

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 1 - 4, 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, April 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Fela Kuti and Africa 70's *Zombie*. (1976)
Presenter: Steve Koenig
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter, Victor Brener

Fela Kuti is the originator and king of Nigerian Afrobeat (not to be confused with the trendy-pop “Afrobeats” heard on the Grammy’s this year). Yoruba and Igbo music and highlife combine with American funk, jazz, and soul influences, with a focus on chanted vocals, complex intersecting rhythms, and percussion.

Fela’s music is easily accessible and dance-worthy. If James Brown's stuff is Afro-American, [Fela’s] is “American-African.” wrote critic Robert Christgau.

The studio album *Zombie* was a scathing attack on Nigerian soldiers using the zombie metaphor to describe the methods of the Nigerian military. The album was a smash hit with the people and infuriated the government. Kuti was severely beaten, and his elderly mother was thrown from a window, causing fatal injuries.

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

The reading assignment is Chapters 7 and 8. After Jack finds out about the affair between Anne and Willie, he flees to California where he succumbs to another Great Sleep. He remembers the idyllic summer when he was twenty-one, and he and Anne were in love, and his unhappy marriage to Lois. What new view of life and people does he adopt? Many dramatic events take place in Chapter 8. How does Adam respond to an attempt to bribe him? How does a crisis concerning Tom Stark relate to Jack’s confrontation of Judge Irwin about his past and what consequences follow from this exchange? How does Jack feel about the shocking news from his mother? Think about the character of Lucy Stark. What personal qualities does she consistently display in the story?

MONDAY, April 1 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY**
Subject: It's Time For "Name the Tune"– Again!
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**
Tech Support: **Sheryl Harawitz**

You know the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces the song. Many iconic American Songbook and standard tunes begin with a verse, but most performers and recordings omit it. These intros are lovely and deserve attention.

I will play the introductory verse and stop the recording. You try to guess the song. I will then play the song using video or audio. Lyrics are posted so please sing along! Come and enjoy - and help make beautiful music!

MONDAY, April 1 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?**
Subject: AI in Entertainment
Presenter: Tracey Lee
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner**
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner, Pete Weis**

To quote Arthur C. Clarke, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

This week we will discuss the technology, the magic and the new business reality of generative Artificial Intelligence in the field of entertainment. We'll demystify the applicable technology framework, demonstrate some exciting current AI software applications and discuss how Generative AI will change the business of entertainment, including reviewing to copyright, contract and employment implications. Come join us for an informative and "entertaining" session on AI in entertainment.

Course: **DAISY MILLER & WASHINGTON SQUARE**
Book: *Washington Square* by Henry James
Chapters: 12 -18 (pp 119 to 154)
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Patricia Geehr**, Susan Keohane
Tech Support: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Steven Chicoine

In chapter 12, Dr. Sloper immediately confronts Morris Townsend by telling him that he disapproves of Catherine's engagement to him. Townsend strongly stands up to the doctor, defending himself, and threatening to defy the doctor by not giving Catherine up. Seeking a confirmation of his appraisal of Townsend, Dr. Sloper meets with his sister, Mrs. Montgomery, "to find out what sort of a young man her brother is."

TUESDAY, April 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
Subject: The Immigration Crisis at America's Borders
Presenter: Brian Bosworth
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener

"It's an invasion!", "Biden has thrown open the borders!", "America is at a breaking point!", "Migrants are flooding America with Fentanyl" Of course, these headlines exaggerate – sometimes wildly exaggerate – the situation at our southwest border. But, behind these wild claims are disquieting trends. Moreover, the majority of Americans believe that the huge number of new arrivals into this country is a dangerous development. They think the situation is out of control – and they overwhelmingly blame the federal government for it. This single issue could well cost Biden the election. What then are the facts? How has this happened? Do we think there's a way out?

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 a new essay, "The Golden Age of American Jews is Ending" by Franklin Foer in The Atlantic (2024). Copies will be circulated in advance by Steve Allen via QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, April 2 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

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

Une Visite à Versailles

Nous visiterons le château et les jardins à Versailles - nous discuterons un peu de son histoire, la vie au château - et nous regarderons quelques-unes de ses attractions les plus importantes. Certains d'entre vous ont peut-être déjà visité Versailles, et on vous encourage à nous joindre et à partager des souvenirs de votre visite. Paul Adler mènera la discussion.

