

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 5 - 9, 2024

This is an A 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 are given 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: 813 5977 7119

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 893 8196 3761

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 834 6569 8593

Passcode: 252525

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, FEB 5 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: The Impressions' *Young Mods' Forgotten Story* (1969)
Presenters: Steve Koenig and Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter, Victor Brener

In the year of 1969, soul music, arguably, was at its peak. Singer/songwriter Curtis Mayfield's long-lived group The Impressions was on the fulcrum of the pop and soul music of that time: love songs and songs of social politics.

Mayfield's distinctive falsetto led them and us straight into the crossfires of that turbulent time with hit songs such as "Choice of Colors," "Mighty Mighty (Spade and Whitey)," and "This Is My Country."

Course: **ALL THE KING'S MEN**
Presenters Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In person only
Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler
Tech Support: Bob Reiss

After some biographical information about Robert Penn Warren, author of *All the King's Men*, we will begin discussing the first two chapters of the book. The novel starts in 1933 with Jack Burden, the narrator, describing a car ride with Governor Willie Stark on Highway 58 through the countryside for a photo shoot at the poor farm where Willie's father still lives. What did Jack observe that impressed him when he first met Willie in 1922 at Slade's bar? Why do Willie and Jack go to see Judge Irwin? What order does Willie give Jack afterwards? Jack's narrative shifts to the past again in Chapter 2. How did Willie become a local hero because of a school tragedy? Willie works on the farm, studies law at night, and becomes a successful lawyer. He is tricked into running for governor in a dishonest scheme by corrupt politicians. How does being "duped" fundamentally change Willie?

MONDAY, FEB 5 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MONDAYS**
Subject: What's In the Museums
Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 15-17
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Bring your lunch and together we'll discuss some current exciting exhibits. Sheryl will share some highlights plus provide you with a list of ongoing exhibits to guide you through the Spring.

And we'd love to include any recommendations you have of a current exhibit you'd like us to highlight - just send details to Sheryl at SherylInyc@gmail.com

MONDAY, FEB 5 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?**
Subject: The History of Artificial Intelligence
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner, Pete Weis**

We will begin our Artificial Intelligence (AI) course with a survey of the history of the field, beginning with AI applications for the very first computers in the 1950s. This survey will cover major products, central principles, and important debates. This history should be good background for subsequent talks on the current state of AI and will offer lessons about patterns of past mistaken assumptions that could serve as useful warnings about the future of the field.

Course: **DAISY MILLER & WASHINGTON SQUARE**
Subject: Daisy Miller
Presenter: Patricia Geehr
Room: 27
Format: In person only

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

For our first class, we will discuss Daisy Miller, by Henry James. It deals with an unsophisticated, strikingly pretty girl traveling in Europe who confronts the conventions of a group of Europeanized Americans who enforce the rules of the older European community. Published in 1879, this work established James's fame as a novelist and his recurring theme of the relationship between innocence and experience, especially as exemplified by the differences between the uncultured Americans and the highly cultured Europeans.

TUESDAY, FEB 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: Poland's Roll Back of Authoritarian Populism
Presenter: Bob Gottfried (presenting in person) and Sandy Frank and Glenn Johnston (presenting via Zoom)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Victor Brener

Poland has historically been either underestimated or forgotten. With the downfall of the former Soviet Union, Poland has increasingly become a crucial partner for NATO and the EU. This alliance has increasingly been of momentous strategic value in dealing with Moscow. Poland is the largest Central or Eastern European country in the EU. Its location—bordering 7 countries including Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and Germany, as well as the Baltic Sea—gives it immense geopolitical and economic importance. It has a more powerful military than neighboring Germany; it's a strategic portal linking EU markets in air, land, and maritime transportation; and has been the fastest-growing economy in Europe since the Berlin Wall fell.

