

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 19 - 22, 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 19

Quest is Closed for Presidents Day

TUESDAY, FEB 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
Subject: Henry Kissinger
Presenter: Howard Salik
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener

In the Nixon and Ford administrations, Kissinger came to be admired and hated in equal measure. Notoriously, he believed that foreign affairs ought to be based primarily on the power relationships of a situation, not simply on ethics. He argued that under certain circumstances, America had to protect its national interests, even if that meant repressing other countries' attempts at democracy. Was he a latter-day Machiavelli?

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Subject: Two New Essays
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 new essays: (1) "The Quiet Revolution of the Sabbath" by Casey Cep (2023) and (2) "Zola Understood Our Lust for Shopping" by Agnes Callard (2023). Casey Cep is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*. Agnes Callard is a prominent and provocative professor of philosophy at The University of Chicago. 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 20 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Les Fauves

Le fauvisme est le style des Fauves, un groupe d'artistes modernes du début du XXe siècle dont les œuvres mettaient l'accent sur les qualités tactiles et les couleurs fortes par rapport aux valeurs réalistes des impressionnistes. Rejoignez-nous pour découvrir le travail de quelques fauvistes et pour discuter de nos propres chefs-d'œuvre d'enfance. Ruth Ward va mener le groupe.

The Fauves

Fauvism is the style of the Fauves, a group of early 20th-century modern artists whose works emphasized tactile qualities and strong colors over the realistic values of the Impressionists. Join us to explore the work of some Fauvists and to discuss our own childhood masterpieces. Ruth Ward will lead the group.

TUESDAY, FEB 20 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK
Subject: Billy Joel
Presenters: Ruth Ward
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Billy Joel ranks as one of the most popular and respected entertainers of our lifetime. Songwriter, singer, and musician, he has been rated the sixth best-selling U.S. recording artist and the fourth best-selling U.S. solo artist with over 160 million records sold worldwide. Songs like “*Uptown Girl*,” “*The Longest Time*,” and “*Just the Way You Are*” have acted as personal and cultural points of reference for millions of people across five decades from the 1970s to the present. Come to hear and sing along, if the spirit moves you, to a medley of songs that have punctuated the still unfolding life of one of New York’s most prolific and likeable native sons.

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Subject: The Sky Above Me
Presenter: Michael Hamburg

Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Vickie Costa
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

So, I thought that for this presentation I would explore territory a bit closer to home. For this you do not need fancy equipment nor need to travel to far-off lands. And there are times when you don't even have to lose sleep standing in the cold dark of night. There are many wonderful phenomena that you can view just by looking upward towards the sky. In this presentation, we will explore and discuss some of the spectacles visible in *both* the daytime and nighttime skies without the need for anything but your own eyes.

In the **night sky** we will see images of and learn the processes behind meteors, auroras, and phases of the Moon (including lunar eclipses). In the **day sky** we will see images of eclipses of the Sun, clouds, rainbows, and sun dogs. In the **anytime sky** we will take a look at lightning, halos, fogbows, and explore the conditions that create them. Some of the images I created on my own travels.

As always, there will be pauses during which questions and comments are welcomed.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Setting the Mood
Presenter: Donna K. Ramer
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

Establishing the mood is a salient way to engage and keep the reader's attention. In this class we will look at what mood is, how it influences your story, and helps create pacing and foreshadowing so your readers experience and anticipate what you want them to.

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: A Very Memorable Room. And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Salvador Dali! Was He a Genius or a Madman?
Presenter: Sandy Gordon
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

Dali himself said, "The only difference between me and a madman, is that I am not mad". Despite his controversial personal and public life, replete with shock and surprise, his love of fame and money, his works continue to inspire, challenge and confound the viewers. Dali is one of the most innovative and influential artists of the 20th century. The critic, A. Reynolds Morse said, "Time will prove Dali to be the 20th century's greatest painter." His time has come!

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

The class will read aloud and discuss the play beginning Act I, scene 2. We will discover that our heroine, Imogen, is grieving the departure of her husband, Posthumous, who has been banished and has departed for Rome. In Rome, he encounters Iachimo, an Italian gentleman who maneuvers him into placing a bet on Imogen's chastity. The plot thickens!

WEDNESDAY, FEB 21 @ NOON – 12:50

Course: **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**
Room: 19
Format: In Person Only
Coordinators: **Susan Keohane (co-chair)**, **Renee Woloshin (co-chair)**, John Davis, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso

This meeting, the first in a series of four this semester, will provide new members with valuable information about various aspects of the Quest experience.

At the meeting you will meet:

- Roy Clary, Coordinator of Acting Workshop, Great Plays and Shakespeare courses
- Helen Saffran, Coordinator of Creative Writing Workshop
- Judy Winn, Coordinator of Poets' Workshop
- Gale Spitalnik, Chair of the Social Committee and Co-chair of the Caring Committee.

Who is invited: Spring 2024 and Fall 2023 new members.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 21 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films: 1. *The Holdovers* (Arlynn Greenbaum)
 2. *Zone of Interest* (Paul Adler)
 3. *Poor Things* (Howard Salik)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

All Three Films Are Strong Oscar Contenders

The Holdovers (current 2023) Reviewed by Arlynn Greenbaum (R/T: 96/91 Streaming: Prime). A cranky history teacher (Paul Giamatti) at a remote prep school must remain on campus over the holidays with a troubled student with nowhere to go. (2 hrs. 13 min.)