A Visit to Versailles

We'll visit the chateau and gardens at Versailles - discuss a bit of its history, life at the chateau, and take a look at some of its main attractions. Some of you may have visited Versailles, and we encourage you to join in and share some memories of your visit. Paul Adler will lead the discussion.

TUESDAY, April 2 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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

Neil Diamond is one of the best-selling musicians of all time. He had ten number 1 singles on the U.S. Billboard Top 100. Born in Brooklyn in 1941, he had an extremely successful career as both a recording artist and as a touring musician. Come to Folk Music and Mellow Rock to learn more about him, and to listen to him sing such classics as Kentucky Woman, Holly Holy, Cracklin' Rosie and Hello Again.

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: Tools of Discovery (Part 1)
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Vickie Costa
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

For most of humanity's existence the universe remained undiscovered. Looking at the sky was for the most part fertile ground for superstition and mythologies. Just think that around 1500, if you had asked an educated European about the Universe, the answer would have been very similar to what the Greeks had been saying before the days of Christ: *A static Earth is at the center of everything; the moon, sun and planets revolve around it in perfect circular orbits, the stars sit at the limit of space, closing the cosmos. Outside are God and the elect in a timeless existence.*

With the addition of spectroscopy and microscopy, expanded wavelength instruments, and photography, humans began to delve deeper and deeper into the mysteries of the cosmos. Then we became able to put telescopes above the blurring effects of the Earth's atmosphere and missions to other planets that are just seeing first light. Let's look at some of the milestones in the history of the tools of discovery and what might lie ahead. This is a two-part presentation with Part 2 in two weeks.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Coming Full Circle: The Closing Paragraph
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

The closing paragraph of any book, short story, essay or presentation is as important as the opening paragraph. While one works to draw us in, the other works to give us closure, a sense of anticipation for a sequel, or provoking thoughtful discussion (if ambiguous, for example). In this class we'll look at several closing paragraphs and try our hand at creating one of our own.

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: The Roller Coaster. And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group.

WEDNESDAY, April 3 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Transparent Architecture
Presenter: Gordon Gilbert
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

Gordon will show images of his new work in the Catskills, his transparent houses, which include great views, abundant nature, open spaces, clear structure, and more. The new houses are all on Echo Lake upstate in the heart of the Catskills, and will be in his forthcoming book *Architecture's Transparency*, to be available in fall 2025. Please come and participate in this exciting talk on contemporary architecture!

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

Under James I, interest in plot became paramount. Cymbeline reflects this new dramatic taste. Beginning with Act 3, Scene 2, Line 25, we discover that our hero, Posthumous (believing that his wife, the innocent Imogen, has been unfaithful) has written a letter that instructs his servant to kill Imogen. We will compare Posthumous with the evil Queen's son, Cloten. We will also meet central figures in the second plot line: three men living in the mountains of Wales. Comparisons between Court and Country life, artificiality and simplicity, will be made. We will continue to compare Britain to Rome ... indeed some scholars include Cymbeline with Shakespeare's other Roman plays; e.g., Titus Andronicus, Julius Caesar, and Antony and Cleopatra. We will also explore "Disguise and True Nature" of characters.

WEDNESDAY, April 3 @ 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, April 3 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films 1. May-December (Judy Winn)
2. Rustin (David Judlowitz)
3. Io Capitano (Frank Montaturo)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Today:

**From a Teacher's Affair with a Student,
Prison and Marriage
to
Martin Luther King on the Washington Mall
to
Two Boys Escape from Poverty through Quicksand,
The Sahara and the Mediterranean**

"May-December" 2023 Reviewed by Judy Winn (R/T: 91) Twenty years after their notorious tabloid romance (think Mary Kay LeTourneau) gripped the nation, a married couple buckles under pressure when an actress arrives to research a film. Streaming: Netflix 1hr. 53 min

"Rustin" 2023 Reviewed by David Judlowitz (R/T: 85/87) Bayard Rustin was the architect of the 1963 momentous March on Washington. He was one of the greatest organizers and activists the world has ever known. He challenged authority and never apologized for who he was, what he believed, or desired. Streaming: Netflix 1hr. 48 min

"Io Capitano" 2023. Reviewed by Frank Montaturo (R/T: 95/88) Two Senegalese teenagers living in Dakar look for a brighter future in Europe. Yet between their dreams and reality lies a treacherous journey through a labyrinth of checkpoints, the scorched Saharan desert, a fetid North African prison, and the vast waters of the Mediterranean. Currently in Theaters: 2 hrs. 2 min.

