QUEST CURRICULUM

The CCNY Lifelong Learning Community

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Fall 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
A Week	Labor Day	2-Sept	3-Sept	4-Sept
B Week	8-Sept	9-Sept	10-Sept	11-Sept
A Week	15-Sept	16-Sept	17-Sept	18-Sept
B Week	22-Sept	Rosh Hashanah	24-Sept	25-Sept
A Week	29-Sept	30-Sept	1-0ct	Yom Kippur
B Week	6-Oct	7-0ct	8-0ct	9-0ct
A Week	Columbus Day	14-0ct	15-0ct	16-0ct
B Week	20-0ct	21-0ct	22-0ct	23-0ct
A Week	27-0ct	28-0ct	29-0ct	30-0ct
B Week	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov
A Week	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov
B Week	17-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov

FALL 2025 CALENDAR

November 24–27, Quest Closed for Thanksgiving Week

A Week	1-Dec	2-Dec	3-Dec	4-Dec
B Week	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec

Holiday Luncheon Friday 12-Dec

Cover Photo: Fort Tryon Park, Fall • Photo Credit: Debbi Honorof, Quest Member This photo was part of a 2024 Exhibit of Quest Member Photos

Aweek		025 CALE Tuesday	CNDAR Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Across the Universe	Art & Practice of Architecture	Shakespeare: The Comedy of Errors	Contemporary Poetry
	It Ain't Just Rock 'n' Roll	Supreme Court	Time: The Wonder of It	Eras in American History
		TheaterWorks		You Can Do PowerPoint
Lunch				
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Profiles in Courage	History of New York City	Cinema Quest: Current & Classic	Contemporary Short Stories
	The Brothers Karamazov	Moral Tales for Our Times	Timeless Writings: The Iliad	World of Religions
Afternoon 1:00 – 3:00		Creative Writing Workshop		
Bweek	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Give My Regards to Broadway	Artists & Their Work	American Upheavals	Earth: Geography
	Wonderful Books Out Loud	New & Classic Essays	Science & Scientists	Oral Interpretation of Poetry
Lunch				
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Great Plays/ Great Directors, Producers	Federalist Papers	Distinguished Guest Lecture Series	Emotional Dichotomies Within
	Quester's Choice	Film for Thought		Explorations in Philosophy & Literature
				Poet's Workshop

COURSES BY CATEGORY

ART & MUSIC

- Art and Practice of Architecture
- Artists and Their Work
- It Ain't Just Rock and Roll NEW

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- American Upheavals
- Supreme Court

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

- Eras in American History NEW
- Explorations In Philosophy & Literature
- Federalist Papers NEW
- History of New York City
- New and Classic Essays
- Profiles in Courage NEW

INTERDISCIPLINARY

- Distinguished Guest Lectures
- Earth: Geography NEW
- Emotional Dichotomies
 Within NEW
- Quester's Choice
- Time: The Wonder of It NEW
- World of Religions

LITERATURE

- The Brothers Karamazov NEW
- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Moral Tales for Our Time NEW
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- Timeless Writings: The Iliad
- Wonderful Books
 Out Loud NEW

PERFORMING ARTS

- Cinema Quest: Current and Classic
- Film for Thought
- Give My Regards to Broadway
- Great Directors, Producers, Actors/Great Plays
- Shakespeare: The Comedy of Errors NEW

SCIENCE

- Across the Universe
- Science & Scientists

SOMETHING EXTRA

- Book Club
- CultureQuest
- Déjeuner Français
- Noontime Medley
- Se Habla Español
- SmartPhone
 Photography
- Social Events
- Sole Mates

WORKSHOPS

- Creative Writing Workshop
- Poets' Workshop
- TheaterWorks NEW
- You Can Do PowerPoint NEW

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

Coordinators: Michael Hamberg, Marion Schultheis

This course will dip into many of the latest discoveries and facets of our Universe — from guided tours and biographies of the people behind the science, to the existential questions concerning our very place in the Universe. Although we can't know how the search for the answers to these profound questions will turn out, we can be sure that our cosmic views are going to be up for grand new revisions in the near future. And this is precisely what makes science so exciting.

