

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**November 27 - 30, 2023**

**This is a B Week**

There are three links for all classes for 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.

Below find the links (in red), meeting IDs, and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If Zoom is installed on your computer, you can enter any hybrid class by clicking on the appropriate link:

## **AUDITORIUM**

**Meeting ID: xxx xxxx xxxx**

**Passcode: xxxxxx**

## **ROOM 15-17**

**Meeting ID: xxx xxxx xxxx**

**Passcode: xxxxxx**

## **ROOM 27**

**Meeting ID: xxx xxxx xxxx**

**Passcode: xxxxxx**

Alternatively, you can enter a class using your browser by going to <https://zoom.us/join> and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with 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 passcode.

**NOTE:** All classes are conducted at 25 Broadway and are listed as either Hybrid or In person only. 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 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **CLASSICAL MUSIC**  
**Subject:** Woodwinds in Classical Music  
**Presenter:** Penelope Pi-Sunyer  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinators:** **Sol Makon**, Peter Dichter, Pete Weis, Bob Reiss  
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener**, Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

You heard in an earlier class that the organ is a wind instrument, that somehow air from somewhere is blown through pipes to make music.

Woodwinds are the same: air from somewhere is blown through pipes to make music.

- How is air blown? Where does it come from?
- What kind of pipes does it go through?
- Why is each of the instruments so similar and yet so different?
- What is the history of each instrument?
- What makes them sound so different?
- How are each of them used today?

Come and decide if four woodwinds — flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon — still blow ill or are clowns.

**Course:** **TONI MORRISON: THE LEGEND**  
**Subject:** *Song of Solomon*: Unlocking the Power of Names  
**Presenter:** Sheryl Harawitz  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** Classroom 15-17  
**Coordinators:** **Donna K. Ramer**, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg  
**Tech Support:** **Tamara Weinberg**

Step into the enchanting world of Toni Morrison's literary masterpiece, *Song of Solomon*, and discover as we delve deep into the artistry of Morrison's storytelling, where names are more than just words—they are portals to history, culture, and identity.

From the evocative title itself, which beckons us to journey into the past, to characters like Pilate, Circe, Milkman, and Macon Dead, Morrison weaves a tapestry of names that are as poetic as they are symbolic. Each name carries its own unique weight, reflecting the complex interplay of race, heritage, and personal identity in a world marked by both

historical struggles and timeless human desire, inviting us to ponder the deeper meanings that lie beneath the surface and unlock the hidden treasures of *Song of Solomon*.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM**

**Course:** LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY  
**Subject:** Met Opera 2023 - 24 Season  
**Presenters:** Sheryl and Andrea  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Coordinators:** Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

Step into the enchanting world of opera with the "Metropolitan Opera HD Series" - where the timeless art form comes to life on the big screen. Join us as we enjoy lunch, listen to enchanting arias, and engage in discussions about the compelling stories behind the performances of this Season.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** GREAT PLAYS  
**Play:** *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse  
**Cast:** Mary Ann Donnelly, Frank Montaturo, June Jacobson, Wayne Cotter  
**Presenter:** Wayne Cotter  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinators:** Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward

In *The Thanksgiving Play*, a trio of well-meaning educators/actors attempt to present an elementary school Thanksgiving play without offending the school's administration, the school board, or parents. Toward this goal, they use grant money to hire a professional Native American actor, a move that only brings hilarious new challenges for the trio to overcome.

Larissa FastHorse, a Native American playwright from South Dakota, wrote *The Thanksgiving Play* in response to the difficulties she faced finding Native American actors for her previous works. Through satire and humor, the play addresses the misrepresentation of Native Americans, the lack of indigenous casting, and the challenges of accurately representing indigenous people in American society, as well as taking aim against the broader target of political correctness.

The play was first performed in New York at the Playwrights Horizons in 2018 and moved to Broadway for a limited run earlier this year.

**Course:** **SIXTIES**  
**Subject:** Muhammad Ali  
**Presenter:** Bob Gottfried  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Coordinators:** **Richard Byrd**, Diane Reynolds  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Ilene Winkler

Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., was the most well-known boxer not only in the 1960's, but in the entire 20th century. He was the heavyweight world champion multiple times and was known as The Greatest.

Come to the Sixties class to learn about his career as a boxer, his controversial refusal to be inducted into the armed forces of the United States, his membership in The Nation of Islam and his work as a social activist. It will be both a fond remembrance of an extraordinary athlete, and an opportunity to learn about other aspects of his life.

**Course:** **MEXICO: SOUTH OF OUR BORDER**  
**Subject:** Mexican Dance – from Traditional to Contemporary Performances  
**Presenter:** Ze'eva Cohen  
**Format:** In-person  
**Room:** 27  
**Coordinators:** **Tamara Weinberg**, Harriet Dubroff, Joyce Sabella  
**Tech Support:** **Tamara Weinberg**, Bob Reiss

Mexican dance mirrors the country's rich and diverse history that encompasses various cultural influences and traditions. It is deeply rooted in the country's heritage that often blends indigenous and European influences, while also preserving the unique, ancient dances that are still practiced today.

