

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 4 - 7, 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, March 4 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: “Old Friends” by Willie Nelson and Roger Miller (1982)
Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter, Victor Brener

For this session, the Rock and Roots course goes country featuring an album showcasing the legendary Willie Nelson and Roger Miller. Nelson is a true musical icon who has been writing and recording songs since the 1950s, while Miller was a prolific songwriter who topped both the country and pop charts in 1965 with his classic “King of the Road.”

Nelson and Miller were close friends for decades, but the only time the pair recorded together was for this album, released in 1982. Most of the songs on the LP were written by Miller, with some, such as “Old Friends” reflecting Miller and Nelson’s strong friendship over the years. Miller died far too early at age 56, while Willie Nelson continues to perform and record as he approaches his 91st birthday this spring.

Course: **ALL THE KING’S MEN**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

After we finish discussion of Chapter 2, we go on to Chapters 3 and 4, the reading assignment for the week. In Chapter 3, Jack reflects on his family and childhood. How did his parents meet and what happened to his father? What do we learn about the conflicted relationship Jack has with his mother? During a visit to her in 1933, he is confronted with the difference between the conservative, wealthy residents there and the pressured, cynical life he leads as Willie Stark’s trusted aide. Why does Stark save Byram White who has committed a crime from impeachment, and how does he manage the threat of his own impeachment? The story of Cass Mastern in Chapter 4 seems to have no relation to the plot and people in the book, but we will see how its themes relate to critical changes in Jack’s character.

MONDAY, March 4 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY**
Subject: Pub Trivia Quiz

Presenters: Maureen Berman & Arlynn Greenbaum
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**
Tech Support: **Sheryl Harawitz**

What's your trivia IQ? Match wits with your fellow Questers at a fun-filled Pub Trivia Quiz.

We will break into teams to answer questions on a variety of topics ranging from general knowledge to geography to popular culture. Prizes for the winning team and don't forget to bring your lunch.

MONDAY, March 4 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?**
Subject: The Implications of AI & Technology on Law
Presenters Stephen Gillers and Barbara Gillers
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Pete Weis

NYU Professor Emeritus Stephen Gillers and NYU Professor Barbara Gillers, both of whom practice and teach legal ethics, will be our special guests. They will discuss the dangers and advantages when lawyers use artificial intelligence.

AI dangers include the risk of plagiarism, copyright infringement and faulty outputs. Another danger occurs when legal work is redirected to less expensive, non-lawyers. Can a bot reason legally? On the other hand, AI can reduce legal research costs, including shifting work to paralegals and legal technicians.

Recent estimates have indicated that technology could eliminate 13% of legal jobs. Today that percentage would likely be higher.

Course: **DAISY MILLER & WASHINGTON SQUARE**
Book: Washington Square
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Patricia Geehr**, Susan Keohane
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz, Steven Chicoine

We will discuss the first six chapters (pp 65 to 95) of Washington Square, by Henry James, published in 1881. The novel first appeared in serial form in Harper's magazine.

Note, as you read, the way James piques your interest at the end of each chapter to encourage you to continue reading.

In the opening six chapters, James weaves a careful and detailed description of the main characters: Catherine, the protagonist, Dr. Austin Sloper, her father, and Lavinia Penniman, her aunt. Set in the mid-1880s, James establishes the theme of a society of class, wealth, and social status, and foreshadows the psychological conflicts they present.

TUESDAY, March 5 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
Subject: Brazil: A Rising Global Power
Presenters Sandy Frank & Glenn Johnston (via Zoom) and Sandy Gordon (in person)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener

Brazil is a complex, vital South American giant, perhaps destined to be one of the world's premier economic powers by the year 2030. A country often ignored and underappreciated, Brazil is the world's fifth largest country, seventh largest economy, and fourth most populous democracy. Brazil abounds with natural resources, extensive farmland, water, oil and gas, and many minerals including iron ore, tin, gold, and diamonds. The promise of agriculture is so great that it could be the planet's breadbasket. It leads the world in some of the most profitable exports, a world giant in mining and manufacturing, and it has a strong and rapidly growing service sector. Brazil has finally begun to live up to its potential but faces important challenges before it becomes a nation of substantial global political and economic significance.

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
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 consider two new essays:

"How The No-Kill Movement Betrays Its Name," by Jonathan Franzen and "The Violence of The Rams," by David Sedaris. Larry Shapiro will send out copies via Quest Business.

TUESDAY, March 5 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

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

Nos pires expériences

Le plan est de discuter, par paires, de l'une des questions suivantes :

- Quelle a été votre pire expérience de voyage ?
- Quelle a été votre pire expérience de travail ?
- Quelle a été votre pire expérience alimentaire ?

À la suite de ces dialogues les participants seront invités à partager leurs histoires avec le groupe plus grand.

