

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 31, 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 31 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Let's continue our unique journey across the cosmos! We'll pass beyond the furthest bodies of our Solar System and head for the stars and continue on towards the farthest reaches of the observable universe. All the while we will explore its many extraordinary features like exoplanets, stars, supernovae, black holes, and galaxies. We will even try to predict the ultimate fate of the universe by looking at its birth in the Big Bang and trying to understand dark matter and dark energy. In addition, we will also cast our eyes forward to speculate on the future place for humanity.

Prior knowledge or any technical expertise in math or science is not required. Just bring your questions and sense of wonder.

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Bob Dylan - *Blonde on Blonde* (1966)
Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Many of you Questers have seen the Bob Dylan biopic film *A Complete Unknown* which follows Dylan's folk singing beginnings to his going electric at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.

Continuing this exploration of varied musical styles, he recorded and released the first rock double album in 1966, *Blonde on Blonde*.

The two-record set opens with a raucous blues piano sound of "Rainy Day Women" and ends closes with the sublime 11-minute love song "Sad-Eyed Lady of the Lowlands".

Dylan said of this his seventh album, it is "the closest I ever got to the sound I hear in my mind that thin, wild mercury sound."

So, whether you booed or cheered when he went electric, you must admit he captured the zeitgeist of a generation but like all artists he kept on changing. *Blonde on Blonde* is an example of his eclectic genius with its fusion of music and words.

MONDAY, MARCH 31 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: "The Fifties"
Presenters: Andrea and Sheryl
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

The 1950s are often called a "Golden Age" due to a combination of factors, including economic prosperity, suburbanization, and a cultural shift towards family values and consumerism following the Great Depression and World War II.

Let's join together to discuss our lives "way back then" and see if those years really were the 'Fabulous 50's. We will look at politics, music, fashion, food, books, film and whatever else folks come up with. And don't forget to bring your lunch.

MONDAY, MARCH 31 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: DOSTOEVSKY'S CRIME & PUNISHMENT
Subject: Book 4
Facilitator: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Patricia Geehr, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: Felix Pina

In Book Four the layers of the story's complex characters are peeled back, revealing their evolving or steadfast natures. As we delve deeper, we question whether our perceptions of characters like Svidrigailov and Luzhin truly shift or if they simply unfold complexities that challenge our initial judgments.

Raskolnikov's visit to Sonya brings Russian Orthodoxy to the forefront, positioning it as a central theme that influences motivations and moral reckonings. Meanwhile, the intellectual cat-and-mouse game between Raskolnikov and Porfiry intensifies, each encounter ratcheting up the tension and drawing us closer into the psychological and existential dilemmas faced by the protagonist.

Course: **ARCHITECTURE: FUNCTION, DESIGN, AND STRUCTURE**
Subject: Brutalism
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof**, Sharon Katz, Victor Brener
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Susan Diehl, Bob Reiss

The architectural style known as Brutalism had a short run – a couple of decades in the 50s and 60s of the last century. But it has continued to stir up controversy, never more so than at present. Why now? What's all the fuss about? This presentation will look at a series of important buildings that exemplify Brutalism at its height, both near and far. No expansive windows or sweeping vistas, but plenty of exposed concrete.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: Plastic Pollution
Facilitator: Judy Weis
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg, Pete Weis

We hear a lot about plastic pollution these days. We'll discuss plastic pollution in general and then focus on the microplastics that were just discovered 20 years ago. In the past two decades we've learned a lot about where they come from, how they get into all living things on the planet, and what kinds of effects they have. We'll also talk about what we can do about it (given the political will...)

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The Early Supreme Court
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

We all have a fairly good idea about the place of the Supreme Court in the Constitutional scheme and how it functions day-to-day, even if we don't always agree with its decisions. But this is now. It wasn't always so. This is now, but that was then.

This presentation will review the early history of the Court and indeed back to a time when there was a United States but there wasn't yet a Supreme Court of the United States. How and why did the Court come into being? And who came up with the tradition of those black robes?

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

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

L'incomparable Edith Piaf

Viens revisiter avec nous une vedette inoubliable. Sa musique, son style, et son talent continuent à inspirer de nouvelles générations de chanteurs et d'enthousiastes.

