

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**December 11 - 15, 2023**

**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, DECEMBER 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **CLASSICAL MUSIC (Hybrid)**  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Subject:** Classical Music in Pop Culture

**Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knew but did you know that the ominous theme was “Omphale’s Spinning Wheel” by Saint-Saens? Many radio and TV serials had classical themes. Did Della Reese know that the melody for “Don’t You Know” was written by Puccini? And then there’s Perry Como and Judy Garland and Elvis – yes Elvis – among others singing melodies by classical composers. Did Beethoven envision Judge Judy using his Fifth Symphony? Or “Für Elise” featured in a McDonald’s commercial? Did Dukas picture Mickey Mouse as “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice”? What does Rigoletto have in common with Doritos? Classical music has invaded pop culture with a vengeance -- Tchaikovsky would be rich from residuals alone. Enjoy this interactive presentation where your knowledge of both Rossini and The Lone Ranger will be tested.**

**Presenter:** Peter Dichter  
**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:** 15-17  
**Subject** Tying it all Together

**In the last of our Toni Morrison classes, we’ll complete our discussion of Song of Solomon with a focus on Chapters 3 and 15. We’ll then look at similarities between Song of Solomon and Jazz, both of which have unknown narrators and use the book’s setting as a character, for example. But what else do these two stories share? What other parallels have you noted and will share with the rest of us?**

**Presenters:** Tamara Weinberg & Donna Ramer  
**Coordinators:** Donna K. Ramer, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg  
**Tech Support:** Tamara Weinberg

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM**

**Subject:** **JAPANESE CUISINE** (In-person only)  
**Room:** 15-17

A good meal deserves a good wine, and we will begin with Sake and progress through a selection of foods that perfectly complement this traditional drink. Enhance your understanding of Japanese cooking by exploring a few simple recipes, highlighting the 'umami-rich' elements that make Japanese dishes extraordinary. Recipes will be provided, as well as a treat or two.

Additionally, we invite you to share your personal favorite Japanese restaurant or market, or perhaps an easy recipe. Send those suggestions my way to [SherylNyc@gmail.com](mailto:SherylNyc@gmail.com).

**Presenter:** Sheryl Harawitz  
**Coordinators:** Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS** (In-person only)  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Play:** Long Day's Journey into Night

Long Day's Journey into Night, written by Pulitzer Prize winning Eugene O'Neill reached Broadway in 1956. The "long day" occurs in the Connecticut summer home of James Tyrone's family, oppressed by a morphine-addicted mother and an alcoholic father. Today father James

**Tyrone will be played by Roy Clary, his wife Mary by Ruth Ward, his older son Jamie by Wayne Cotter, and his younger son Edmund by John Davis. We'll be performing Acts I and IV, with our narrator, Frieda Lipp, summarizing Acts II and III.**

**Have you ever witnessed how addiction or a failed relationship with money can make people feel guilty? And have you noticed how hard people will work to avoid confronting their guilt? If not, come anyway for a catharsis and the joy of knowing that not everyone needs to suffer like the Tyrones.**

**Cast: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, John Davis, Ruth Ward, Frieda Lipp**  
**Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**  
**Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward**

**Course: MEXICO: SOUTH OF OUR BORDER (In-person)**  
**Room: 27**  
**Subject: A Virtual Tour of Mexico**

**Sit back and relax for a trip to Mexico with several well-traveled Questers as our tour guides!**

**Frank Montaturo will give us an overview of Oaxaca, including some historical background, major sites of interest and of course some culinary notes. Anita Hunter will share her extensive experiences in San Miguel de Allende and other locations in the Mexican State of Guanajuato. Last but not least, Pete Weis will take us on a search for gray whales in Baja California. Create an itinerary for a future visit to our neighbor to the South, or reminisce about your own travels to Mexico.**

**Presenters: Frank Montaturo, Anita Hunter and Pete Weis**  
**Coordinators: Tamara Weinberg, Harriet Dubroff, Joyce Sabella**  
**Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Bob Reiss**

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Faith Ringgold**

**The 1950's were watershed years in the art world. It was a period of challenge and change in technique, expression and individual concepts.**

**It was during this period that a new Black American voice emerged; Faith Ringgold, admired and honored. Faith, a fiercely independent and multi-talented woman, motivated socially and politically, was born at the end of the Harlem Renaissance. Her creativity always has impact, and her voice, still strong, is heard today, and always has deep conviction.**

**Presenter: Sandy Gordon**  
**Coordinators: Linda Downs, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro**  
**Tech Support: Susan Diehl, Ellen Shapiro, Bob Reiss**

**Course: WATER (Hybrid)**  
**Room: 27**  
**Subject: Water Rituals and Dances from Around the World**

**Celebrations of water and its gift for the sustainability of life were, and still are, ubiquitous worldwide. These are often celebrated in song and dance in context of long-lived religious rituals; in general community gatherings, where old and newly created dances are performed, and in theatrical performances as well. Dances from around the world will be viewed, and attendees will be encouraged to, on occasion, move along with the music while still seated, and/or clap their hands to the rhythms of the songs. Partaking in the joy inspired by water will be encouraged and welcomed**

