

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 24, 2025
This Is a B 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 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Fiorello
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

This biographical musical about the beloved mayor of NYC during the depression and early '40s, has its story by Jerome Weidman and George Abbott, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and music by Jerry Bock. The story covers La Guardia's time in Congress, briefly covers his service in the US Air Force during WW II, and his campaign and election as Mayor. It also covers his personal life, which had some tragedy in it as well as romance. A relative unknown at the time, Tom Bosley, played the title role. Probably the most famous songs from the show are the comic ones sung by the machine political guys who sing "Politics and Poker" and "Little Tin Box." It won Emmys and a Pulitzer Prize, so why hasn't it been revived on Broadway?

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Billy Budd, Sailor*, Sections 16-18
Plus: *Billy Budd and Capital Punishment*
Facilitator: Harriet Finkelstein
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

We will read aloud and discuss Sections 16-18.

Has any work of American literature generated more varied interpretation than Herman Melville's *Billy Budd, Sailor*? And all the battles swirl around one question. Are we supposed to admire or condemn Captain Vere for his decision to sentence Billy Budd to death by public hanging? Somehow, astonishingly enough, nobody seems to have noticed that central to the story is the subject of capital punishment and its history.

To help in our quest for understanding, we will examine an article by H. Bruce Franklin, entitled *"Billy Budd and Capital Punishment: A Tale of Three Centuries*.

MONDAY, MARCH 24 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: Book Chats
Presenter: Kathy Cook
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

It's been several months since our last *Book Chats* meeting. No doubt, some of the books we have recently read are wonderful. So let's share great book suggestions and engage in a lively discussion about them. This is a great opportunity for readers who are seeking new titles and authors or who simply enjoy talking about a book they have really enjoyed and would recommend to others.

If you are tired of book groups or would never dream of joining one, *Book Chats* is for you. If you are in a wonderful book group, *Book Chats* is also for you. In other words, it is for everyone who enjoys reading and discussing great books they have read.

Read the suggested books or not. It's up to you. There's no required reading. *Book Chats* is casual and fun. Readers of all genres welcome + bring your lunch!

MONDAY, MARCH 24 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: GREAT PLAYS
Play: All About Eve
Presenter: Gloria Peropat
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

Our program, All About Eve, will feature three short plays that weave comic variations into the lives and struggles of women we recognize. They are brought to life by our cast: Mary Ann Donnelly, June Jacobson, Yona Rogosin, and Gloria Peropat. The plays are *Lives of Great Waitresses* by Nina Schengold, *The Role of Della* by Lynn Nottage, and *Poof* by John Wooten.

Course: WOMEN LEADERS
Subject: Rosalind Franklin
Presenter: Risa Parlo
Room: 27

Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Laura Lopez, Joan Vreeland
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Rosalind Franklin was a British chemist and X-ray crystallographer whose research helped uncover the molecular structure of DNA. In addition, she used her expertise in X-ray crystallography to conduct vital research on the structure of coal and viruses. Though Rosalind died at age 38 in April 1958, her contributions to science were noteworthy.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK
Subject: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael
Presenter: Susan Diehl
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: Susan Diehl, Ellen Shapiro

Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael are widely recognized as the trinity of the greatest Italian Renaissance artists. How did their lives intersect? How did they influence each other? How was their art similar or different? Now throw in their Medici and Pope benefactors and how they influenced/directed their art. This talk loosely follows last semester's talk on the Italian Renaissance art of the 1300's and 1400's as it follows these great artists into the 1500's.

Course: NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS
Subject: "A Death of One's Own"
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Martha Drezin, Larry Shapiro

In his 1995 *New Yorker* essay titled "A Death of One's Own" Andrew Solomon addressed the question "Is it right to want to die?" Solomon came to his own conclusion when his ailing mother decided that she had had enough.

The essay will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)**
Presenter: Sheilah R. Serfaty
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Richard Elrauch**, Ruth Ward

El Gaucho

Argentina tenía sus propios vaqueros? ¿Te imaginas a John Wayne en las praderas de la América del Sur? Hoy Sheilah R. Serfaty va a hablarnos del Gaucho, símbolo de la cultura de Argentina y Uruguay. Representa la figura del hombre de campo, mestizo, libre y autosuficiente, que habitaba las pampas de Argentina y se ganaba la vida con la ganadería y la vida rural. ¿Quieres saber más? ¡Únete a nosotros!

The Gaucho

Did Argentina have its own cowboys? Can you imagine John Wayne on the prairies of South America? Today, Sheilah R. Serfaty will talk to us about the Gaucho, a symbol of Argentine and Uruguayan culture. He represents the figure of the free, self-sufficient, mestizo country man who lived on the Argentine pampas and earned his living through cattle ranching and rural life. Want to learn more? Join us!