Course: NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS
Subject: Relationship Between Language and Politics
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: 15-17
Format: In person only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Martha Drezin, Ellie Schaffer, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

The goal of this new course is to discuss essays that provoke new perspectives, question assumptions, and stimulate thought. This week we examine two essays that raise questions about the relationship between language and politics: (1) "Why Activism Leads to So Much Bad Writing" by George Packer (2023) and (2) "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell (1946). Members are strongly encouraged to read these essays in advance. They will be distributed through a separate email to all Questers from Steve Allen on QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, FEB 6 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

The Social Committee is hosting a Welcome Back lunch on Tuesday, February 6. Stop by the lunchroom at noon to pick up a sandwich and goodies and either stay to chat or head to Déjeuner Français in room 19. And thanks to committee members Gale Spitalnik, chair, Lauren Gee, Pam Gemelli, Lois Klein, Marilyn Weiss, and our administrative assistant, Raquel Rivera for pulling this together.

Course: **DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS**
Presenter: Donna Basile
Room: 19
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward, Donna Basile**

Nos Vacances d'hiver

C'est merveilleux de nous retrouver après les longues vacances d'hiver. Venez pour raconter à de petits groupes de participants vos activités intéressantes pendant notre absence de Quest. Donna Basile va gérer le groupe.

Our Winter Vacations

It's wonderful to get together again after the long winter break. Come and tell small groups of participants your interesting activities during our time away from Quest. Donna Basile will lead the group.

TUESDAY, FEB 6 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK**
Subject: Pete Seeger: America's Folk Singer, Troubadour, and Activist
Presenter: Bob Gottfried (Developed by Sandy Frank and Glenn Johnston)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Pete Seeger was the banjo-picking troubadour who sang for migrant workers, college students, and star-struck presidents in a career that introduced generations of Americans to their folk music heritage. Before The Byrds, Joan Baez, or Peter, Paul and Mary, there was Pete Seeger. With his five-string banjo in hand, Seeger helped to lay the foundation for American protest music, singing out about the plight of everyday working folks and urging listeners to political and social activism. "A good song makes you laugh, it makes you cry, it makes you think." -- Pete Seeger

Course : **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: My Favorite Meteorites
Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Room: 27
Format: In person only
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Vickie Costa
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

What does a Chevy Malibu in Peekskill, NY in 1992 have in common with a T Rex in Montana 66 million years ago? They were both clobbered by meteorites. Meteorites fall to earth every day. In this class we will discuss some of the most important meteorites and what they have taught scientists about the earth and our solar system.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: It Was a Dark and Stormy Night
Presenter: Helen Saffran
Room: 19
Format: In person only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.**)
Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: None Assigned

As always, we'll start with a ten-minute exercise using a prompt, where sharing is optional. We'll leave time to read our prose, poetry or short script written at home and get feedback from the group. Reminder: Prose pieces should not exceed 750 words and plays should be about five minutes. **Need some inspiration?** How about A Subway Story or write about one of your life's experiences? And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: What Makes Cole Porter?
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

When Cole Porter heard the words, “you’re the top,” he heard a syncopated rhythm. The word, “the” was held for a shorter amount of time than the other two words. He heard a melody. The word, “top” was sounded on a higher note, like the word’s meaning. His famous song, “You’re the Top,” like all of songs, captures this fusion of the *sonic* qualities of both words and music. Could this be why his songs are so elegant, hilarious, and memorable?

The epitome of sophistication, playfulness, and passion, come learn about this master American songwriter. We’ll explore his artistry to try to discern, “What Makes it Cole Porter?”

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: CYMBELINE**
Presenter: Roy Clary
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer**, Bob Reiss

Our first session will begin an exploration of *Cymbeline*. Written in 1610, *Cymbeline* is derived from a story in Boccaccio's *Decameron* (Second Day, Ninth Tale). It is one of three tragic/comic romances focusing on the theme of reconciliation which Shakespeare wrote at the end of his career, the others being *The Winter's Tale* (which we studied last fall) and *The Tempest* (which will be studied next fall).