**Presenter:** Ze'Eva Cohen  
**Coordinators:** Judy Weis, Pete Weis  
**Tech Support:** Pete Weis, Steven Chicoine

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ NOON – 12:45 PM**

**Course:** **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation) (In-person only)**  
**Room:** 19  
**Subject:** What's My Line (in Spanish)

Most of us are old enough to remember the above television show. Come and play. Spanish-speaking pop cultural, high cultural and political luminaries will be represented. Perfect Spanish is certainly not required, but participation at whatever level your Spanish is at is appreciated.

**Presenter:** Ellen Pober Rittberg  
**Coordinators:** Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Ward

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **FILM FOR THOUGHT (In-person only)**  
**Room:** Auditorium

We continue our viewing of the best short films - award winning dramas, comedies, and documentaries. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and their poignant and provocative stories for entertainment and discussion.

**Coordinators:** Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman  
**Tech Support:** Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

**Course:** **HARLEM RENAISSANCE** (Hybrid)  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Subject:** Jacob Lawrence, The Migration Series

**The Migration Series, originally titled The Migration of the Negro, is a group of paintings by African-American painter Jacob Lawrence that depicts the migration of African Americans to the northern United States from the South that began in the 1910s. It was published in 1941 and funded by the WPA.**

**Lawrence conceived of the series as a single work rather than individual paintings and worked on all of the paintings at the same time, in order to give them a unified feel and to keep the colors uniform between panels. He wrote sentence-long captions for each of the sixty paintings explaining aspects of the event. Viewed in its entirety, the series creates a narrative in images and words that tells the story of the Great Migration.**

**Presenter:** Bob Reiss  
**Coordinators:** Richard Byrd, Ilene Winkler, Hedy Shulman, Stuart Parker  
**Tech Support:** Steven Chicoine, Ilene Winkler

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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **FASCINATING NON-FICTION** (Hybrid)  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Subject:** The Paranoid Style in American Politics by Richard Hofstadter

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

**Hofstadter followed up his Pulitzer Prize-winning Anti-Intellectualism in American Life with this Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of essays. I will focus on two of the essays: The Paranoid Style and The Pseudo-Conservative Revolt. The two form the basis for a discussion of features of American political discourse today.**

**Presenter: Paul Golomb**  
**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: Whither the Supreme Court**

**What in heaven's name is going on with the Supreme Court? In just the very recent past the Court has become embroiled in an ethics scandal, just as it has made a sharp turn to the right, fundamentally changing many aspects of our day-to-day lives. In this class we'll take a look at the Court, and what may lie ahead (hint: a very rough road). Come prepared for an upsetting ninety minutes!**

**Presenter: Michael Wellner**  
**Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks**  
**Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Michael Wellner**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**NEW MEMBERS MEETING (In-person only)**  
**Room 19**

**This meeting, the fourth in a series of four, continues our introduction to and overview of the Quest experience.**



**At the meeting you will meet:**

- **Paul Golomb, Chair, Curriculum Committee**
- **Hedy Shulman, Coordinator, Quester's Choice**
- **Sheryl Harawitz and Andrea Irvine, Coordinators, Noontime Mondays**
- **Be able to ask questions about any aspect of Quest's activities.**
- **Engage with other new members**

**All fall and spring 2023 new members are invited.**

**Coordinators: Susan Keohane (co-chair), Renee Woloshin (co-chair), John Davis, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM**

**Course: BOOK CLUB (In-person only)**

**Room: 27**

**Book: Lessons in Chemistry**

**Author: Bonnie Garmus**

**A New York Times Best Book of 2022, this witty, shrewdly observant novel tells the story of single mother Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist thwarted in the all male world of research science in 1960's America. She becomes the unlikely star of a highly successful cooking-show where, as it turns out, she isn't just teaching women to cook - -she's daring them to change the status quo.**

**Presenter: Joan Vreeland**

**Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:     DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES (Hybrid)**  
**Room:       Auditorium**  
**Speaker:    Grace M. Cho**  
**Title:        Tastes Like War, a memoir**

**Grace M. Cho is the author of Tastes Like War, a finalist for the 2021 National Book Award in nonfiction and the winner of the 2022 Asian Pacific American Literature Award in adult nonfiction. Her writings have appeared in The Nation as well as several feminist publications. She is Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at The College of Staten Island, CUNY.**

**Grace is the daughter of a white American merchant marine and the Korean bar hostess he met abroad. When Grace was fifteen, her dynamic mother experienced the onset of schizophrenia, a condition that would continue and evolve for the rest of her life.**

