewed by Vince Grosso

R/T: NA Theaters Only

It is an epic with believe it or not, some humor, that details the checkered rise and fall of French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and his relentless journey to power through the prism of his addictive, volatile relationship with his wife, Josephine. Starring Oscar winner: Joaquin Phoenix.

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: 15-17

In our final class, we will discuss what Tocqueville considered the best resources American democracy has to maintain its freedom. These include local self-government, voluntary associations, constitutional safeguards, enlightened self-interest, and religion. As always, we will first try to understand Tocqueville's thoughts on these resources and then consider their usefulness in safeguarding American freedom today.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Ellie Schaffer

Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Gunpowder

This presentation begins with a look at the science of gunpowder – how it works and how it is made. Learn how to make your own at home!

It then moves on to a history of how it has been used, primarily in armaments, from its first appearance in 10th century China to the present day.

But gunpowder in the arts?

Presenter: Jim Brook
Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Message in the Music, Part Two

You don't have to have attended Part 1 last semester (which covered a number of great artists) to enjoy Part 2, which covers the remaining presentation for the second half of these musical masters whose music is pure poetry. Be stimulated and amazed. Pure aural pleasure.

Presenter: Richard Byrd
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 31-33

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Maya's tense relationship with her father's girlfriend erupts in violence, followed by a disturbing visit to Mexico with her father; can this man ever be trusted? She tries living on the streets of L.A. and in an encampment of other homeless youth. In San Francisco, Mother and Bailey come to an angry parting of the ways.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **HISTORY OF MEDICINE (Hybrid)**
Room: 15-17
Subject: Military Contributions to Public Health

From treatment for emotional trauma to the vaccine for typhoid fever, militaries worldwide contribute their innovations to the improvement of public health. In fact, splinting and cauterization for the treatment of fractures was part of The Edwin Smith Papyrus, an ancient medical text dated around 1600 BCE, and assumed to be a manual of military surgery. In the last of this semester's History of Medicine classes, we'll take a close look at the history of military medicine and a baker's dozen of advances from which we've all benefited.

Presenter: Donna Ramer
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. December 7 at 1:00 PM

- 1. "The Little King" by Salman Rushdie**
Presenter: Frieda Lipp

Salman Rushdie is so dangerous a writer, Iranian Supreme Leaders have issued and reissued fatwas calling for his assassination since 1988, the latest attempt occurring as recently as 2022. Born in India in 1947, now a US and British citizen, Rushdie is the author of some fourteen novels, short story collections, children's books, and recipient of numerous international literary awards. His works combine magic realism, history, and satire. "The Little King" is a story of two cousins, one a not-too-bright romantic Don Quichotte, the other a millionaire businessman. It is also a story of corruption, exploitation, and the opioid crisis. Rushdie has expanded this story to become the novel "Quichotte".

- 2. "The Good Samaritan" by Joyce Carol Oates**
Presenter: Gloria Peropat

Joyce Carol Oates (born 1938) is an American writer who has received many prestigious awards and honors and as one critic has written: "some of the most enduring fiction of our time". Her work includes more than 50 novels, plays, poetry, collections of short stories and nonfiction. Leo Robson wrote in the New Yorker, "In an era that fetishizes form, Oates has become America's prominent fiction writer by doing everything you're not supposed to do." The Good Samaritan was published in Harper's in 2011. Nadia, the protagonist, "is driven" to return a stranger's wallet to the contact provided in it and lingers long enough in the home to find out that the wallet belongs to his wife who is currently missing.

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

The class will begin to read and discuss the script for the Spring Yearend Production. Casting for the production will be finalized.

Coordinator: Roy Clary, Panny Mitchell, Art Spar

Tech Support: None

CULTUREQUEST EXTRA

Social Consciousness in Contemporary African-American Painting

Friday, January 19th, 2024 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**All Zoom Art Tour with Deborah Goldberg, PhD
(Use Auditorium link)**

This talk will look at several artists, including Kerry James Marshall, Jordan Casteel, and Amy Sberald, who place the Black subject at the forefront of their work. After an introduction to some of their forbears, we will investigate their connection to past and present history and art history. They have revitalized figurative painting in their depictions of historical and contemporary individuals as well as fictional characters and anonymous models.

Deborah A. Goldberg earned a Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU. She teaches in the Art History and Fine Arts Departments at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and lectures regularly at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art. She writes

about modern and contemporary art, design, and decorative arts. She has published essays on the public sculpture of Kathy Ruttenberg and a rediscovered marble table by Isamu Noguchi.

WHEN: Friday January 19, 2024 at 11:00 AM

WHERE: Use the Auditorium link in the comfort of your own apartment.

COST: Free