We will be looking at some of these indigenous practices, as well as the glamorous theatrical adaptations of the regional folkloric dances that represent Mexico abroad and are much enjoyed at home. We will also be looking at a few contemporary choreographers seeking connections with the global contemporary dance scene.

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**  
**Subject:** At the Crossroads of Art, Science, and Technology  
**Presenter:** Joyce West  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinators:** **Linda Downs**, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro, Bob Reiss

In the lobby of the Museum of Modern Art this past spring and summer, visitors encountered the astonishing work of the digital media artist, Refik Anadol: a 24-foot-high wall of constantly roiling shapes generated from 380,000 digitized images taken from the museum's entire collection of art, design, and photography entitled *Unsupervised*, an adaptive AI system that is constantly changing.

From Anadol's varied body of work we will see how he uses audio and video generative learning models to transform the exterior of the Walt Disney concert hall in LA, the AI-generated artwork at The Sphere in Las Vegas, archival photographic data of our universe for Machine Memoirs: Space in Istanbul, and an ongoing project to document the lives and work of the indigenous peoples of Yawanawa in the Amazon. Finally, we will look briefly at digital artists who influenced him.

**Course:** **WATER**  
**Subject:** Feeding in the Water  
**Presenter:** Judy Weis  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** 27  
**Coordinators:** **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**, Steven Chicoine

Eating should be easy, right? Just open your mouth and put the food in it . . . well, it's not that easy for animals that live and/or feed in the water. They have a great variety of ways to get their food. This includes filtering the water, scouring the bottom for goodies, sucking in the food, stinging and paralyzing prey, ambushing them, opening or crushing hard shells, being a parasite on the outside or inside of another species, eating the parasites off other species, hosting tiny plants that photosynthesize and do the work for you, and many more. Come digest and absorb this fascinating information!

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ NOON – 12:45 PM**

**Course:** **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)**  
**Presenters:** Sheila Serfati and Ruth Ward  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** Classroom 19  
**Coordinators:** Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Ward

We'll be discussing what influenced the person you are today (or did in the past that you now laugh about it— in Spanish, with help if needed.) We'll be using the words/terms for our relatives and conjugating correctly the verb "influence."

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28@ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **FILM FOR THOUGHT**  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinators:** Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman  
**Tech Support:** Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

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.

**Course:** **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**  
**Subject:** Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington in 1920s New York  
**Presenter:** Stuart Parker  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Coordinators:** Richard Byrd, Ilene Winkler, Hedy Shulman, Stuart Parker  
**Tech Support:** Steven Chicoine, Ilene Winkler

If one of the achievements of the Harlem Renaissance was the recognition and appreciation of African Americans' participation in and contribution to American Culture, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington must be viewed as two of its heroes. This presentation will tell the story of how in 1920s New York, Armstrong and Ellington emerged as two forces in modern American music that white America could not and did

not want to ignore. Central to the presentation will be 1920s recordings by Armstrong, Ellington, Paul Whiteman, King Oliver and Fletcher Henderson.

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### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**  
**Subject:** The Island at the Center of the World  
**Presenter:** Ilene Winkler  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinators:** **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Next year will be the 400th anniversary of the first Dutch settlers landing on the southern tip of the island of Manhattoe, as the Munsee inhabitants called it, not far from where 25 Broadway sits today. To celebrate, we are presenting the prizewinning book, *The Island at the Center of the World* by Russell Shorto. Published in 2004, the book was hailed as a breakthrough that fundamentally changed our understanding of New York's origins.

Shorto contends that New Amsterdam, as the Dutch named the town -- and the surrounding colony of New Netherland -- differed fundamentally from the other twelve colonies because of its Dutch origins. As an outpost of the Dutch West Indies Company, New Netherlands was the only colony established as a business, while the English colonies were founded on strict religious principles. New Amsterdam was relatively tolerant, democratic, and open to people of many nationalities, at a time when Amsterdam was the most progressive city in Europe. Shorto believes that this difference has influenced the development of New York City ever since.

**Course:** **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES (In-person only)**  
**Subject:** The Worrisome Decline of American Newspapers  
**Presenters:** Michael Wellner and Linda Amster  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks  
**Tech Support:** **Steven Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

What has happened to the hometown papers that we all grew up with? Even here in the big city there is a long list of papers (including the Evening World, the Telegram, the Daily Mirror, the Herald, the Tribune, PM, the Sun, and so many more) that have simply

disappeared. And that has happened in small towns and not-so-small cities and towns across the country.

As news sources undergo what we could call "the great consolidation," this has worrisome consequences for us all. Join us as we discuss this critically important trend, and be prepared to reminisce about the papers you grew up with!