ART AND PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE

Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof, Sharon Katz**, Victor Brener

Discover the captivating world of architecture and its historical, cultural, and environmental impact on our society. From ancient marvels to modern wonders, we will delve into diverse architectural styles, learn about influential architects, and understand the principles of design and sustainability. This course will enhance your appreciation and understanding of the spaces we inhabit.

AMERICAN UPHEAVALS

Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks

No matter for whom you voted in the last Presidential election, no one can disagree with the fact that we suddenly find ourselves living through an upheaval in nearly all aspects of our daily existence. In this class we will examine all the ways in which our lives will be dramatically changed in the immediate future, and perhaps for a long time to come.

ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

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

Explore the Met Museum's fascinating collections within the Michael C. Rockefeller Collection of tribal African art from Egyptian sculpture from 3,000 B.C. to the Royal Court of Benin in Nigeria, to the earliest Native Americans in Mexico and South and Central America, to the images of gods, spirits and ancestors from New Guinea, Polynesia and Islands in Southeast Asia.

CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso

Cinema Quest is a course designed for film enthusiasts who enjoy watching and discussing both contemporary and classic films. It is an excellent fit for those with limited technical skills. as our dedicated technical support team is available to assist participants before and during discussions. With the support of our coordinators. presenters will select a domestic. indie, or international film for a 30-minute discussion, delving into aspects such as the cast, directors. and storylines. Questers will receive information about how to watch the movies in advance.

CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz

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

Creative Writing offers both in-class exercises and an opportunity to share your prose, poetry, plays and essays written at home for comment and critique in a congenial atmosphere. Each class begins with a ten-minute writing warm-up inspired by a prompt, such as ice cream, a favorite teacher. or 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, e.g. science fiction, romance, mystery, memoir, comedy, are welcome. Note: This workshop ends at 3:00 pm.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

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

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

DOSTOEVSKY'S THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV NEW

Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

Our study group will dive into the complex world of Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, a masterpiece that explores the intricacies of faith, doubt, and morality through the lives of the Karamazov family. Join us as we unravel the philosophical debates and emotional conflicts that drive this epic story offering insights not only into 19th-century Russia, but also the eternal questions at the heart of human existence. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Dostoevsky, this group promises a rich exploration of one of literature's greatest novels.

EARTH: GEOGRAPHY NEW

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

Our home is a solid planet, which can be studied from a wide variety of perspectives (e.g. ecology, geology, archaeology, history of the planet, evolution, art, poetry, and music), which will be different each semester. This semester will focus on Geography. Presenters will choose a place of interest (perhaps a country, a region, or an island), and talk about its natural features, its natural resources, its culture, and if and how its natural features influenced and continues to influence its culture.

EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN NEW

Coordinators: Elaine Martin, Donna Ramer

In this course, we'll break down the dualities that live within each of us and better understand how we effectively harness and live with conflicting feelings, emotions and values, which is a lifelong balancing act.

ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY New

Coordinators: Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried

This course will explore the eras in American history that are distinct periods characterized by unique social, political, economic, and cultural developments. The major historical eras in US history include Pre-Colonial and Colonial Eras, Revolutionary and Early National Periods, Expansion and Reform, Civil War and Reconstruction, Industrialization and Progressive Reform, World War I and the Interwar Period, World War II, and Postwar America and Modern Eras. This semester will focus on the social impact of wars in the various eras.

FEDERALIST PAPERS: An Introduction to American Constitutionalism New

Coordinators: **Sandy Kessler**, Andrea Irvine

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote The Federalist Papers in 1787-88 as part of the successful effort to ratify the US Constitution. Most scholars now consider this work to be the greatest commentary on American constitutionalism ever written as well as the greatest American contribution to the canon of political philosophy. In our class, we will study this American classic in order to understand how our constitutional government is supposed to work, how it is faring in the Trump era, and how it can now help us to preserve our freedom.

EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE

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

Some of our sessions will focus on how philosophy addresses current controversial issues. Other sessions will focus on writings by classic or contemporary authors that address 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.