Cymbeline features one of Shakespeare's greatest heroines: Imogen. The play is elaborate, complicated, and farfetched. It includes nearly every ingredient known to melodrama (including a dastardly villain). It is also great fun. Come and enjoy.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films: 1. *Anatomy of a Fall* (Madeleine Brecher)
2. *Dr. Strangelove* (Sol Makon)
3. *Maestro* (Len Lavitt)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Cinema Quest Remembers Bobbie Gold.

Film Stops:

The French Alps and *Anatomy of a Fall*: examining the evidence in a whodunnit, we then move on to “The War Room” and a ride down with the bomb in *Dr. Strangelove: or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb*, ending today’s session on Central Park West with *Maestro*. Imagine yourself a marriage counselor for Lennie and Felicia.

Anatomy of a Fall (current), reviewed by Madeleine Brecher (R/T: 96/90 Streaming: Prime, Apple, Vudu). A woman is suspected of her husband’s murder, and their nearly blind son faces a moral dilemma as the main witness.

Dr. Strangelove or How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb (comedy-classic), reviewed by Sol Makon (R/T: 98/94 Streaming: Max, Prime, Apple, Vudu). An insane American general orders an attack on the USSR, triggering a path to a nuclear holocaust that a war room full of politicians and generals try to stop.

Maestro (current), reviewed by Len Lavitt (R/T: 80/61 Streaming: Netflix). The story reveals the lifelong relationship of conductor Leonard Bernstein and his wife, Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein. A love letter to life and art, *Maestro*, at its core, is an emotionally epic portrayal of family and love.

Course: **WOMEN SPIES**
Subject: Women Spies: A Primer
Presenter: Donna K. Ramer
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Penelope Pi-Sunyer**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Steven Chicoine

What is it that drives a woman to put her life, reputation, and emotional health on the line when called upon by country or company to secretly collect and report on the activities, movements, and plans of the enemy? What role does gender play in the recruitment process? And what would entice you to say 'yes' if asked to step up? In our kick-off class, we'll set the stage for the rest of the semester as we look at what a spy is, how they are recruited, the psychological profile of women spies, and some of the tools of the trade.

THURSDAY, FEB 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**
Subject: The Golden Ratio
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Tamara Weinberg

Most people are familiar with the mathematical value π (pi), the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Less well known, but of no less interest, is the Golden Ratio, symbolized by the Greek letter ϕ (phi). The presentation will first explain what ϕ represents and how its value is calculated. It will then explore when and where ϕ pops up in man-made creations and in nature.

No mathematics beyond elementary school arithmetic (12 divided by 3 = ?) will be necessary to follow the goings on. You can bring along a calculator, but you certainly won't need it.

The presentation will conclude with mathematical proof that George Clooney is better looking than Kim Jong Un.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Yevgeny Yevtushenko
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

The acclaimed Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko gained international acclaim as a young revolutionary with Babi Yar, an unflinching 1961 poem telling of the slaughter of

nearly 34,000 Jews by the Nazis and denouncing the widespread antisemitism in the Soviet Union. Until Babi Yar was published, the history of the massacre was shrouded in the fog of the Cold War. Yevtushenko's impressive body of work has wide range, stylistic vigor, directness and rhythmic momentum. Within his often-beautiful verses, Yevtushenko often wrote calls to action on behalf of human rights and justice. "Poetry is like a bird; it ignores all frontiers."

THURSDAY, FEB 8 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **WATER**
Subject: Caves
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Coordinators: **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Steve Chicoine

Did you watch with suspense the news a few years ago about the Thai kids trapped in a cave? And did you breathe a sigh of relief when they were rescued? In this session we will discuss how caves are made by water and how water is responsible for the amazing and beautiful formations we can see inside them. We will talk about the various kinds of animals that live in caves, either in the air or the water, either part-time or full-time, and what fascinating adaptations they have developed to live in this special, unchanging, dark environment. We will discuss how people explore caves for recreation/hobby with special gear and how it is done, and caves that have been developed commercially for tourists who want to see them without the special gear and risks associated with caving. (We'll also talk about the Thai rescue.)

