QUEST

CURRICULUM

Fall 2024

The CCNY Lifelong Learning Community

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
A Week	Labor Day	3-Sept	4-Sept	5-Sept
B Week	9-Sept	10-Sept	11-Sept	12-Sept
A Week	16-Sept	17-Sept	18-Sept	19-Sept
B Week	23-Sept	24-Sept	25-Sept	26-Sept
A Week	30-Sept	1-0ct	2-0ct	Rosh Hashanah
B Week	7-0ct	8-0ct	9-0ct	10-0ct
A Week	Columbus Day	15-0ct	16-0ct	17-0ct
B Week	21-0ct	22-0ct	23-0ct	24-0ct
A Week	28-0ct	29-0ct	30-0ct	31-0ct
B Week	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov
A Week	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov	14-Nov
B Week	18-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov	21-Nov

FALL 2024 CALENDAR

Quest Closed Thanksgiving Week

A Week	2-Dec	3-Dec	4-Dec	5-Dec
B Week	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec

Aweek		024 SCHI Tuesday	EDULE Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Rock & Roots Albums	New & Classic Essays	Power: The Glory of It	Old Testament as Literature & In The Arts
	Star-Crossed Lovers	Supreme Court	Shakespeare: The Tempest	Quester's Choice
				Science & Scientists
Lunch				
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Artifical Intelligence	Creative Writing Workshop	Cinema Quest: Current & Classic	Acting Workshop I
	Portrait of A Lady	Flawed Great- ness of Thomas Jefferson	Health & Medicine	Contemporary Short Stories
		History of New York City		World of Religions
Bweek	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Give My Regards to Broadway	Artists & Their Work	Fascinating Non-Fiction	Beethoven: The Middle Years 1802–1814
	Wonderful Books Out Loud	Science Clubhouse	Upheaval in American Values	NYC & Its Environs: People, Places, Things
		World of Theatre		
Lunch				
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Contemporary Poetry	Film For Thought	Distinguished Guest Lecture Series	Explorations in Philosophy & Literature
	Great Plays	It Can't Happen Here, Can It?		Poets' Workshop
		Jazz: Alive & Well		The Twilight Zone

COURSES BY CATEGORY

ART & MUSIC

- Artists & Their Work
- Beethoven: The Middle Years 1802-1814
- Jazz: Alive & Well NEW
- Rock & Roots Albums

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- Distinguished Guest Lectures
- Quester's Choice
- Supreme Court NEW
- Upheaval in American Values

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

- Explorations In Philosophy & Literature
- Fascinating Non-Fiction
- Flawed Greatness of Thomas Jefferson NEW
- History of New York City NEW
- Power: The Glory of It NEW
- New and Classic Essays
- NYC and Its Environs: People, Places, Things

LITERATURE

- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- It Can't Happen Here, Can It? NEW
- Old Testament as Literature & in The Arts NEW
- Portrait of a Lady NEW
- Wonderful Books
 Out Loud
- World of Religions NEW

PERFORMING ARTS

- Cinema Quest:
 Current and Classics
- Film for Thought
- Give My Regards to Broadway NEW
- Great Plays
- Shakespeare:
 The Tempest NEW
- Star-Crossed Lovers NEW
- The Twilight Zone NEW
- World of Theatre

SCIENCE

- Artificial Intelligence: A Brave New World?
- Health & Medicine NEW
- Science & Scientists
- Science Clubhouse

SOMETHING EXTRA

- Book Club
- CultureQuest
- Déjeuner Français
- Lunchtime Spanish
- Monday Noontime Medley NEW
- SmartPhone
 Photography NEW
- Social Events
- Sole Mates

WORKSHOP

- Acting Workshop I
- Creative Writing
- Poets' Workshop

ACTING WORKSHOP I

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Dena Kerren

The class will perform theater exercises and improvisations. Members will also work on monologues and scenes. Emphasis will be put on the importance of relationships and being able to relate to objects in order to achieve a greater reality in creating a character.

ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro

This Fall will be devoted to art works. and themes from the Metropolitan Museum European Art Collection. The Met's extraordinary collection of European art has been completely re-installed to replace the skylights. Forty-five European art galleries presenting 700 works of art present themes that Questers will draw on to show relationships between artists and countries from 1300 to 1800: demonstrate the continuation and reinterpretation of themes by inserting 20th and 21st century works; and look more closely into histories of class. gender, race and religion.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

It's hard to make it through the day without hearing about the latest development in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Will AI make all our lives easier or is it an existential threat to humanity? We can't promise you an answer to that question this fall, but we do promise many thought-provoking sessions.

BEETHOVEN: THE MIDDLE YEARS 1802–1814 NEW

Coordinators: **Arlene Harjinlian**, Larry Shapiro

Beethoven, now established as a celebrated Viennese composer, was astonishingly productive during these vears. Among his most well known compositions of this period are the 3rd 'Eroica' Symphony, the 5th & 6th Symphonies, the Violin Concerto, the 3rd & 4th Piano Concertos and his opera Fidelio. His compositional writing is expanding the traditions and language of the Classical Period. and often referred to as "Heroic," and gradually becoming stylistically what we think of as "Romantic." Through history and music, we will deepen our appreciation of his incomparable genius.

CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC

Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso

Cinema Quest is a course designed for people who love watching, discussing, and analyzing movies. The course is perfect for those who want to give a 30-minute presentation. In this course, presenters select notable current releases from domestic, indie, or international cinema and talk about the films, their casts, directors, storylines, scripts, and more. Coordinators will provide each presenter with four Power-Point slides and links to the movies to be discussed. Questers will receive information about venues. where they can watch the movies in advance and participate in the review. They can also share and compare their opinions with other Questers and reviewers. The course is available both in-person and on Zoom.

CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Martha Drezin, Freida Lipp

We will explore important and wellregarded modern poets, their poems and their place in the literary continuum/historical context. Prior reading is not required.

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

This long-standing class discusses short stories from all over the world. At each class, two members volunteer to choose and present a story, copies of which are made available to everyone. The presenters give a brief background about the author and of the story, and then open the class to discussion.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Coordinators: **Helen Saffran**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Each class begins with a ten-minute writing warm-up inspired by a prompt, such as ice cream, a favorite teacher, a memorable photograph. Other in-class writing might be related to the specific topic of the day: dialogue, openings, the senses, vivid description, or character development. All genres — science fiction, romance, mystery, memoir, comedy — are welcomed.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer

The bimonthly Guest Lecture Series enhances the Quest program experience by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present on varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions on global policy and political science, literature, theater arts, social science, and music.

EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE

Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, *Steve Allen*

Some of our sessions focus on how philosophy addresses current controversial issues. Some of our sessions focus on writing by classic or contemporary authors addressing questions of perennial concern. All of our sessions feature lively discussions of readings selected for stimulating ideas and insights into social relations and human nature.

FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

At each session, the presenter will tell you about a book you always wanted to read or about a book you never heard of but will be glad you now have. Selections run the gamut from the imaginable to the unimaginable. Every semester, an eclectic array of fascinating non-fiction awaits its audience. No advance reading is required.

FILM FOR THOUGHT

Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman

In this course we will see the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, and film excerpts. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.



FLAWED GREATNESS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON NEW

Coordinators: **Sandy Kessler**, *Andrea Irvine*

How should we regard Thomas Jefferson today? Should we consider him a great American founder, or someone who, in the words of one scholar, should be "knocked off his pedestal?" In this course, we shall consider these questions by studying Jefferson's complicated relationship with the institution of slavery. We shall also review his views on democracy, popular enlightenment, religious freedom and public education, along with his many contributions to American life.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY NEW

Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon

An American phenomenon, the Broadway Musical has been such a part of our lives that you probably remember the first musical you saw. During the run of our presentations, you will not only have a chance to reminisce but will discover aspects of this unique theater genre that will make it even more enjoyable and entertaining. Your favorite songs? Your favorite entertainers? Favorite shows? Composers? Whatever — you've got to be in the room where it happens!

GREAT PLAYS

Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Important American and European plays are presented. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright followed by a "staged reading" of the play. The audience is encouraged to share their insights.