FILM FOR THOUGHT

Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, 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.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY

Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum

The Broadway Musical, an American phenomenon, 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 also discover aspects of this unique theater genre that will make it even more enjoyable and entertaining. Your favorite songs? Entertainers? Shows? Composers? Whatever your favorites... you've got to be in the room where it happens!

GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp, Roy Clary

This course will take an in-depth look at some of the most influential talents of the stage and screen. Class members will be encouraged to provide insights and share personal memories. Great Directors, Producers, Actors alternates with the Great Plays course, sharing a room and time slot.

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. Great Plays alternates with the Great Directors, Producers, Actors course, sharing a room and time slot.

HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY

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

The 1898 consolidation of New York and Brooklyn created the largest and richest city in the United States. But. as we all know, the glamorous wealth of this new city existed alongside devastating poverty, as revealed by Jacob Rijs' How the Other Half Lives. among others. We will continue the history that we didn't learn in school by examining both the rise of industry and culture beginning after the Civil War and the massive late 19th century migration — primarily Jewish and Italian—that transformed our city. Join us as we examine the many factors that will help us better understand our city today.

IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL NEW

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly

This course will examine a variety of musical genres and trends. Individual classes may focus on one artist or the links between artists spanning generations. Topics could include sessions on famous producers such as George Martin or Phil Spector, songwriting geniuses, rock music's influence on TV and film, the rock music industry, Prog Rock, or album cover art. Sessions will primarily focus on rock, folk, country, hip-hop, and the blues.

NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS

Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Bob Belfort, Nina Sanders, Larry Shapiro

Each week the course coordinators will pick one or two essays 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.

MORAL TALES FOR OUR TIME NEW

Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

Our class will read several plays in which individuals act morally and bravely in the face of enormous social and political pressure and at great cost to themselves. The plays include *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, and *A Man for All Seasons* by Robert Bolt. Our goal is to discuss how to respond honorably to the moral challenges of the Trump era by being inspired by great literature.

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter

The human oral tradition goes back millennia, and it began with poetry. It was a way of communicating and telling stories about the world around us and who we are. In a fun, creative environment, we will continue this tradition as participants read aloud and interpret poetry and study meter, rhyme, alliteration, and other poetic elements that influence a poem's sound and meaning.

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.

QUESTER'S CHOICE

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

What's your personal passion? Chances are you will find it in Quester's Choice, 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. Join us as we journey through the endless array of topics and themes in Quester's Choice.

PROFILES IN COURAGE NEW

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor

Courage seems to be in short supply these days among many of our elected officials, academic leaders, and captains of industry. This course will explore the nature of courage and profile individuals who risked their personal safety for the greater good. The course will also examine what motivates these unique individuals.

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 present, 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.

SHAKESPEARE: THE COMEDY OF ERRORS NEW

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

The class will explore the shortest and most unified of all of Shakespeare's plays. Written around 1593, it is his first comedy and abounds in witty dialogue, romantic subplots, and themes of identity and social harmony. Shakespeare steals from The Twin *Menaechmi* by the Roman playwright. Plautus, by creating the wonderful absurdity of two sets of identical twins. In turn, his comedy was transformed into the Bovs from Svracuse by Rodqers and Hart. While the emphasis will be on Shakespeare's play, there will be time to explore both the Roman play and the American musical. (The Folger Library edition is preferred.)

SUPREME COURT

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried

With the Supreme Court now composed of six Republican-appointed "conservative" justices, and just three "liberal" ones, and so many very urgent and critical issues being presented by the Trump presidency, the decisions of the Supreme Court are more urgent and important than perhaps any time in recent history. Join us as each class examines one or more cases before the Court and its decisions.

THEATERWORKS NEW

Coordinators: **Art Spar**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Ruth Ward, Arlynn Greenbaum

In a creative and fun environment, participants will practice the full range of theater skills. Ten-minute scenes will be a prominent format for writers, editors, directors and actors to hone their skills. Improvisational exercises without scripts will be used to develop confidence on stage. Storytelling activities will be encouraged, and technology will be used to create videos and to support lighting, scenery, special effects, and the full range of theater crafts.