The Incomparable Edith Piaf

Come revisit an unforgettable star whose enduring music and artistry continue to inspire new generations of singers and fans.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

We will begin by discussing Chapter 39 from the previous reading before going on to Chapters 40 – 51. What are Pip's conflicted feelings and concerns about the man he now knows to be his benefactor? What does Provis (Magwitch) tell Pip about his life? How does Miss Havisham's attitude toward Pip change during his visit, and what does he ask of her? Take note of the passionate and poetic words of Pip's declaring his love for Estella in the last paragraph of page 364. What are the many secrets revealed in these chapters? How does Herbert show himself to be a true friend by his consoling, advising, and making important arrangements to help Pip?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: The Story's Setting
Speaker: 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

This week we'll discuss how to introduce your reader to the setting of your story and ways to provide enough detail to take them to that brownstone in Brooklyn, a desert island, or the lingerie section of a department store. And, as always, we'll set aside 10 minutes for our prompted writing exercise, which will be followed by sharing (always optional). Any genre of writing (prose, poetry, short play) you have done at home will be given constructive feedback by the group. Writing from home should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be read over consecutive classes. Please bring 14 copies of your writing at home to share with the class. Need a topic suggestion? How about: A Recent Dream.

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: New York City, 1800 to 1840
Presenters: Penelope Pi-Sunyer
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

From a small trading town, New York became a worldly commercial and sophisticated city. How?

From its start, New Amsterdam attracted adventurous, money seeking men, eager to explore and use new shipping, trade and technologies. They were wary of any form of government and regulations, greedy for new territory up the Hudson River and West. They were ruthless in pushing aside populations that initially helped them secure wealth through beaver trade but who were soon seen as native obstacles to new territory. A new system of banking funded shipping for newer and expanding merchants. Handcrafting clothing and horse drawn carriages developed into steam driven manufactured goods. But along with this growth, the gap between rich and poor grew, while the poor became more exploited. Did these characteristics and actions help shape our country even today?

WEDNESDAY, April 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **POWER: THE GLORY OF IT**
Subject: Ozempic, Mounjaro, and Others Yet to Come:
A Revolution in Weight Loss, Potential for Extraordinary Use Beyond
Presenter: David Bartash
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Nearly 3/4 of us are overweight or obese. At any given time, an estimated 160 million Americans are on a diet. \$70 billion is spent annually on weight loss plans, supplements and various other measures. Still those extra pounds have persisted. Until now.

In 2017, the Danish firm Novo introduced Ozempic, a treatment for adult-onset diabetes. Remarkably, it turned out that using this drug resulted in major and sustainable weight loss. It was a revolutionary development, earning Novo billions of dollars, and transforming a seeming intractable problem with one that was manageable with a once a week, injectable drug.

With the smell of money in the air, virtually every drug company has sought to join the party. Eli Lilly was the first with its Mounjaro and will soon be joined by others. And due to these drugs' enormous popularity, a huge data base is being developed. And it is turning out that, besides diabetes and weight loss, these drugs (known as GLP-1 receptor agonists) have the potential to impact a broad range of other diseases. So, join me as we take a deep dive into GLP-1 drugs, where they came from, and their potential usage in Alzheimer's, heart disease, cancer, drug addiction and more.

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

Having led the Romans to a great military victory, Coriolanus anticipates that he will also win in the political arena by being elected Consul. However, when it is declared that he will tyrannize the Roman State, the populace turns against him. Act III continues the play's two main political issues - the class conflict between patricians and plebeians, and the basic question of patriotism. The Act also gives further insight into the relationship between Coriolanus and his mother, Volumnia. We note that just as the populace is hungry, Coriolanus has not been properly nourished by his mother.

WEDNESDAY, April 2 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **Book Club**
Book: The Uncommon Reader
Author: Alan Bennett
Presenter: Debbi Honorof
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

This mischievously witty novella is about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading. Nearing her 80th birthday, the Queen, almost by chance, discovers the joy of reading. Upending her view of the world and her role as monarch, her newfound passion alarms her staff and the royal family and will have unexpected consequences beyond the palace walls.