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. A Snowy Night on West 49th Street (Rica Fujihira)
2. Finding Billy White Feather (Freida Lipp)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Stories to read for Thursday, February 8 at 1:00 PM:

***A Snowy Night on West Forty-Ninth Street* by Maeve Brennan** Presented by Rica Fujihira

Last fall, we read a story by little-known Irish-born, New York-based writer, Maeve Brennan. Before disappearing from the literary scene, Brennan worked on the staff of The New Yorker magazine to which she contributed short stories, book reviews and chronicles of New York City life in the Talk of the Town column. Upon the publication of *“The Rose Garden,”* a collection of Brennan’s short stories published years after her 1993 death, a Washington Post critic wrote: “To the reviewer of books, nothing equals the thrill of discovering a wonderful new writer — except, perhaps, the delight of rediscovering a wonderful old writer who has fallen into obscurity.” In this class, we’ll read a story from that collection — *“A Snowy Night…”* written in Brennan’s signature crystal-clear prose. We’ll also discuss the circumstances which led her to fall into obscurity.

***Finding Billy White Feather* by Percival Everett** Presented by Frieda Lipp

Finding Billy White Feather is a story about a quest. Oliver Campbell, Percival Everett’s protagonist, takes us on a search through the West’s ranch country for the identity of a mysterious stranger who left a note on Campbell’s back door about twin Appaloosa foals. It’s quite a trip! Everett’s 2001 Novel “Erasure is the inspiration and basis for the current critically received film *“American Fiction”* (directed by Cord Jefferson and starring Jeffrey Wright). Everett is an English professor at the University of Southern California.

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

Course:	ACTING WORKSHOP II
Room:	Auditorium
Format:	In person only
Coordinators:	Roy Clary , Art Spar
Tech Support:	None Assigned

The class will begin to rehearse for its yearend production of Potpourri II.

CULTUREQUEST

Museum of Modern Art Picasso in Fontainebleau

Friday, February 16th, 10:50 – 11:50 AM
(In-person tour)

We will have a guided tour of the current Picasso exhibition at MoMA with art historian Deborah Goldberg, PhD. Dr. Goldberg has given several well-received virtual tours for Quest, most recently last month, and was a past lecturer in our Distinguished Guest Lecture program.

The exhibition presents four 6-foot-high canvases—two versions of *Three Women at the Spring* and two of *Three Musicians*—which Picasso created in the summer of 1921 in Fontainebleau. In the short time he spent in Fontainebleau, Picasso worked prolifically to create a startling body of work. Along with the four monumental paintings, the exhibition features other paintings, drawings, pastels, and etchings made in Fontainebleau. Rarely seen photographs of the artist's studio and his family depict his daily life and artistic practice. The exhibition also explores new discoveries about the process and experimental spirit that mark Picasso's work in Fontainebleau.

The last day of *Picasso in Fontainebleau* is February 17th. Please join us for the opportunity to see this amazing exhibition before it closes and to meet, listen to and interact with our guide Deborah Goldberg.

WHEN: Friday, February 16th. Please arrive by 10:35 AM.
The tour will begin promptly at 10:50 AM.

WHERE: Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd St., NYC

COST: \$15 for the tour. (This is a special rate because of Quest's affiliation with CCNY. The museum regularly charges \$45 per person for a group tour for seniors with a MoMA guide.)

TO RESERVE: The tour is limited to 20 participants. For a reservation follow these two steps.

1. Send an email as soon as possible to Renee Woloshin at: rswolo@aol.com. Put MOMA TOUR in the subject line.

2. Put a check made out to Quest for \$15 in an envelope marked CultureQuest. Place it in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office by February 12 or risk losing your reservation.

Note: We are unable to accept any reservations until NWAQ has been sent to the entire membership. We will have a waitlist.

LUNCH (optional)

Terrace Café on the sixth floor of the museum

Note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show and did not cancel will be placed on 'future waitlists only' when they sign up to attend live CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.