TIME: THE WONDER OF IT NEW

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, David Bartash, Marion Schulthies

Time, an elusive and precious commodity, weaves through our lives, shaping experiences and defining moments. We mark it with clocks and calendars, but it cannot be contained or controlled. Time is both our most precious resource and our greatest mystery. Come join us as each presenter creates their own version of what 'time' means to them — whether it's yesterday's past or tomorrow's future.

TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD

Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

What could be more intriguing than sharing the literary works that have endured the test of time, and engaged and inspired people worldwide for over a millennium? What can we — with our 21st Century education, mores, and values — discover between the covers of a book originally etched into a papyrus? For the second semester, we will continue to explore *The Iliad* by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson.

WORLD OF RELIGIONS

Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried

This is the third semester of an introduction to the basic religious concerns of humanity and the ways in which religions have developed in Eastern and Western history, giving intellectual, moral, and institutional expression to the meaning of human existence. This semester, the course will explore Roman Catholicism, Christian Science, Reconstructionist Judaism, Near Death Experiences, Spirituality and Dance, the Yazidis, and the Afterlife.

WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD: TWAIN'S SHORT STORIES NEW

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

Mark Twain has been called the father of American literature. A humorist. lecturer and novelist. Twain combined narrative wit and a strong sense of irony to create distinctive masterpieces based on American culture and language. Using The Complete Short Stories of *Mark Twain*, we will read the best of the best. Sure, Tom Sawyer is probably the most famous kid in all of literature, and ves, Huckleberry Finn gets more votes than any other book for being the greatest American novel. But if you want a wonderful one-sitting jolt of Twain, come to Wonderful Books Out Loud to read his short stories and enjoy the wonderful wit of one of America's greatest writers.

YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT New

Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee

Want to share your passion but don't know how to create a presentation? This workshop will be for Quest members to drop in as needed to learn basic PowerPoint skills such as starting a presentation, adding images and text, and embedding videos. After a brief PowerPoint orientation, attendees will get individual assistance with their presentations. Experienced PowerPoint users are welcome to join in to share their skills and learn more advanced techniques as time permits.

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 Wednesday of the first A week of the month, from 12:10–12:55 pm.

DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS

Ruth Ward, Donna Basile 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, current museum exhibitions, guided walks as well as other enriching adventures throughout the New York metro area. These events take place every month on selected Fridays and are presented either in-person or on zoom. The in-person programs are followed by a relaxing lunch to enjoy good food and conversation.

NOONTIME MEDLEY Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

Every Monday, we will present a medley of delights to accompany your lunch. Topics may be art or theater or music or books and always time for unhurried discussion. There is no fixed agenda beyond community and camaraderie.



SOMETHING EXTRA

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Ruth Ward, Donna Basile ¡Qué hermoso sueño poder hablar español con otros Questeros durante el almuerzo! Si habla un poco de español, venga para charlar sobre temas elegidos por nuestros participantes, quienes presentarán minilecciones y facilitarán conversaciones sobre temas de interés general y personal. Buena idea, ¿no? Hasta pronto.

SOCIAL EVENTS *Gale Spitalnik*

The Social Committee brings Questers together for some exciting events such as wine & cheese receptions, holiday celebrations, and other events throughout the year. We look for opportunities to socialize and learn more about each other in a lively, friendly environment at our home away from home, 25 Broadway.

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

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. We will then introduce a theme to focus on for the sharing portion of the next class. Meets lunchtime once a month — details alwavs in NWAQ.

SOLE MATES

Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine With Marian and Andrea, we set the pace, Along the Hudson, our serene escape. Each step a story, a gentle trace Of laughter, shared in the open space.

No need for signups, no ties that bind, Just fresh air and peace of mind. We walk as far as our hearts decide, With refreshments waiting as our guide. Meet at 2:45pm by seventh floor elevators every fortnight. Details always in NWAQ.

QUEST Q CURRICULUM

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

Members benefit by

- Learning & developing
 new interests
- Meeting new people & forming new relationships

• Exchanging ideas

Social activities

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.



Scan the QR code for more information about Quest Membership.

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

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies The City College at the Center for Worker Education of New York

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