

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 18 - 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, MARCH 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Joni Mitchell's *Blue* (1971)
Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter, Victor Brener

Blue has been widely regarded by music critics as one of the greatest albums of all time. In 2000, The New York Times chose *Blue* as one of the 25 albums that represented turning points and pinnacles in 20th-century popular music. The Times described it as*a restless woman travels, falls in love and longs for what she left behind as she moves on*. Critics have praised the cohesion of Mitchell's songwriting, compositions and vocals which feature simple accompaniments on piano, guitar and Appalachian dulcimer. *Blue* is sad, funny, poetic, revelatory and often achingly candid.

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

Chapters 5 and 6 will be discussed. Willie Stark has ordered Jack Burden to dig up "dirt" on Judge Irwin. Jack accepts this assignment even though Judge Irwin had been an affectionate second father to him. What does Jack hope to find? His investigation involves visits to his father, the "Scholarly Attorney," his close childhood friends, Anne and Adam Stanton, and an old lady in another city who gives him shocking information. Chapter 6 is mostly about Willie's plan to build a huge modern hospital. He sends Jack to persuade Adam to take the position of hospital director, but Adam loathes Willie's policies and refuses. Why does he change his mind? How does Willie justify his practices to Adam?

MONDAY, MARCH 18 @ Noon

Quest members will be enjoying **Green** sweets in the lunchroom for St. Patrick's Day compliments of the Social Committee.

MONDAY, MARCH 18 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY**
Subject: Music of the Heart
Presenters: Frank Montaturo, Frieda Lipp, Peter Dichter
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**
Tech Support: **Sheryl Harawitz**

Come one, come all - bring your lunch and enjoy a midday musical interlude at "Music of the Heart." Frieda and Peter will be presenting pieces that resonate emotionally for them - and perhaps they will for you too.

MONDAY MARCH 18 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?**
Subject: Is Artificial Intelligence Intelligent?
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner**
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner, Pete Weis**

Futurists insist that AI will soon eclipse the capacities of the most gifted human mind. What hope do we have against superintelligent machines? On the other hand, some pundits assert that we aren't really on the path to developing intelligent machines at all. In fact, they claim we don't even know where that path might be. This session will explore whether AI currently is on the road to reaching and surpassing human intelligence.

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**

Chapter seven opens with Dr. Sloper, not interfering, but amused in regard to Catherine's romantic prospects and curious to see if she might really be loved for her moral worth. Things change after he meets with Catherine's suitor, Morris Townsend, and pronounces him to be without the soul of a gentleman, to have a vulgar nature and to be too familiar. Catherine struggles with her loyalty to her father and her defense of Townsend in the

pursuit of her own happiness. This struggle results in the dramatic confrontation between Catherine and her father after she announces her engagement.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

April 6, 2024, will mark the 30th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. Tutsis and Hutus had lived peacefully for centuries in Rwanda before the arrival of European powers in 1885. First the Germans, and after WW2, the Belgians, ruled as colonial overlords. We will look back at the history of this beautiful country, nestled up in the hills of Africa's great lakes region, and the events that led up to the horrific killings of over 800,000 people in just under 100 days in 1994. Despite pleas for help, the US, France, Belgium and the UN, looked the other way, and avoided getting involved. Paul Kagame, leader of the RPF military forces that put an end to the massacres, has led Rwanda ever since. His stated goal is to turn his country into the Singapore of Africa by 2050 - can he succeed, given his autocratic style?

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC 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 consider two new essays:

1. Excerpt from the chapter on Consumption from the 2000 book *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There* by David Brooks,
2. "The Radical Moral Implications of Luck in Human Life" by David Roberts on the Vox website (2020).

Copies will be circulated in advance by Steve Allen via QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

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

Comment nous avons surmonté des situations difficiles

Tout d'abord, nous examinerons le tableau de l'artiste pop Roy Lichtenstein intitulé « La fille au ruban ». Ensuite, en petits groupes, nous parlerons de la manière dont nous avons surmonté avec courage —ou autrement— des situations difficiles dans notre vie personnelle. Ruth Ward animera le groupe.

How we have gotten over difficult situations

First, we will look at the painting by pop artist Roy Lichtenstein called "The Girl with the Ribbon." Then in small groups we'll talk about how we bravely—or—otherwise got over difficult situations in our personal lives. Ruth Ward will lead the group.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK
Subject: The Weavers
Presenters: Bob Gottfried
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

The Weavers were formed in November 1948 by Lee Hays, Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, and Fred Hellerman. They were extremely popular in the 1950's, but due to their leftist political beliefs they were blacklisted and barred from performing. Come to Folk Music and Mellow Rock to learn about their history and listen to and sing along to their music. Some of their hit recordings were Good Night Irene, If I had a Hammer, The Rock Island Line, This Land is Your Land, Tzena, Tzena, Tzena, and Darling Cory.