Our Worst Experiences

The plan is to discuss, in pairs, one of the following questions:

- What was your worst travel experience?
- What was your worst job experience?
- What was your worst eating experience?

Following these dialogues participants will be invited to share their stories with the larger group.

TUESDAY, March 5 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK
Subject: Crosby Stills Nash & Young
Presenters: Wayne Cotter at 25 Broadway & Bob Gottfried Via Zoom
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Michael Wellner

Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Come to Folk Music and Mellow Rock to learn about the lives of David Crosby, Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Neil Young. Listen and sing along to their hit songs including Suite Judy Blue Eyes, Marrakesh Express, Woodstock, Our House and many more of their hits.

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Subject: The Electromagnetic Spectrum (All The Light We Can(not) See)
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Vickie Costa
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

In this presentation we will explore the nature of light and learn that most of the light in the universe is invisible to the human eye. We will explore the familiar and not-so-familiar applications of this form of energy. For a teaser:

Some Facts about Light

- Only light travels as fast as light (186,000 MPS) and has no mass.
- White light is a mixture of all the colors.
- Most of the light in the universe is invisible to human eyes.
- The further we look into the universe, the older the light is we see.

As always questions and comments are welcome.

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP
Subject: What is Descriptive Writing?
Presenter: Judy Hampson
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

The primary purpose of descriptive writing is to describe a person, place or thing so that a picture is formed in the reader's mind. Using all five senses is one way to capture an image. Figurative language is a way to illuminate description. We will look at several ways to do this. Feel free to bring your own ideas, or present techniques that have worked for you.

As always, we'll start with a ten-minute exercise using a prompt and leave time to discuss our prose, poetry or other 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 Favorite Dessert. And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

WEDNESDAY, March 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Debt Relief as Public Policy: Business Bankruptcy in the U.S
Presenter: Babette Ceccotti
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

With increasing frequency in recent times, large companies--many that are familiar to us -- make the headlines with announcements that they have gone into bankruptcy. What does this mean, exactly? And, while many do fail and go out of business, many others have survived using bankruptcy to do battle -- with changing industry conditions, with employees and consumers harmed by dangerous products, with retirees and labor unions. Still others are sent into bankruptcy by their private equity owners for -- shockingly! -- having too much debt. And others really want to use the bankruptcy system, only to have the courts kick them out (looking at you, Johnson & Johnson). We will look at how debt relief has taken on many important public policy questions.

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

Beginning with Act I, scene 6, the class will read aloud and discuss the play through Act 2, scene 4. Character and plot development will be discussed. Common themes and elements characteristic of late Shakespearean romances will continue to be noted. We will discover if the Princess, Imogen, can be seduced by the Italian, Iachimo, and if her husband, Posthumous, while banished to Italy, has been true to her. There will be a reading from Othello and comparisons between Iago and Iachimo will be discussed.

WEDNESDAY, March 6 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: ITALIAN CONVERSATION
Room: 27
Format: In-person only
Coordinator: Richard Elrauch

This is a group for people interested in Italian. That's the only requirement. We examine/practice the basics – structure, vocabulary, pronunciation – in an informal way with the help of written material and elementary dialogues. Our process is decidedly lacking in academic rigor, and spontaneous observations, queries, and interjections are encouraged. Linguistic fun is guaranteed.

WEDNESDAY, March 6 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC
Films
1. *The Taste of Things* (Karen Levin)
2.. *Grand Illusion* (Julia Hirsch)
3. *The Color Purple* (Estelle Selzer)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Bob Reiss

**Enjoy the creation of French dishes for the most illustrious Chefs.
A Jean Renoir anti-war classic and
a musical version of The Color Purple.**

The Taste Of Things (*La Passion de Dodin Bouffant*) 2023. Reviewed by Karen Levin (R/T: 97). The relationship between Eugenie (Juliette Binoche), an esteemed cook, and Dodin, the gourmet she has worked for over the last 20 years. Growing fonder of one another, their bond turns into a romance, giving rise to delicious dishes that impress even the world's most eminent chefs. Theater (2 hrs. 25 min)

Grand Illusion 1937 Reviewed by Julia Hirsch (R/T:97/92). During WWI, two French soldiers were captured and imprisoned in a German P.O.W. camp. Several escape attempts follow until they are eventually sent to a seemingly inescapable fortress. (1hr 53 min)

The Color Purple 2023 Reviewed by Estelle Selzer (R/T: 88/95). A decades-spanning tale of love and resilience and one woman's journey to independence. Celie faces many hardships in her life but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope. Streaming: MAX (free to subscribers) Prime, Apple, Vudu (2 hr. 20 min.)