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

We've been hearing riveting stories about real women spies for the past few weeks. This week we'll change it up and hear about some fictional women spies- some loosely based on real spies, and some exist only in a writer's imagination. Do these fictional spies live any more dangerously or have more exciting lives than the real spies we have learned about so far? Come listen to previews of a wide variety of books and watch snippets of videos of women spies from film and TV. A book list will be provided, and you are welcome to share your own favorite books about women spies.

THURSDAY, April 4 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Japanese knotweed in your yard; Eurasian millfoil in the wetlands; lionfish in the Caribbean, Asian carp in the Mississippi River - what's going on? Lots of species arrive in new areas - generally due to human activities - and make trouble. A lot of them are "good neighbors" and don't cause ecological damage, but some do - those are called "invasive species." We will discuss how they get moved to new locations, what damage they may do in the new location, potential ways of either getting rid of them (generally difficult), and how to prevent or reduce future invasions. There are some species that do harm and also do good - what to do about them?

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Joy Harjo
Presenter: Susannah Falk Lewis
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp

Tech Support: Ruth Ward

Joy Harjo, a Native American and the immediate past United States Poet Laureate sees herself as a poet warrior championing her political and personal concerns through her poetry. Viewing America as the land of the native tribes and all non-Native Americans as immigrants, she writes about the many injustices suffered by tribal peoples. We will read poems that reflect not only her political concerns but that describe her emotional journey. Her poems cover her family, husbands, children, the greater Native American community and her astutely observed poems about the importance of nature as it relates to the world and the spirit.

THURSDAY, April 4 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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

Stand by the lake and marvel at its tranquility. Sit by a brook and be lulled into serenity by its calm gurgling. And oh! That majestic river flowing by flourishing cities. The ocean fills us with wonder and fear. Snow covers the landscape with a gorgeous white mantle. Rain produces crops. The sound of waterfalls soothes our souls. A blue lagoon, the sun glinting off ice, a fountain shooting water into the air, clouds drifting by. Water, water, everywhere. But did we ever write a tone poem, or an aria or a ballet or a symphony to express our gratitude for water? Fortunately, some great composers did. And we can listen and thank them. And maybe cry watery tears at the music's beauty.

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Stories: 1. Shelter (Mary Buchwald)
2. The Mad People of Paris (Sheilah Serfaty)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Stories to read:

1. "Shelter" by Mbozi Haimbe, Presented by Mary Buchwald

Mbozi Haimbe was born and raised in Lusaka, Zambia. She writes both speculative and realist fiction inspired by her African childhood. Her short story, "Madam's Sister" won the Africa Regional Prize of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2019, as well as a PEN America/Dua award for best debut short stories. Climate change is the key theme of her story, "*Shelter*," which won first runner-up of the 2020 Short Story Day Africa competition. It was also nominated for a Nommo award - best in African Speculative Fiction 2022.

2. "The Mad People of Paris" by Rodrigo Blanco Calderon, Presented by Sheilah Serfaty

Rodrigo Blanco Calderon was born in 1981 in Venezuela, but now lives in Spain. A writer, editor, and university lecturer, he received a PhD in linguistics from Paris XIII University. His first novel, *The Night (la Noche)* won several prizes, including the 2016 Paris Rive Gauche Prize. His novel, "Simpatía" presents Venezuela in the throes of Hugo Chávez and "Chavismo"; it is a story about the endless chaos, with abandoned dogs roaming the streets and many Venezuelans abandoning the country. The English edition of *Simpatía* as longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2024. This story, "*The Mad People of Paris*" was included in the "*O. Henry Prize Short Stories, 2023*," edited by Lauren Groff (author of a short story discussed last time in our class).

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 , Dena Kerren
Tech Support:	None Assigned

The class will continue to rehearse Potpourri II, its year-end production scheduled for the afternoon of May 15.

**HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE LAVISH NY
“WONDER THEATERS”?**

**Tour the United Palace Showpiece with
CULTUREQUEST**

**Friday April 12, 2024
10:30 AM - 12 Noon**

THIS TOUR IS SOLD OUT