**Part food memoir, part sociological investigation, Tastes Like War is a hybrid work about a daughter's search for the roots of her mother's schizophrenia. In her mother's final years, Grace learned to cook dishes from her mother's childhood in order to invite the past into the present, and to hold space for her mother's multiple voices at the table.**

**Please join us for this special presentation.**

**Coordinators:   Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:     NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS (Hybrid)**  
**Room:       Auditorium**  
**Subject:    The history of Greenwich Village (Encore presentation)**

**The history of Greenwich Village will be related through the idiosyncratic characters who lived and performed there: the beats,**

**bohemians, radicals and rogues. I look forward to our erstwhile Quest rogues offering their experiences to enrich the presentation.**

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

**Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE (In-person only)**  
**Room: 15-17**

**Following up on last sessions discussion of the latest developments in artificial intelligence, this session will look at (1) some recent promising uses of AI in medicine and science, and (2) concerns about the potential risks to society of AI, with a focus on the steps to control these risks contained in the recent executive order issued by the Biden administration.**

**For those wishing to do some reading in advance concerning the potential risk of AI, articles will be circulated on Questbusiness.**

**Presenter: Steve Allen**  
**Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis**  
**Tech Support: Steve Chicoine**

**Course: WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD (B WEEK) (Hybrid)**  
**Room: 27**  
**Subject: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou**  
**Chapters 34-36**

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

**Maya, age 15, decides she wants to be a San Francisco streetcar conductor, even though no Negroes have held that job. What happens next is a foreshadowing of the rest of her life.**

**Impressionable Maya fears that she may be a lesbian. In order to prove to herself that she is not, Maya decides to have sex with a neighborhood boy. Three weeks later, she finds herself pregnant.**

**Maya's mother and stepfather are very accepting of her pregnancy. And, it is her mother who helps nervous Maya relax into her new life role. She imparts to her, "You don't have to think about doing the right thing. If you're for the right thing, then you do it without thinking."**

**Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein**  
**Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward**  
**Technical Support: Larry Shapiro**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course: CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR (In-person)**  
**Room: 15-17**  
**Subject: The Development of RNA Vaccines Comes Just in Time for COVID19, (Lucky?)**

**A brief summary of vaccines, history, function, and applications, will be presented. In the last couple of decades, a new approach began. often as a university research program. This was based on the growing knowledge of molecular genetics and new technological tools. Detailed genetic information of a pathogen can be obtained, and in particular its mRNA isolated. When a slightly altered version of a pathogen's mRNA is inserted into a human cell, that cell produced proteins based on it. These proteins become the source of a vaccine against that pathogen. Just after the COVID19 pandemic broke out, using this approach, an MRNA vaccine won preliminary and expedited approval. Two companies immediately started to produce millions of doses of this mRNA sourced vaccine. It saved many millions of lives.**

**Much of the science behind this monumental development was due to two scientists at U Penn, Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman. For their**

**pioneering research that led to the success of this mRNA vaccine for COVID19, they were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Unfortunately, prior to their recognized success, primarily due to difficulty in getting grants funded, and unaware of the soon to be extraordinary recognition and importance of her research, U Penn did not award Kariko tenure. She returned to Hungary. Fortunately, she is now both very distinguished and happily employed.**

**This success has helped launch a new era in the history of vaccination. The use of pathogen mRNA as the source of new vaccines will likely see vast applications in the near future.**

**Presenter: Mark Cardillo**

**Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash**

**Tech Support: Steve Chicoine**

**Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE (Hybrid)**

**Room: 27**

**Subject: An introduction to the philosophical tradition of pragmatism.**

**Next term, Explorations in Philosophy & Literature will be focusing on the philosophical tradition of pragmatism. We will particularly be looking at a contemporary exponent, Richard Rorty, as well as founding philosophers William James and John Dewey. This week's session will provide an introduction through the lens of the famous 1950 article "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" by Alan Turing. We'll consider how Turing's attempt to create a framework for discussions about machine intelligence that would focus on concrete distinctions fits into the tradition of pragmatism. And we'll look at philosophers who have raised objections to this more concrete approach, particularly the "Chinese room argument" of John Searle.**

**Discussion Leader: Steve Allen**

**Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen**

**Tech Support: Larry Shapiro**

**Course: POETS' WORKSHOP (In-person only)**

**Room: 19**

**(Note: This class ends at 3:00 PM)**

**Write a poem using the cue word "figure" 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, DECEMBER 14 @ 2:45 PM**

**Event: SOLE MATES (In-person only)**

**Room: Meet: by elevators on 7th floor @ 2:45 PM**

**And we're off again for the last of our Fall walks. Marian and Andrea will lead us along the Hudson River. We will proceed to Battery Park and then head North. It is up to you how far you walk - lots of transport in the Oculus Train Station with option of ending at a 'watering hole' for good cheer before heading home.**

**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, DECEMBER 15th @ 12:00 PM**

**QUEST HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

**ARTE CAFÉ**

**Werst 73 St, Off Columbus**