

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 17, 2025
This Is an A Week

There are three links (given in red below) 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.

AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 861 6851 3691

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 886 0175 9047

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 872 5172 0128

Passcode: 252525

Also given are meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If you don't have Zoom installed, you can still enter a class using your browser by clicking on

<https://zoom.us/join>

and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with the passcode.

In addition, you can attend classes on your 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 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: A Tour of the Solar System
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

This class will offer a highlight tour of our Solar System. How did it all come to be? Why is Earth unique? Why is the Moon so important? With dramatic images and engaging videos, we will visit the Sun, both the inner and outer planets including the tantalizing planet Mars. Was there ever a planet between Mars and Jupiter? Next, we will visit some of the more intriguing moons that circle Jupiter and Saturn. Also included are the pioneering ventures into the very outermost region of the Solar System. What about Pluto? Some scientists hint that we may even find the rudiments of life on one or more of these worlds.

Questions for discussion are always welcomed.

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Leonard Cohen - *Old Ideas* (2012)
Presenter: Lois Klein
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Old Ideas is Leonard Cohen 's 12th studio album. It was released in Jan 2012. For nine years (1996-2005) Cohen actually withdrew from writing music as he entered a Buddhist monastery. When his seclusion ended, he discovered that his manager had embezzled his life's savings. In order to rebuild his finances, he embarked on a five-year remarkably successful plan to begin touring again. He performed in cities all over the world (2008 — 2013).

Critics frequently refer to his themes of love, loss, death, philosophical longing, and social justice. But there is also a wry humor in his lyrics—often self-deprecating. *Old Ideas* is a dark album, for sure, but his intelligent wording and soft melodies continue to convey his rare talents, his humanity and his greatness.

MONDAY, MARCH 17 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: "Till Ink Meets Paper"
Presenter: José Ángel Pérez & Paul
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

We invite you to join in welcoming Jose and his friend Paul as he introduces himself and shares the story of his journey in writing his poems.

We will transform 15/17 into an intimate haven for the senses, where we celebrate the beauty of the world through words and music as poet José Ángel Pérez weaves the magic of his verse, exploring themes of love and the human connection. Accompanying him will be his friend Paul -- a talented musician who will blend his music with Jose's lyrical artistry.

As always there will be time to ask questions and discuss with our two guests - don't forget to bring your lunch.

MONDAY, MARCH 17 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: DOSTOEVSKY'S CRIME & PUNISHMENT
Subject: Book 3
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Patricia Geehr, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: Felix Pina

"*Literature is our religion*," declared the woman on the barstool next to us at the *Russian Vodka Room*. In this book, a vortex of activity and emotion swirls around Raskolnikov. His steadfast friend Razumikhin falls in love, adding a tender counterpoint to the narrative, while the cunning detective Porfiry Petrovich enters the fray (Columbo was modeled after this character). As love interests and tensions rise, the story unfolds like a carnival of human desires and dilemmas.

Join us in the next class, armed with your questions and insights, to delve deeper into this literary spectacle. Here's a thought for you to consider: If you were Raskolnikov's defense attorney, how would you argue his case?

Course: **ARCHITECTURE: FUNCTION, DESIGN, AND STRUCTURE**
Subject: A Century of NYC Architectural Innovation: 1920s-2020s
Presenter: Debbi Honorof
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof**, Sharon Katz, Victor Brenner
Tech Support: Victor Brenner, Susan Diehl, Bob Reiss

New York City has long been a canvas for architectural innovation, with each decade bringing its own unique styles and landmarks. From the Art Deco splendor of the Chrysler Building to the extraordinary One World Trade Center, which stands as a symbol of resilience and renewal, NYC's skyline tells a story of progress and ambition. Throughout the decades, New York City has embraced architectural innovation, integrating sustainability and modernity into its iconic skyline. As we look to the future, the city remains a beacon of creativity and ambition, forever shaping and reshaping the urban landscape.