HEATH & MEDICINE NEW

Coordinators: Karen Cullen, Bob Gottfried, Donna Ramer

We have already encountered a number of medical issues throughout our lives and, as we continue our journey through the "back nine," we will continue to meet familiar and new medical challenges. This course takes a look at some of the diseases and medical conditions, and some of the players in the medical industry, that we will come across along the way.



HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY NEW

Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner

Here's the history of New York City you don't learn in school. We will start with the original residents, the Lenape how did they live, how did they deal with the first Europeans? Traveling up the Hudson, we will examine the early Dutch and English settlements, including slavery and free Blacks. Next, we will look at New York during the American Revolution, when British troops controlled the city. We will conclude this semester by examining the part New Yorkers played in creating the Constitution and our country.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE, CAN IT? NEW

Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

In our class this fall we will read and discuss *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis and *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth. These two dystopian novels examine the fragility of American democracy and the prospects for the rise of dictatorship in the years preceding World War II. Our class discussions will focus on the literary merit of these works, the similarities and differences between them, and the light they each shed on our current political situation.

JAZZ: ALIVE & WELL NEW

Coordinators: **Richard Byrd**, Debbi Honorof

Each presenter will introduce us to a particular Jazz artist, be they an instrumentalist, vocalist, or a particular instrument. It could be a pianist, drummer, saxophonist or trumpet player and the style may be Bebop, Big Band, or Progressive Jazz.

NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS

Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Martha Drezin, Ellie Schaffer, Larry Shapiro

Each week the course coordinators will pick an essay designed to provoke new perspectives, to ask us to question assumptions, and to encourage thoughtful discussion. Topics will range widely and will be drawn from publications such as *The Atlantic, The New Yorker*, and *The New York Review of Books*, as well as some on-line only sources.

NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson

Starting as a trading post on the tip of Manhattan, today it is a region that reaches beyond the city lines. The course explores neighborhoods and infrastructure, their history and their relationship to the city as a whole.

OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS NEW

Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter, Jamie Sykes

The Old Testament is a great religious work but it also contains many great stories that have influenced our literature and fine arts down through the centuries. We will explore these stories as literature as well as how they have been interpreted by visual artists, composers, poets and fiction writers.

POETS' WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Judith Winn, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

This workshop provides an opportunity to express your thoughts through the creative act of writing poems. You do not need prior experience in this medium. Participants share their writing with other members of the class and through constructive comments, develop their personal writing styles. Opportunities will be provided to discuss the meaning of the poems from the perspective of the authors and the readers.

PORTRAIT OF A LADY NEW

Coordinators: **Pat Geehr**, Sheryl Harawitz, Susan Keohane

Embark on a literary journey through the intricate world of Henry James' *Portrait of a Lady*. We will delve into the complexities of character, society, and the human psyche as we analyze James' masterful prose. Course will offer deep insights into Isabel Archer's journey, her choices, and the societal constraints she navigates. Whether you're a seasoned literature enthusiast or a curious beginner, this course promises to enrich your appreciation of one of the most celebrated novels in literary history.

POWER: THE GLORY OF IT NEW

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis

Power: it can change chemical structures and core beliefs. It can live in language, storytelling, animals, even an Egyptian Queen. And, of course, it can light cities and move mountains. It works on all of us and everything around us. How do we deal with it? Let's talk about it.

QUESTER'S CHOICE

Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian

What's your personal passion? Chances are you will find it in Quester's Choice, a course featuring a broad variety of subjects. Each class will be led by a member willing to do the deep dive and then share their knowledge with us. So, join us as we journey through the endless array of topics and themes in Quester's Choice.

ROCK & ROOTS ALBUMS

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Explore the roots and branches of rock, reggae, soul, blues, punk, folk, new wave, country, and metal. Each session will focus on one album by a band or solo artist and be enriched by related tracks.



SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis

This course covers a wide range of scientific topics — and the stories of the women and men who have, in the past or presently, engaged in the pursuit of knowledge about the world in which we live. No prior acquaintance with the subject is required. An active interest will do.

SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE

Coordinators: Steve Allen Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis

This discussion group will be a place where new developments in science can be explored and where members can bring questions about any scientific issue and all can participate in finding answers. Our scope will be broad not just the physical and life sciences, but also psychology and cognitive science, medicine, social sciences, and any field of study which relies upon evidence. Ethical, political, and social issues related to science will be discussed.