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Subject: The Aliens of the Imagination
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 take a slight detour from the route of hard science and explore the road of the imagination. Far before we had the know-how to probe for the possibility of alien life, humanity generally assumed the Universe teemed with creatures of all descriptions. Some were benign and even more advanced than us; some were monstrous and bent on humanity's enslavement or utter destruction. Most reflected what concerned society at that time.

We will begin with a brief history of the literature of ancient cultures, move through to the Age of Enlightenment, and arrive at the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Then the real fun begins as we embrace audio and video clips from Hollywood and television. Some seem silly in today's enlightened era; others might be prophetic. We will have the opportunity to discuss why aliens so enthrall us.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Creating a Setting
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

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. In this class, we'll focus on creating a setting, using the tools of descriptive writing to take our reader there. 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 My Kitchen. And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: The Election of 1876
Presenter: Toni Dickenson

Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

A disputed election, a constitutional crisis, polarization, these are terms that are often used to describe our current political environment. But our current partisan chaos is not just a recent phenomenon, rather it's a recurring one in this nation's fraught political history. In 1876 an even more contentious, disputed presidential election took place, amid widespread fraud, intimidation, lost ballots and voter suppression. There were Congressional maneuvers to challenge the votes of state electors and threats of an armed march on the capitol to overthrow the election results. To resolve the extreme partisan hostility a cynical compromise was eventually reached – one that allowed the party that lost the popular vote to stay in office by agreeing to the demands for “States Rights” and turning a blind eye to the long, inhumane descent into segregation and disenfranchisement of African Americans in the southern United States.

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

Ellie Schaffer will read passages from "Shakespeare for All" by Marjorie Garber, a professor of English at Harvard. Ellie will discuss Cymbeline as a British “myth,” highlighting its connections with James I's personal story and his efforts to unite England. She will also explore the play as a family romance, embodying the fantasy of being freed from one's family and discovering that one is a member of a family of higher standing. Cymbeline, especially its heroine, Imogen, was much admired in English theater and literature of the period. Examples and references will be noted and explored.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 @ 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 20 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films 1. The Teacher's Lounge (Hedy Shulman)
2. American Fiction (Marian Friedmann)
3. Society of the Snow (Vince Grosso)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Today:

**From A German Teacher's Classroom To
Outrageous Black Stereotypes To
The Grim, Most Inaccessible
South American Andes!**

"The Teacher's Lounge" 2023 (German) Reviewed by Hedy Shulman (R/T: 97)
Streaming: Amazon, Apple, Vudu (now Fandango st Home). A young woman starts her first job as a math and sports teacher at a high school. She is known among the staff for her idealism and dedication. However, a string of thefts takes place at the school, prompting her to investigate on her own. Her actions lead to a crisis that may put her career in jeopardy. 1 hr. 34min

"American Fiction" 2023 Reviewed by Marian Friedmann (R/T: 93/96) 2023
Streaming: Prime, Apple, Vudu (now Fandango at Home). Monk is a serious author who is feeling frustrated with the establishment. He is fed up with the way the publishing industry profits from false depictions of the Black experience. Monk writes his own outlandish "Black" book but uses a bizarre pen name. The decision propels him into the heart of hypocrisy and the very madness he claims to disdain. 1 hr. 57 min

"Society Of The Snow" 2023 Spanish/Uruguay Reviewed by Vince Grosso (R/T: 90/85)
Streaming: Netflix. In 1972, a Uruguayan Air Force Flight chartered to fly a rugby team to Chile, crashed in the heart of the Andes, resulting in the survival of 29 of its 45 passengers who were trapped in one of the most hostile and inaccessible environments on the planet, having to resort to extreme measures to stay alive. 2 Hr 24 min.