TUESDAY MARCH 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: New Research About How Memories are Formed
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg, Pete Weis

New research about how memories are formed. New research about the relationship between viruses and the human body. Microsoft's claim that it has created a new state of matter (beyond solid, liquid, and gas) in its search to advance quantum computers. We'll look at these and other topics in science news.

For those who want to do some reading in advance, an article will be circulated through QuestBusiness.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The Powers of the President & The Supreme Court
Presenters: Bob Gottfried, Bob Belfort, Babette Ceccotti, Sandra Abramson
Jim Brook, Stu Parker, Ken Sasmor
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

We invite you to join us for an interesting and insightful panel discussion covering the following critically important issues:

1. The claimed power of the President to make appointments and create new Cabinet-level positions (e.g. Elon Musk and the Department of Governmental Efficiency), and to abolish Cabinet-level positions vs. the Constitutional legislative power to advise and consent.
2. The Constitutional power of the Congress to appropriate funds vs. the claimed power of the President to impound funds.
3. The unitary executive power claimed by the President vs. the power of independent administrative agencies to exercise their authority not encumbered by Presidential command.

And, if we have time:

4. The overruling of the Chevron Deference case, and the curtailing of the power of administrative agencies by the Courts.
5. Checks and balances in the Trump era. Do checks and balances in our Constitutional system still work when Congress does not exercise its independent powers and if the President may assert a power to disregard Court decisions?
6. The constitutional rights of naturalized citizens vs. the Presidential authority asserted to deport them.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Camp de Jeunes à Biarritz, France, 1957

Ze'eva Cohen partagera ses connaissances et ses expériences culturelles acquises à l'âge de 17 ans en tant que membre d'un groupe d'étudiants israéliens envoyés à un Camp International de Jeunes à Biarritz, France. La présentation comprendra un bref aperçu de Biarritz, et les membres de la classe apprendront et chanteront avec des chanteurs français deux chansons traditionnelles françaises qu'elle a apprises au camp.

Youth Camp in Biarritz, France, 1957

Ze'eva Cohen will share cultural insights and experiences she gained at age 17 as a member of an Israeli student group sent to an International Youth Camp in Biarritz,

France. The presentation will include a short overview of Biarritz, and members of the class will learn and sing along with French singers two traditional French songs she learned at the camp.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CHARLES DICKENS' GREAT EXPECTATIONS**
Subject: Chapters 31-39
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

We will be discussing Chapter 31-39. In his desire to establish himself as a gentleman, Pip spends lavishly and leads both himself and Herbert into debt. How is this problem solved on his twenty-first birthday when he goes to Mr. Jaggers' office? What does Jaggers refuse to tell him? Why does he become angry with Biddy at his sister's funeral? How do Pip's many encounters with Estella make him feel? What does Pip observe when he visits Wemmick at his home? How does Pip show his innate kindness to Wopsle, Jaggers, and most of all Herbert? What is revealed to Pip in Chapter 39 that shocks him?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Similes & Metaphors
Presenter: Donna 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

Class will begin with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share or not. We'll then take a look at how similes and metaphors — figurative language — can enhance the piece by adding some simple comparisons to create a more immersive, thought-provoking experience for ourselves and our readers.

And, as always, you have the option to bring in any genre of writing (prose, poetry, short play) you have done at home and the group will offer constructive responses to it. Writing that is read in class should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be read over consecutive classes. Please bring 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: *Lost in the Desert* or *Carpe Diem!*

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: The Rise of Public Schools
Presenters: Larry Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

"The content of education is probably less important than the environment in which it is taught." — Michael Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*

