

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 13 - 16, 2024

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 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 12, 2024

Quest Closed for Lincoln's Birthday

TUESDAY, FEB 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: How Windows Have Inspired Spectacular Art
A Room with a View
Presenter: Marian Friedmann
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**to be recorded**)
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

“Everything at a distance turns into poetry: distant mountains, distant people, distant events: all become Romantic.” Novalis, 1798.

How can the window, a simple and everyday object have so many meanings within works of art? We see windows as status symbols, spiritual metaphors, mirrors reflecting people and their emotions, barriers, political statements, and as liberating views to wider worlds. Scenes, objects, or imagery are often seen through a frame, or window, adding a sense of mystery or depth to a work. We see them every day, but how have artists seen them and used them?

We will view art from the mid-13th to the 21st centuries, including examples by Mantegna, Vermeer, Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso, Dali, Hopper, Hockney, Ai Weiwei, Bearden, Banksy, and more.

TUESDAY, FEB 13 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)**
Presenter: Sheilah Serfati
Room: 19
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Richard Elrauch

Have you ever wanted to read an author who wrote highly touted books in Spanish that are available in English but you don't know who these authors are or where to start? Former Spanish teacher Sheilah Serfati will guide you. We also will have a discussion in

Spanish of books that have had a profound, lasting impact on you. Tell us why. You don't have to be fluent. All levels of proficiency are welcome. We help each other!

TUESDAY, FEB 13 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Presenters: Steve Allen and Lois Klein
Room: Auditorium
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Jane Lubin**, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter

Join us as we continue our viewing of the best short films - award winning dramas, comedies, and documentaries from around the world. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and their poignant and provocative stories for entertainment and discussion.

Course: **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**
Subject: Paul Robeson
Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Richard Byrd**, Stuart Parker
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**

Paul Robeson was an American bass-baritone concert artist, stage and film actor, professional football player, and political activist who became famous for his cultural accomplishments and his political stances. Come to the Harlem Renaissance to learn about his remarkable career, and listen to some of his most famous recordings including Old Man River, Ballad for Americans, John Brown's Body, and Summertime.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NONFICTION**
Subject: *The Hank Show: How a House-Painting Drug-Running DEA Informant Built the Machine that Rules our Lives* by MacKenzie Funk
Presenter: Bob Reiss

Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This book relates the stranger-than-fiction story of Hank Asher: how he careened from drug-running pilot to alleged CIA asset, only to be reborn as the pioneering computer programmer known as the "father of data fusion." He was the billionaire whose creations have resulted in marketers, political parties, financial firms and others having access to an incredible amount of information about each one of us. We learn about a forty-year journey of intrigue and innovation that focuses on the dark side of American business and its impact on the everyday fabric of our modern lives.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: The Upcoming Election – Round One
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Has anything changed in the past 60 years? What were the top issues in the mid-1960's? As the French say, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!" What are the top priorities that will determine my/your vote for President in this election? Nothing is written in stone. Let's have a great discussion about what's happening now and how that will affect our choice in November.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 14 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

The Social Committee will provide Valentine's Day lunchtime sweets and entertainment on Wednesday, February 14 at noon.

Wear red and sing along with talented Questers, the tunes of Rogers and Hammerstein.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 14 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB**
Book: *The Bartender's Tale*
Author: Ivan Doig
Presenter: Debbi Honoroff
Room: 27
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

The novel is set in a small Montana town in 1960, where an unconventional father and his 12-year-old son run the local saloon. The "joint" serves as the meeting place for the wide cast of memorable characters populating this wry, delightful novel.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 14 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE**
Subject: China Shakes the World: The Revolutionary Remaking of the International Order
Presenter: Gordon Chang
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Gordon Chang is a commentator and writer with a special focus on China. He lived and worked in China and Hong Kong for almost two decades. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Conservative Union Foundation and has served two terms as a trustee of Cornell University.

Chang has given briefings at the National Intelligence Council, the CIA, the State Department, and the Defense Department and has appeared before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is a columnist at Newsweek and his writings have appeared in, among other publications, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Commentary* and *National Review* and has appeared as well on the major cable news channels. His books include *The Coming Collapse of China*, *China Is Going to War*, and *The Great U.S.-China Tech War*.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, FEB 15 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS**
Subject: The Sixth Borough: The Waters of the City
Presenter: Judy Weis
Format: Hybrid (to be recorded)
Room: 15-17
Coordinators: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Ilene Winkler

If you look at a map of New York City and its environs, it is obvious that much it is water. We have been called a "City of Water." As those of us who grew up here remember, 40-50 years ago the waters were lined with industrial facilities and garbage dumps, whose wastes went right into the water; raw sewage entered the water without treatment (in the UWS!). Water quality was poor, and fish and bird populations were small.

After passage of the Clean Water Act, a slow, but remarkable transformation occurred - sewage plants were built and water quality improved. Fish diversity and numbers increased, birds returned in impressive numbers, and even charismatic whales returned (you can go whale watching from Brooklyn!) Marshes, (previously filled in for development) and oysters are being restored. Garbage dumps have closed and turned into parks. Public access all over the estuary has increased enormously in the form of walkways and parks. Because of this amazing recovery, our waters have been designated a "Hope Spot" by the organization "Mission Blue."

Course: **YOUNG BEETHOVEN**
Subject: Unlicked Bear
Presenters: Larry Shapiro, Arlene Hajinlian
Room: Auditorium
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

In our first class, we will introduce Ludwig van Beethoven, the unruly youth also known as "The Unlicked Bear," who some music lovers in Bonn predicted would become the next Mozart. We'll consider the early, audible evidence that he would become, not the next Mozart, but a transformational figure whose music still excites and enlightens listeners 250 years later. We'll consider why his birthplace was crucial to the kind of composer he became. We'll also offer a preview of the remainder of the course.

THURSDAY, FEB 15 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR**
Subject: The Myth of Milk as Superfood
Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Room: 15-17
Format: In person only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Ruth Ward

Milk is tricky to produce - difficult to store - is heavy - bulky - expensive to transport - spoils easily. Moreover, the majority of the world's population **cannot** digest it past childhood.

Yet the US Government has subsidized and regulated the dairy industry since the 1930s, thus producing an oversupply of milk. And in 2021 we had 1.4 billion pounds of surplus government cheese stockpiled.

THURSDAY, FEB 15 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE**
Subject: Introduction to Pragmatism
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen**
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

This term, Explorations in Philosophy & Literature will concentrate on the philosophical tradition of pragmatism which has had many important leaders including William James, John Dewey, and Richard Rorty. Our first session will focus on the key characteristics and history of this philosophical tradition. Our main reading will be an introductory essay by Richard Rorty and we will also look at two brief articles on the history of philosophical pragmatism. Readings will be distributed in advance through QuestBusiness. The discussion leader will summarize the key points of the readings to allow participation by members who have not read in advance.

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In person only (**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 "weird" 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, FEB 15 @ 2:25 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In person only
Room: Gather by elevator on 7th floor
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann**

We will head south on our fortnightly walk toward the Battery - then along the Hudson River ending up at a "rest stop" for glass wine, cuppa soup, socialization. It's up to you how far you walk - lots of transportation options in Oculus Train station.

No signups, no prior commitment - just serendipity, community, and a healthy heart. Great way to end a week at Quest.

CULTUREQUEST

Museum of Modern Art
Picasso in Fontainebleau

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

THIS TOUR IS SOLD OUT!