Course: **WOMEN SPIES**
Subject: Virginia Hall: Super Spy
Speaker Jennnifer Jolly
Room: 15-17

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

Virginia Hall is said to be the spy that no one has ever heard of and yet she was one of the most important spies in World War 2. Born in Baltimore, she worked with the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in France for the British and then with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) for the Americans. Her courage, daring and skills in organizing large forces in the French resistance were unmatched. The Nazi's hated her and were determined to catch her, torture her, and kill her. Somehow, she escaped even climbing over the Pyrenees into Spain with her torturous wooden leg. She never talked about her experiences and it's not until 2019 that she finally began to gain attention and people could read about this amazing woman. We'll discuss her extraordinary achievements and how, against all odds, she managed to survive.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS
Subject: The "Spanish" Flu Epidemic
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg

I dare say that we all remember the events of just four years ago, when an infectious disease that we've come to call Covid-19 suddenly emerged, seemingly from China, and our city and country virtually shut down. When the panic had finally subsided, we recorded something like one million deaths in the United States (less than a third of one-percent of our total population). In today's class we are going to go back a little more than a hundred years, to take a look at the "Spanish" Flu epidemic of 1918, which killed proportionately twice as many people in the U.S. as Covid-19 (and perhaps as many as a hundred million around the world). Why? Well, we can blame it on the scientists! Come and learn what happened, and what the scientists got wrong!

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Subject: Naomi Shihab Nye
Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

Naomi Shihab Nye calls herself “a wandering poet.” Her travels have enabled her to observe the wonder and beauty of our country and the world, and her poems are like snapshots of the people she has met and places she has visited.

As a daughter of a Palestinian father and American mother, she views her shared heritage as a unique platform to explore the theme of similarities and differences between cultures. Her poetry focuses on our shared humanity, Poet Edward Hirsch described her as “one of our necessary poets of hopefulness.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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

During the 18th and 19th centuries, many medics subscribed to the **miasma** theory of disease, according to which bad air (*mal'aria* in Italian) could cause ailments. But, as we shall see, it's bad water that is the biggest public health matter.

Humans have been passing on many of their diseases through lack of sanitation or by insects that breed in the water and feed on humans. Some parasites also breed, or have an intermediate stage, in water. Other animals also suffer from the same problems. Some of these parasites have evolved to use rather clever and nefarious means to replicate their species. Of all the efforts to reduce disease, sanitation has been the most effective (and cost-effective) in improving human health.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. A Life In America (Karen Millard)
2. The Wind (Steve Allen)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

1. A Life in America” by Sindya Baanool Presented by: Karen Millard
Sindya Baano’s premier collection of short stories, *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere*, was published in 2022 and was the winner of the New American Voices Award. The book’s introductory story, *Malliga Homes* was singled out for the O. Henry Prize. Yet all of her

eight debut stories artfully explore, each in its own unique way, the intimate nature of the South Indian immigrant experience. Her writer's craft enables us to consider how the paths of those who leave and those who are left behind, are never simple. In this class, we will discuss, "*A Life in America*," and examine how a very dedicated and extremely shocked professor reacts to accusations that he exploited his graduate students.

2. "*The Wind*" by Lauren Groff

Presented by: **Steve Allen**

Lauren Groff (born in 1978) was born and grew up in Cooperstown, NY, and lives in Gainesville, Florida. She is the author of five novels and two short story collections. Her novels have been shortlisted for many major prizes and her short story collection "*Florida*" was the winner of the Story Prize for best short story collection of 2018/19 and was a finalist for the 2018 National Book Award for Fiction. Her short stories have frequently been selected for the Pen/O. Henry Best Short Stories of the year and she was the editor of the 2023 Pen/O'Hare collection. "*The Wind*" was published in the New Yorker in 2021.

Note:

- 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,
- If you have any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye9@gmail.com.

Course: **ACTING WORKSHOP II**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Donna Kerren
Tech Support: None Assigned

The class will continue to rehearse Potpourri II which will be presented to Quest members on May 15.

CULTUREQUEST

Metropolitan Opera Working Rehearsal Friday, March 22nd

***La Rondine* by Giacomo Puccini**

Puccini's bittersweet love story makes a rare Met appearance, with soprano Angel Blue starring as the French courtesan Magda, opposite tenor Jonathan Tetelman in his highly anticipated company debut as Ruggero, an idealistic young man who offers her an alternative to her life of excess. The Art Deco-inspired staging transports audiences from the heart of Parisian nightlife to a dreamy vision of the French Riviera.

WHEN: Friday March 22nd, 10:30 AM until 1:00 PM

WHERE: The Metropolitan Opera House

We will meet at 10:00 AM to get your ticket.

COST: No charge. Limited to 35 participants

TO RESERVE: Send an email ASAP to Estelle Selzer at eselzer19@gmail.com.
Please put *La Rondine* in the subject line of your email.

NOTE: Priority will be given to those members who have not attended the fall Met Opera event with CultureQuest.

Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on future waitlists, only, when they **sign up to attend live CultureQuest events**.
Thank you for your understanding.