Course: **WOMEN SPIES**
Subject: Women Spies in World War II
Speaker: Judy Hampson
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Penelope Pi-Sunyer**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Steven Chicoine

MI6 and the Special Operations Executive had different approaches to spying in the 1940's, sometimes working against each other, to the detriment of the British war effort. We will examine their different relationships with the French Resistance. What motivated women to leave their homes and families and in some cases, sacrifice their lives, by joining the SOE during World War II? In this presentation we will follow Odette Samson's journey from Amiens, a town devastated during WWI, to the Normandy coast and then to London. There she was persuaded to train to be an agent for the SOE, and we learn the consequences of that decision.

THURSDAY, March 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Congratulations, you are a carbon-based lifeform! So are we all. Carbon-based compounds form the basis of all known life on Earth.

This presentation starts with an introduction to materials made up of pure carbon, from soot to diamonds to buckyballs *and beyond*. It then continues with a look into how carbon bonds with other elements making up all flora and fauna as we find them in our environment and in ourselves, down to our DNA.

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Subject: Ocean Vuong
Presenters: Lynnel Garabedian and Ellen Rittberg
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

Ocean Vuong, 32, and his family fled Vietnam for America when he was two years old. Considered to be one of the best young contemporary poets, he struggled with poverty, abuse and learning to read. Enthralled by the sound and rhythms of words, he began writing poetry. His first collection of poems, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*, won a major competition and was widely praised, and subsequently he has won numerous prestigious poetry awards. His recent novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, received wide acclaim.

THURSDAY, March 7 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: WATER
Subject: A Poet's View of Water
Presenter: Julia Hirsch
Room: 27 (To be Recorded)
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Steve Chicoine

Dover is not only the name of some towns in the northeast of the United States but a coastal town in the south-east of England. It is famous for its White Cliffs -- sung about by Vera Lynn during World War II -- and offers a sweeping view of the English Channel and the French coast. It is also the site of Matthew Arnold's poem, *Dover Beach*, in which water is at once a physical element and a powerful metaphor for life itself. Matthew Arnold (1822-1858) was a major intellectual figure of the Victorian age (1837-1901) and deeply interested in culture and society,

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Stories: 1. The Let Out (Arlynn Greenbaum)
2. Edgia's Revenge (Shirley Ranz)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

Stories to read for Thurs, March 7 at 1:00 PM

1. *The Let-Out* by Jamel Brinkley Presented by Arlynn Greenbaum

Jamel Brinkley was raised in Brooklyn and the Bronx and most of his stories are set there. He graduated from Columbia University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he teaches. He has published two highly acclaimed short story collections, *A LUCKY MAN* and *WITNESS*. We will discuss "The Let-Out" from *WITNESS*. It is about a young man at a museum event who gets picked up by an older woman who knew his father. Thought-provoking and ironic, it gives us a glimpse of Jamel Brin

2. *Edgia's Revenge* by Chava Rosenfarb Presented by Shirley Ranz

Chava Rosenfarb (1923-2011) was one of the most prominent Yiddish novelists of the second half of the 20th century. Born in Poland in 1923, she survived the Lodz ghetto, Auschwitz, and Bergen-Belsen, immigrating to Canada in 1950 and settling in Montreal. She received numerous literary prizes, including the Itzik Manger Prize, Israel's highest award for Yiddish literature. In the early 1980s she also began to publish a series of short stories about the lives of holocaust survivors in Canada. One of these stories, *Edgia's Revenge*, deals with a tangled relationship of gratitude and resentment, which began during the holocaust and plays itself out against the backdrop of Montreal.

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 year-end production: Potpourri II - which will be presented on May 15 to all Quest members.

CULTUREQUEST
Virtual Tour

Jewish Museum
March 15th, 11:00 AM

Arte! Arte! Arte!
Marta Minujin
Argentina's Answer to Andy Warhol

Colorful, imaginative, energetic, vibrant, octogenarian Marta Minujin is the Taylor Swift of South America. You may have walked through her huge installation "Sculpture of Dreams" last November in Times Square. Marta, a Buenos Aires native, born to a prominent Russian-Jewish family that came to Argentina in the 1890s. Ms. Minujin began her career in the late 1950s. During the 1960s, she experimented with mattresses, creating soft sculptures, painted in striped patterns with fluorescent colors, which became her signature style. Marta claims "Half of your life takes place on a mattress," you are born, die, you make love on a mattress, "that's why mattresses are important." She started with mattresses in the sixties, for 40 years, and then started again in 2007.

She has also drawn attention to her Jewish identity and the history of the war and the Holocaust in her work. You may recall "The Parthenon" (1983), a monumental artwork of books that protests attempts to censor and abandon books that focus on Jewish, black, queer, and trans experiences. The exhibit showcases works from the artist's archives along with private and institutional collections, sculptures, fluorescent large-scale paintings, psychedelic drawings, performances, and rarely seen photographs.

If you plan to attend this virtual tour, please email dena@kerren.us, and I will send you a password.