Zone Of Interest (current 2023) Reviewed by Paul Adler (R/T: 93/79 Streaming: Vudu). The commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolph Hoes, and his wife Hedwig (Sandra Huller) strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden just over the wall from the gas chambers. (1 hr. 46 min.)

Poor Things (current 2023) Reviewed by Howard Salik (R/T: 92/79 In Theater Only). A young woman (Emma Stone) was brought back to life by the brilliant scientist Dr. Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe). Bella is eager to learn. Bella runs off with Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo), a slick and debauched lawyer, on an adventure across continents. (2 hrs. 21 min)

Course: **WOMEN SPIES**
Subject: Women Spies
Speaker: Judy Hampson
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid

Coordinators: Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Steven Chicoine

During World War II, Winston Churchill needed to outwit the Nazis, especially those who had occupied Northern France. He decided to recruit a secret army who could help the French Resistance fighters by spying on the Germans, sabotaging their military operations and generally disrupting their operations. In 1940 he created the SOE, Special Operations Executive, consisting of specially trained men and women. Women were a crucial part of this team. We will focus on their bravery and unique skills.

THURSDAY, FEB 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Can we trust the findings of scientists? – can we use the conclusions of scientific studies with confidence when we need to make decisions about our health, about other life choices, or about public policy? How to decide these questions has been debated among scientists, philosophers of science, and statisticians. This talk will look at some of the most promising answers that have been offered.

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Subject: Tracy Smith: One of America's Top Poets
Presenter: Karen Millard
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

Former U.S. Poet Laureate (2017-19) Tracy K. Smith, has published five distinctly different collections of poetry, receiving the Pulitzer Prize for her 2011 work, *Life On Mars*. In our session we will explore several poems from this award-winning volume that serve as an elegy to her father, an African-American patriot, science fiction enthusiast, and Air Force avionics engineer who eventually became a NASA scientist working on the Hubble Space Telescope. Her poems will enable us to accompany her as she travels the path of

grief and loss while contemplating life as we know it, other worlds and the outer reaches of space.

THURSDAY, FEB 22 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: WATER
Subject: NYC Tap Water
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: 27 (To be Recorded)
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Steve Chicoine

NYC tap water has been called “the champagne of drinking water.” It’s won multiple taste test awards and is credited as the reason NYC bagels and pizza are so delicious. And it’s safer than bottled water (which was shown in a recent paper to have about 230,000 micro- and nano plastics per bottle). In addition to being famously tasty, NYC tap water is a result of impressive feats of engineering. Here, we explore where it comes from, what makes it taste so good, and more secrets. But it wasn’t always this way. Early on, Aaron Burr got involved - and made it worse!

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Stories: 1. *Revelation* (Ted Cohen)
2. *My Oedipus Complex* (Nancy Richardson)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

Stories to read for Thurs, February 22 at 1 PM

1. “Revelation” by Flannery O’Connor Presented by Ted Cohen

Flannery O’Connor (1925 –1964) was an American novelist, short story writer and essayist. She wrote two novels and 31 short stories, as well as reviews and commentaries. before her early death from lupus at age 39. A Southern writer who often wrote in a sardonic Southern Gothic style and relied heavily on regional settings and grotesque characters.

O’Connor’s Complete Stories won the 1972 U.S. National Book Award for Fiction. "Revelation" is a Southern Gothic story about the effect of a revelation to a sinfully proud, self-righteous, middle-aged, middle class, rural, white Southern woman that her confidence in her own Christian salvation is an error. The story was written during the last year of O’Connor’s life, when she knew she was dying from her 14-year battle with lupus.

2. **“My Oedipus Complex” by Frank O’Connor Presented by Nancy Richardson**
Two authors named O’Connor in one class! Frank O’Connor was an Irish author (1903-1966). His best work is considered to be stories where he focuses on the mores of the Catholic middle classes in the decades following Irish independence. “*My Oedipus Complex*”(published 1950) was different but has universal appeal about a child whose cozy relationship with his mother is rudely disturbed by the return of his father, a soldier in World War I. Story has an unusual reputation, being frequently included in collections with widespread recognition outside Ireland, but subject to some disparagement at home for neglecting larger social issues.

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 continue to rehearse its yearend production Potpourri II.

CULTUREQUEST

Our Glorious Underground Art Museum

Friday, March 1 at 11:00 AM
(In-person tour with Bob Reiss)

The original mandate in building the New York Subway included that the subways be “designed, constructed, and maintained with a view to the beauty of their appearance, as well as to their efficiency. MTA Arts & Design is committed to preserving and restoring the original ornament of the system and to commissioning new works that exemplify the principles of vibrant public art, relating directly to the places where they are located and to the community around them. This tour will sample some extraordinary examples found in our wonderful underground art museum.

JOIN US!

This tour is moderate to difficult. There is a fair amount of walking when changing lines, and up and down many staircases. Please consider this before you RSVP. We regret that we will not be able to wait for anyone.

When: Friday, March 1, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM
Please arrive by 10:45 AM

Where: Assembly point will be sent to those with reservations

Cost: Bring your Metro card

Email: bobreiss42@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Lunch: Jack's Wife Freda, 116 8th Ave (16th St). Please indicate whether you will be coming to lunch.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **The tour is limited to the first 20 persons to make their reservation.** We are unable to accept any reservations until NWAQ has been sent to the entire membership. We will have a waitlist.
2. **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.