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**Course:** **BOOK CLUB**  
**Book:** The Dictionary of Lost Words  
**Author:** Pip Williams  
**Presenter:** Arlynn Greenbaum  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** Classroom 27  
**Coordinators:** **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

Set in England during the height of the women's suffrage movement, and inspired by actual events, the novel is a beautifully written fictional tribute to the real women whose work on the original Oxford English Dictionary has gone unrecognized.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 @ 12:50 PM – 2:15 PM**

**Course:** **GENERAL MEETING**  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** Auditorium

All members are invited to our Fall 2023 General Meeting, Wednesday, November 29, from 12:50 AM - 2:15 PM. The meeting will be held in the auditorium and on Zoom (via the auditorium link). As always, we'll unveil a few new projects, hear updates from several committees, and get a sneak peek at our Spring 2024 classes, which start Feb. 4. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions.

But wait, there's more! Don't plan to run out the door as the clock strikes the quarter-hour because the Quest Social Committee is hosting a wine and cheese gathering immediately after the meeting so we can chat with new and long-time fellow Questers and just hang out a bit (see next item).

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**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS**  
**Subject:** Staten Island  
**Presenter:** Ilene Winkler  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinators:** **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss  
**Tech Support:** **Paul Golomb**, Ilene Winkler

Staten Islanders call Manhattan “The City” but most New Yorkers know Staten Island for the free ferry ride, or as the borough that tried to secede from The City. We’ll look beyond the ferry terminal to learn about Staten Island’s 300-plus year history, including Colonial-era Richmond Town, the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, the oldest continually inhabited free Black town, Sandy Ground, that was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and the home of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker.

We will also examine the island’s reputation for conservative politics, racial problems, and anti-immigrant rallies—as the island becomes home to a growing number of immigrants, an LGBTQ community, and the first attempt to organize a union at Amazon. And finally, since the population is over one-third Italian American, a guide to great pizza.

**Course:** **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**  
**Presenter:** Steve Allen  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**

A report on the latest developments in artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on the fight over the firm OpenAI which is making headlines. As always, we look forward to lively and wide ranging discussions of this and whatever topics pop up!

For those wishing to do some reading in advance concerning the fight over OpenAI, articles will be circulated on QuestBusiness.

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**  
**Subject:** I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou Chapter 30  
**Presenter:** Ruth Ward and The Class  
**Room:** 27

**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** Larry Shapiro

The adolescent Marguerite is invited to southern California, where she meets Daddy Bailey and his "mean and petty" young girlfriend Dolores, whom Daddy Bailey doesn't invite to accompany them on a drive to Ensenada, Mexico. At Daddy Bailey's favorite cantina, his friends invite Marguerite to join their abandoned drinking and dancing. When her father disappears for a tryst, M. figures that if Dolores knew, "she would crawl up in her blanket of affectations and die circumspectly." When their Mexican friends at last produce a very drunk Daddy Bailey and deposit him in the back seat of his car, M. decides she is capable of driving her father back to the U.S. Do you believe she succeeded? Come and read with us to find out.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR**  
**Subject:** Constructing A National Culture  
**Presenter:** Sheryl Harawitz  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Coordinators:** Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash  
**Tech Support:** Steve Chicoine

Embark on a journey that unravels the threads of tradition, innovation, and the nuanced elements that set Japan apart from its neighbors. From the graceful dance of tea ceremonies to the bold strokes of calligraphy, delve into the artistry that shapes the Japanese identity. Uncover the historical roots and contemporary expressions that make Japan a captivating mosaic of uniqueness within the rich diversity of East Asia.

**Course:** **EXPLORATIONS IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY**  
**Subject:** Two stories by Anton Chekhov  
**Facilitator:** Larry Shapiro  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** 27  
**Coordinators:** Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen  
**Tech Support:** Larry Shapiro

Since this is a hybrid philosophy and literature course, I thought it would be interesting to discuss what Chekhov was up to in these great enigmatic stories, "Gooseberries" and "Gusev." Unlike Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky or D.H. Lawrence, Chekhov doesn't lecture or

preach, but does he practice philosophy by other means? Does Chekhov stealthily convey views on ethical behavior, good and evil, free will, the meaning or meaninglessness of life, etc.? Or just tell stories crafted to make us think?

I'll distribute links to the stories and possibly pdfs via Quest Business. I'll try to do this before Thanksgiving and again during the week we meet.

**Course:** **POETS' WORKSHOP**  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** 19 (Note: This class ends at 3:00 PM.)  
**Coordinators:** **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran  
**Tech Support:** None Assigned

Write a poem using the cue word "belief" 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.

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 2:45 PM**

**Course:** **SOLE MATES**  
**Format:** In Person  
**Room:** Gather in the lobby by elevators on 7th floor at 2:45 PM.  
**Coordinators:** **Andrea Irvine**, Marian Friedmann

Andrea and Marian will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River. They will start at Battery Park and head north ending at a "rest" stop for a glass of wine, a cup of hot soup, socialization. It is up to you how far you walk. No signups – No commitments just serendipity – community and a healthy heart. A great way to end a week of Questing.

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