The history of early public education in NYC is somewhat like the history of the city's other institutions, a struggle for control among different interest groups. The issues and battles are surprisingly like the issues that divide people on the subject today, and even some of the combatants. Maybe this is why New York was one of the last big cities to set up a public school system. And then, as now, "schools did not shape children—children shaped schools. Children's lives were the things that nurtured and guided schools as one possibility, or, for many children, one impossibility." (Adam Laats) So this presentation will also look at the history of childhood in NYC during these decades.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **POWER: THE GLORY OF IT**
Subject: The Food Barons
Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Andrea will introduce us to the story of five titans of the food industry, their rise to power and the consequences for eaters, communities, and democracy itself. Her tycoons are hardly unique - other companies have manipulated our tax laws and failed policies for their own benefit to the detriment of the people they claim to nourish. Each of these barons experienced a dramatic breakthrough during the past 40 years when stark corporate consolidation was possible - what happens next may be interesting!

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: CORIOLANUS**
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer**, Bob Reiss

The play is predominantly one of politics and war. However, it is also a story of family relationships, especially the intense, claustrophobic one between Coriolanus and his mother, Volumnia. Our exploration of this family closeness will, in turn, lead us back to the political arena and Coriolanus's victory in battle, but defeat in his quest to become Consul of Rome. The writings of Harold Goddard and Michael Pennington will be used to guide our exploration.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **Smartphone Photography**
Subject: Emerging Nature
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Frank Montaturo**, Tamara Weinberg

Are you an amateur photographer with a Smartphone full of photos? Would you 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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. The Brutalist (Carol Blaine)
2. Meet the Parents (Judy Winn)
3. A Complete Unknown (June Jacobson)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Carol Blane shares her interpretation of the three-and-a-half-hour Best Picture Academy Award winner **The Brutalist**, a saga about architect Laslo Toth, who escapes a

concentration camp and postwar Europe to rebuild his life in Pennsylvania. A wealthy industrialist recognizes his talent, but pursuing power comes with significant costs.

In the classic comedy, **Meet the Parents**, Judy Winn explains why macho, former CIA agent Jack Byrnes (Robert Di Niro) believes that male nurses deserve no respect, especially one who wants to marry his daughter.

And lastly, June Jacobson provides her perspective on **A Complete Unknown**, a narrative that begins with the vibrant music and cultural upheaval of 19-year-old Bob Dylan. The story traces his meteoric rise to become an iconic singer-songwriter. **And stick around for an unexpected ending.**

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**
Subject: Book 4
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

In Book 4 of the *Iliad* after Paris shamelessly flees the duel, we find him sulking in the comfort of his perfumed bedchamber. The gods, ponder the question, *Shall we rouse up terrible war and bitter strife again Or should we reconcile the warring sides?"*

At this pivotal juncture, the narrative explores the motivations of the gods—petty rivalries and divine politics—as well as the mortals' agency. Are the human characters mere puppets of the gods, or do they cleverly invoke divine will to justify their own desires?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 @ 2:45 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather by elevator 7th Floor @ 2:45 PM
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marian Friedmann

All welcome to join as we walk along the Hudson River with Marian and Andrea - ending at a "rest" spot for refreshments, food, socialization. Up to you how far you walk and lots of help with transportation options. No signups, no commitments - fresh air and community.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Anne Sexton and Maxine Kumin
Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Anne Sexton and Maxine Kumin met while attending a Boston poetry workshop. Both were homemakers with children when they began their literary careers. The two poets communicated on a nearly daily basis, conducting private workshops by letter and phone and they contributed to each other's development. However, they differed in many ways both personally and poetically as we will discover. Sexton bared her deepest thoughts and traumas to the world while Kumin's poetry, unlike Sexton's, is traditional in its form and temperate in tone.

Join us while we discover the fruits of an extraordinary literary friendship.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: 100 Years of New Yorker Cartoons
Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Art Spar
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

Ever since *The New Yorker's* debut issue 100 years ago, New Yorker cartoonists have been delighting – and at times confounding - readers. In fact, some New Yorker captions have become so ingrained in the national conversation that few recall they originated with a *New Yorker* cartoon.