TUESDAY, MARCH 25 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Pete Weis

We continue with the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, and comedies selected for their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: Poetic Titles (continued)
Class Leader: Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter

Where do those authors get the titles for their books? Some come from the Bible (John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*). Many come from Shakespeare, (Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*). But a surprising number come from poetry. Why did Thomas Hardy quote Gray's *Elegy* (Far from the Madding Crowd), or F. Scott Fitzgerald's reference to Keats's *Ode to A Nightingale* (*Tender Is the Night*)? When John Donne wrote, "Send not to know for whom the bell tolls," did he know that Hemingway would write a novel around it? A title is an important clue to an author's intent. We will read aloud a number of poems that inspired authors and briefly explore why. Do you know why the caged bird sings? Join us.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: The History of Money
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsers

The primary source for this talk will be the recently published book *Money: A Story of Humanity* by Irish economist and journalist David McWilliams. *The Economist Magazine* in selecting this as one of the best books of the year for 2024 wrote; " Whether we like it or not, our world revolves around money, but we rarely stop to think about it. What is money, where does it come from, and can it run out? What is this substance that drives trade, revolutions and discoveries; inspires art, philosophy and science? In this illuminating, sometimes irreverent, and often surprising journey, McWilliams charts the relationship between humans and money – from a tally stick in ancient Africa to coins in Republican Greece, from mathematics in the medieval Arab world to the French Revolution, and from the emergence of the U.S. dollar right up to today's cryptocurrency and beyond. Along the way, we meet a host of characters who have innovated with money, disrupting society and changing the way we live, in an ongoing monetary evolution that has, for the last 5000 years, animated human progress.

Course: **UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: Where Americans Get Their News
Presenter: Terri Hicks
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

This week we will take a look at all the different sources of news available to the public today. Legacy media no longer rules as the ultimate source of “Truth” as it did in the era of Walter Cronkite and Edward R Murrow. Today there are many news sources to choose from. We will examine and discuss these choices and then analyze how they impact our world view.

WEDNESDAY, March 26, 2025 @ NOON – 12:50 PM

Event: **NEW MEMBERS MINGLE**
Room: 19
Format: In-person only
Who is invited: Spring 2025 and Fall 2024 new members
Coordinators: Susan Keohane chair, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso

The New Member Committee invites new members to attend a mingle. Purpose is to meet with Wayne Cotter, of technology committee, to discuss Quest website. Please bring your questions. Included will be time to talk about some of our personal experiences with technology.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Subject: *The Paris Novel*
Speaker: Ruth Reichl
Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

Ruth Reichl was editor in chief of *Gourmet Magazine* and restaurant critic for *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*. She is the author of five memoirs including *Tender at the Bone*, *Comfort Me with Apples*, and *Save Me the Plums*. She published an earlier novel, *Delicious*, and a cookbook, *My Kitchen Year*. She is the producer of a documentary film, *Food and Country*, and has been honored with seven James Beard Awards.

The Paris Novel was published last year and will soon be a motion picture. She will discuss it and when did we become a nation of foodies?

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **NYC & ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS**
Subject: Hamilton Heights
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Paul Golumb**, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitser

Hamilton Heights covers western Manhattan from ~ 135th to 157th St, from St. Nicholas Ave to Riverside Park. It includes some historic landmarks including the campus of City College, the House where Alexander Hamilton lived, "Hamilton Grange" (after which the neighborhood was named), and the Morris Jumel Mansion, both of which are open to the public for tours. The neighborhood was first settled by the Dutch, followed by a mix of Irish, Italian, African, West Indian, German, Jewish, African Americans, including prominent people of all races. For years the Polo Grounds were the home of the baseball Giants. In the 30s and 40s more African Americans moved in and "white flight" and deterioration of the neighborhood took place, but in the 2000s diversity is increasing and the neighborhood is attractive to many people. It is the home of a beautiful state park – Riverbank State Park, built in the 1980s on top of the first sewage treatment plant to serve the entire upper west side of Manhattan.

Course: **OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS**
Subject: The Book of Job
Presenter: Paul Golumb
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

The Book of Job is a perplexing document. Archibald MacLeish (JB) and Robert Frost (The Masque of Reason) were two poets who tried to make modern sense of this ancient tale. We will examine their efforts.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 @ 12:20 – 12:45 PM

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

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation every Thursday afternoon.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE
Subject: The ethical dilemmas of binding precommitments
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen
Tech Support: Larry Shapiro

To what extent should people be able to enter into binding precommitments that can override preferences that they strongly express at a later time. This can present dilemmas both for friends and family who must decide between these conflicting interests and for institutions that must decide on rules that govern these conflicts. We'll focus on both current specific concerns about advance directives for assisted death and on the larger landscape of similar issues. We'll look at some relevant arguments from philosophers, medical professionals, and social scientists. Readings will be circulated in advance though QuestBusiness.

Course: JAZZ: YESTERDAY AND TODAY
Subject: Wild and Crazy Jazz Drummers – Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, and Louis Bellson
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Debbi Honorof, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: Bob Reiss

In today's session we are saluting three flamboyant American jazz drummers – Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich and Louis Bellson. All were born within 15 years of each other in the early part of the 20th Century and each reached the pinnacle of success with major big bands. In later years, they each led their own jazz bands.

While many music fans believe jazz drummers are “crazier” than other jazz musicians, there’s little evidence to support this. Most likely, it’s a generalization rooted in the intense energy and improvisational nature of jazz drumming.

The session will not only feature memorable musical videos, but we’ll also show insightful interviews with these three jazz legends. And finally, we’ll ask the musical question: How crazy are jazz drummers?

CULTUREQUEST

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

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

SOLD OUT