SHAKESPEARE: THE TEMPEST NEW

Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

The class will read aloud and discuss one of Shakespeare's final works. Prospero, a magician and rightful Duke of Milan, and his daughter, Miranda, have been exiled and stranded on an island. With the spirit Ariel's help, Prospero conjures a tempest to shipwreck his enemies. We explore themes of forgiveness, restoration, and power. The play is celebrated for its rich language, intricate characters, and a profound exploration of the human condition. (The Folger edition is preferred.)

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS NEW

Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Peter Dichter

Romeo and Juliet is set amid the longstanding feud between two of Verona's most powerful families. Both sides are enraged when Romeo, of the Montagues, and Juliet, of the Capulets, fall in love. The young couple will do anything to be together, leading to Shakespeare's poignant, tragic ending. Quest members with expertise in film, opera, dance, musicals, will highlight scenes from the story as depicted in a variety of art forms; we will see these young lovers as never before.

SUPREME COURT NEW

Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried

Certainly at no time in our recent history has the Supreme Court been more in the news, nor its members more controversial, nor its decisions more critical to the lives and well-being of all American citizens. In this course we will examine the composition of the Court and its recent (and pending) decisions.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE NEW

Coordinators: Tamara Weinberg, Marian Friedmann

The Twilight Zone was a successful TV series created by Rod Serling in which characters deal with often disturbing or unusual events, an experience described as entering "The Twilight Zone." The program ran from 1959 to 1964. The episodes are in various genres, including fantasy, science fiction, absurdism, dystopian fiction, suspense, horror, supernatural, black comedy, and psychological thriller, frequently with a macabre or unexpected twist, and usually with a moral. Each class will begin with a brief introduction consisting of information about Rod Serling and/or the program and contextual information about the episode(s) to follow. Then we will view an episode (or two) of The Twilight Zone and discuss the issues brought up in the show.

UPHEAVAL IN American Values

Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks

Each week's class will focus on one (or more) different important social and political issues, including the allimportant 2024 election, that have a major impact on the state of our country, and its future. Discussion topics will include the US Constitution, the Supreme Court, changes in news reporting and the media in general, the impact of mobile phones on our children, social and income inequality, our immigration problem, free speech rights, the "woke" culture, our international relations, and, of course, politics.

WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, *Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward*

If you would like to read James Joyce, but do not have several lifetimes to get through *Ulysses* and *Finnegan's Wake*, come to Wonderful Books Out Loud to read *Dubliners* and in doing so enjoy the very best prose in the English language. Reading aloud together surely helps in securing genuine appreciation of this exquisite work of literature, which also happens to be Joyce's most accessible.

WORLD OF THEATRE

Coordinators: **Yona Rogosin**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Cullen, Lauren Gee

The late 19th and 20th and 21st centuries. in the world of theatre spawned many distinguished playwrights of dramatic works that have garnered prestigious awards and are performed around the world. This course covers a sampling of important English, Irish and American playwrights of this era — both women and men — addressing questions such as: What makes their work so good and even timeless? What are the characteristics of their writing style and their sources of inspiration and influence? How were they critiqued? With talks, discussions and multimedia, you will learn about their lives and work, both known or gaining recognition today.

WORLD OF RELIGIONS NEW

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Bob Gottfried

The course will start with an introduction to the religions of the world and in a seven-week program, the religions discussed will be: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and other, less practiced religions, such as the Church of The Later Day Saints (Mormonism), the Bahai faith, Sikhism, Confucianism, Zoastrianism and Jainism.

SOMETHING EXTRA

BOOK CLUB

Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

The Quest Book Club reads a wide cross-section of novels by both new and more established authors, from this country and abroad, across a range of genres. The books chosen are not necessarily what you yourself might ordinarily pick up — think of it as a chance to discover something you didn't know you liked! We meet each month in-person on the second Wednesday, from 12:10–12:55 pm.

DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS *Ruth Ward, Donna Basile*

A-week,Tuesday, noon–12:45 Quel beau rêve — parler français à d'autres Questers pendant le déjeuner! Si vous parlez un peu français, rejoignez-nous pour des conversations sur des sujets choisis par nos participants, qui présenteront des mini-leçons et animeront des discussions sur des thèmes d'intérêt personnel et général. Bonne idée, n'est-ce pas? À bientôt!

CULTUREQUEST Madeleine Brecher

The popular CultureQuest program offers tours of art galleries and current museum exhibitions as well as other enriching experiences throughout the New York area. The events take place every month on selected Fridays. There are several in-person or virtual programs offered to Quest members each Fall and Spring semester. The in-person events are followed by a relaxing lunch to enjoy good food and conversation.

LUNCHTIME SPANISH Richard Elrauch, Ellen Rittberg

Our group is composed of people of varied Spanish-speaking abilities, and our aim is to enjoy ourselves and converse in Spanish. In each session, a class member will present a short presentation about some aspect of the Spanish language, Spanish-speaking countries, Spanish culture, Spanish newsmaker or prominent cultural figures, past or present. The rest of the time we will be chatting in Spanish and helping each other as needed.

SOMETHING EXTRA

MONDAY NOONTIME MEDLEY Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

Join us every Monday at noon for Monday Medley, where we gather to indulge in the simple pleasures of life. Amidst shared meals, we immerse ourselves in a diverse array of artistic expressions — from vibrant paintings to soul-stirring melodies. It's a time to engage in unhurried conversations about literature, exchanging thoughts on cherished books or discovering new favorites. There are no fixed agendas. just the freedom to explore whatever piques our curiosity. Whether it's a captivating artwork, a melodic tune. or the pages of a compelling book. Monday Medley invites you to savor the richness of culture and camaraderie. Details always in NWAQ

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY NEW Frank Montaturo, Tamara Weinberg Are you an amateur photographer with a Smartphone full of photos? Would vou like to improve your picture-taking skills, and see the images other Quest members are capturing? We hope to inspire each other to upgrade the quality of our Smartphone photography. In each class we will share photos. offer constructive criticism, and suggest interesting exhibits around town. Frank and Tamara will then introduce a theme to focus on for the sharing portion of the next class. Meets lunchtime every fortnight from 12:10 to 12:50 — details alwavs in NWAQ.

SOLE MATES

Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine And we're back with this popular fortnightly walk. Meet up at 2:45pm by the elevators on 7th floor where Marian and Andrea will lead us on a stroll along the Hudson River — finishing at a 'rest spot' for wine, coffee, bite to eat and to enjoy each other's company. No sign-ups, commitments, everyone welcome — details always in NWAQ.

SOCIAL EVENTS Gale Spitalnik

Gale and her team will bring Questers some fun events this Fall — look out for Halloween and maybe a red, white and blue-themed party on November 5th! All events take place at 25 Broadway.

QUEST Q CURRICULUM

Founded in 1995 by a small group of active retirees, Quest is an allvolunteer, peer-learning center for anyone in the Tri-state area who is retired or semi-retired.

Members benefit by

- Learning & developing new interests
- Exchanging ideas

- Meeting new people & forming new relationships
- Social activities

Below are a few of the 40+ courses, workshops and activities we offer each semester. And we're always seeking new programs so let us know your passion and we'll work with you bring it to life.

- Contemporary Issues
- Literature & Poetry
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Science
- Acting

- Languages Music & Art
- Writing Workshops
- Discussion Groups
- Book Club
- Adventures in Dining
- Museum Tours

- Travel
- Special Events
- Social Activities
- Sole Mates Walking
- Distinguished Guest Lectures

And we keep members in the know through our monthly newsletter, *QNews*; NWAQ, weekly listings of classes; and two email communities. We also publish *QReview*, our annual literary and arts magazine that features the prose, poetry and art of our members.

A recent survey found that 96 percent of our newest members joined because they found the courses exceeded or met their expectations, and they appreciated the flexibility of being able to attend individual classes.

So no matter how you choose to participate, you will find Quest will provide a rewarding experience to enrich your life, intellectually and socially.

For more information and to schedule a visit to sample our classes, contact us at:

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies The City College of New York

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