In this session, Art Spar and Wayne Cotter will explore some of the publication's most famous cartoons and profile a few of its most prominent cartoonists. In addition, Wayne and Art will share some of their personal favorites as well as a few cartoons they just can't figure out.

At the end of the session, attendees will be offered an opportunity to create their own captions for a few sample cartoons. *So, bring a pen, some paper and your sense of humor to this special presentation.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 @ 12:20 –12:45 PM

Course: CHAIR MEDITATION
Facilitator: Ken Sasmor
Room: 22
Format: In-Person Only

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation **every** Thursday afternoon.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Stories: 1.Heart (Larry Shapiro)
2.When in the Dordogne(Gloria Peropat)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Stories to read:

1.- Heart by Shuang Xuetao. Presented by Larry Shapiro

Shuang Xuetao (*we can practice the pronunciation in class*) is that rarity, an overnight literary sensation in his native China, along with international recognition, a lucrative prize, and a film sale. There are pieces of his biography in his stories, so we can discuss his life while focusing on this story.

2.- When in the Dordogne by Lily King. Presented by Gloria Peropat

Lily King, American writer, is the author of four award-winning novels and a collection of short stories entitled *Five Tuesdays in Winter*. “*When in the Dordogne*”, a story in this collection, is set over one magical summer when a teenage boy, left in the care of two house-sitting college students is introduced to the experience of tenderness and joy by these unlikely caretakers.

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the lunchroom,

Any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye9@gmail.com

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

Write a poem using the cue word “night” or a word of the poet’s choice. Authors will read their poems and bring copies of each poem to the class for a second reading by a classmate. A discussion of the poem will follow.

Course: **WORLD OF RELIGIONS**
Subject: Pantheism
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

What did the philosopher Spinoza, the poet Goethe, and the theoretical physicist Einstein have in common? They could all be considered Pantheists, holding to a belief system that identifies God with the whole universe, distributed through all space and time. Pantheists consider the cosmos, nature, and divinity to be one and the same, and so they hold the universe, earth, and nature to be sacred.

Estimates suggest that the current global pantheist population numbers only in the millions, but its focus on caring for the natural world makes it worth our consideration. In this talk we’ll distinguish pantheism from a number of other religions and trace its development as a 21st century world view.

CULTUREQUEST

The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt In-person Tour at the Jewish Museum

Friday, March 28th 11:00 - 12:00

In the 17th century in Holland, Rembrandt resided near the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam. He counted among his neighbors artists and well-to-do merchants. His friendships in the community enabled him to explore biblical subjects: he painted Jewish wedding scenes, synagogues and stories from the Hebrew Bible. Many of the affluent Jews of Amsterdam considered art and portraiture a symbol of status and culture. Rembrandt's Jewish portraits serve as important historical documents.

The Dutch master, who lived from 1606 to 1669, was responsible for many well-known works with Jewish content. Paintings, prints, and drawings representing the Book of Esther made by Rembrandt, considered one of the great storytellers in art, will be presented on the tour along with Jewish ceremonial art related to the holiday of Purim, a joyous festival commemorating the survival of the Jews who were marked for death by their Persian rulers. The story is related in the biblical Book of Esther, a key source of inspiration for diverse communities in 17th century Holland, both Jewish and Christian.

- **When:** Friday, March 28, 2025, at 11AM. Please arrive by 10:45 to check-in and check coats.
- **Where:** Jewish Museum. 5th Ave at 92nd St
- **Cost :** \$12.00 limited to 20 participants.
- **To Reserve:** Contact Dena Kerren ASAP to secure a reservation.
Dena@kerren.us Put **Jewish Museum Tour** in the subject of your email which will be acknowledged. Once you are confirmed, please leave your check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning in the CultureQuest mailbox in the Office no later than Tuesday, March 18th or we will go to the waitlist.
- **Lunch:** After the tour meet up at the new onsite café, “Lox at the Jewish Museum”. No reservations are necessary.

NOTE: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on a “future waitlist only” for following CQ events. Thank you for understanding.