WEDNESDAY, April 2 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films: 1. Nickle Boys (Victor Brener)
2. Tootsie (Vince Grosso)
3. September 5 (Michael Wellner)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Nickle Boys: Victor Brener reviews the story of how a young man's college dreams are shattered by an innocent mistake on a Florida highway, which ultimately leads to a nightmarish experience at the Nickel Academy.

Tootsie: Vince Grosso tracks a New York actor who is a talented perfectionist and is so hard on himself that neither he nor his agent can find work for him. Desperate, he reinvents himself as an actress, auditions and wins the part.

September 5: Michael Wellner provides an examination of the events that led to the murder of Israeli Athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, as seen from backstage at the production desks of the crew of ABC Wide World of Sports.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**
Subject: Book 5
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Felix Pina

In Book 5 the epic reaches a crescendo of martial fury and divine intrigue. This chapter showcases the heroic exploits of Diomedes, whose unparalleled bravery under the gods' fickle gaze leads to a fierce onslaught against the Trojans. As Diomedes cuts a swath through his enemies, the battlefield is painted with the stark hues of bloodshed. This book not only captures the intense ferocity of ancient warfare but also challenges the reader to confront the visceral realities of combat.

WEDNESDAY, April 2 @ 2:45 PM

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

Join us for a walk along the Hudson River with Marian & 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, APRIL 3 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Seamus Heaney
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Seamus Heaney (1939–2013) was an acclaimed Irish poet, playwright, and translator, widely regarded as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century. Born in County Derry, Northern Ireland, Heaney's poetry often reflects his deep connection to the land, history, and culture of his homeland, as well as the political tensions that marked the period of The Troubles in Northern Ireland. Heaney's work is known for its rich imagery, exploration of themes such as memory, identity, and the relationship between individuals and their environment. His poems frequently draw on the rural and agricultural landscapes of

Ireland, blending personal reflection with universal themes. Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995, celebrated for his ability to "make the ordinary seem extraordinary".

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Money
Presenter: Marty Green
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

Money is a medium of exchange, defined as anything that you use to buy goods and services, and what you receive for selling goods and services. Long before the advent of money people bartered, that is, traded something they had for another thing they needed or wanted. The many disadvantages of the barter system, to be discussed in the talk, were solved by using money.

Money facilitates domestic and international trade, enabling strong, global economies. To quote Y. Harari in Sapiens, "Money is the only trust system created by humans that can bridge almost any cultural gap and does not discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, race, age or sexual orientation. Thanks to money, even people who don't know each other and don't trust each other can nevertheless cooperate effectively."

I will speak extensively about coins, as they have been the most ubiquitous form of money for the last ~2700 years. Coins are fascinating because they are historic, artistic, and embedded in our culture. They speak to us in various ways unrelated to their intrinsic purchasing power.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 @ 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, APRIL 3 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. The Secret Source (Mary Buchwald)
2. Roy (Nancy Richardson)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. "The Secret Source" by Ben Okri Presented by Mary Buchwald

With the eye of a social critic, Ben Okri centers the story about "water, the elixir of life" when drought conditions impact the community. Winner of the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1991, Ben Okri is a Nigerian-born British writer of poetry, novels, short stories and essays.

2. "Roy" by Emma Binder Presented by Nancy Richardson

"Roy" is a 2024 O'Henry Prize winning short story. The first sentence of the story tells us who Roy is and what the story will be about: "In the summer between seventh and eighth grade, my dad's brother, Uncle Roy, came to watch my sister Missy and me while our parents saw our grandma Lori die." Emma Binder is a fiction writer and poet from Wisconsin, who currently lives in California.

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 nancrye9@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 "vague" 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: Beethoven's Religion (and the religion of Beethoven)
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

What did Beethoven believe and why does it matter? As Beethoven aged, his reputation as an unpredictable and irascible genius was joined by a perception of him as the divinely inspired creator of a "heaven born art." His contemporaries spoke of joining the cult of Beethoven, even the religion of Beethoven. In recent years, Beethoven has been proposed for sainthood. (He wouldn't be the only saint who lacked social graces.) To understand his music better, I'd like to examine the evidence for his beliefs, which include what he wrote and read and who might have influenced him. Beethoven called the Missa Solemnis his greatest work, and passages from it will be our primary listening source--not because of its words, but because of what Beethoven understood them to mean.
