

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 7 - 10, 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, APRIL 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: John Kander and Fred Ebb
Presenter: Lauren Gee
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

John Kander and Fred Ebb were the longest-running composer-lyricist team in Broadway history, having first collaborated in 1962. Their Chicago is now the longest-running American musical on Broadway with over 11,000 performances. Sometimes referred to as the Rodgers and Hammerstein of the second half of the 20th Century, Kander and Ebb's musicals have a vibrancy, originality, and daring that uniquely capture whatever period they are writing about. Starting with *Flora the Red Menace*, star vehicles such as *Woman of the Year* and *Zorba*, to their megahits, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, we'll trace their long career, which has had an enduring impact on American musical theater.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Billy Budd, Sailor*, by Herman Melville
Sections 19-21, in Enriched Classics edition
Plus: *Melville, a Dark Romantic in the Dark Romantic Era of Literature*
Facilitator: Ruth Ward
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 19-21.

Herman Melville, along with Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne, is considered a key writer of the Dark Romantic movement. While part of the broader Romantic era of the early 19th century emphasized emotion, individualism, and the sublime beauty of nature, the sub-genre of "Dark Romanticism" explored the darker side of human experience. Like his contemporaries, Melville explored themes of sin and the potential for wrongdoing within humanity. In class we'll witness the clash of evil and innocence in the climatic chapters of *Billy Budd* and decide what message the fallout conveys to us in the 21st century.

MONDAY, APRIL 7 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Music of the Heart
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine, Frank Montaturo

Music of the Heart is a special treat where you can lean back, enjoy your lunch, and immerse yourself in the favorite tunes of fellow Quest members. It's a unique opportunity to experience the diverse musical tastes that enrich our community. Join us and let the music resonate!

And if you would like to share a piece of music, just let us know and we will make space for you.

MONDAY, APRIL 7 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS**
Subject: Some Like It Wilder: The Films of Billy Wilder
Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Tracey Lee, Art Spar
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support **Wayne Cotter**

Billy Wilder won six Academy Awards and international acclaim as one of the world's greatest filmmakers and screenwriters even though he emigrated to the United States from Berlin in 1934 with a minimal command of English.

Wilder, who as a young man worked as a reporter in Vienna, has long been considered a hardened cynic by many film historians. However, Joseph McBride, author of Wilder's 2021 biography, rejects that notion, considering Wilder more of a "disappointed romantic."

In this presentation, we'll discuss Wilder's storied life and career. And then each of our three presenters will focus on one of Wilder's award-winning films, specifically The Apartment (Art Spar), Sabrina (Tracey Lee), and Double Indemnity (Wayne Cotter). So come join us to discuss the life and times of one of the most versatile filmmakers of classic Hollywood cinema.

Course: **WOMEN LEADERS**
Subject: Women in Politics
Presenter: Laura Lopez
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Laura Lopez**, Joan Vreeland
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

So why don't more women reach the political summit? A good place to begin exploring this topic may be to look at: (1) current women presidents and prime ministers; (2) America's experience with women politicians and presidential candidates; and (3) the noteworthy record of a recent woman leader.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Siena 1300 – 1350
Presenter: Ellen Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Ellen Shapiro** Susan Diehl,

The Metropolitan Museum's eye-opening exhibition of the art of Siena: Rise of Painting from 1300 to 1350, this past summer and fall demonstrated that, during this fifty-year period, Sienese artists excelled at introducing innovations that had profound influences on the artists of the High Renaissance in Rome and Florence in the next century and beyond in Western art. The intense emotion of Duccio's paintings was integral to his rethinking of traditional subjects. In Simone Martini's large portraits of saints, he captured their essential humanity while portraying them with elegance and grace. These and other Sienese artists used stories of the New Testament to portray human beings at moments of crisis, reaching depths of feeling new to painting in Western art.

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Subject: Salman Rushdie and *The Wizard of Oz*
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Martha Drezin, Larry Shapiro

The book and movie *The Wizard of Oz* had a profound impact on author Salman Rushdie. We'll discuss his essay: "Out of Kansas: Revisiting *The Wizard of Oz*" from the May 4, 1992, edition of *The New Yorker* and his short story "At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers."

These readings will be distributed prior to the class through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)
Presenter: Donna Basile
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Si eres aficionado del cine, de la transmisión en directo o de la tele, te gustará nuestra próxima reunión donde compartiremos nuestros gustos y desgustos con respeto a cómo y qué miramos. ¡Conversemos con ánimo en español!

If you are an aficionado of movies, digital streaming, or TV, you will enjoy our next session where we will share our viewing likes and dislikes. Please join us for a lively discussion in español.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 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: Poems of War and Peace
Presenters: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: None

Poems about war and peace have long captured the deep contrasts and complex emotions that come with both conflict and resolution. It's strange in a way to think of poetry and war in the same context. But there are many powerful poems about the numerous conflicts that have occurred throughout history. And they are often thrilling, often despairing. But while war is tangible, peace is not. The "peaceful" poems we will read are not about the absence of battles but the pleasures of everyday life unaffected by fighting and combat. Poems that make us feel good in a world in which such feelings are often isolated by reality. But pleasure is as much a part of life as pain.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Even More "Hidden Figures"
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitser

Many women have made important discoveries in the sciences, as shown in the book "Hidden Figures" about women in NASA. I gave a Quest presentation a few years ago called "More Hidden Figures." Now I am following it with this presentation about four women from past and recent centuries, in France, England and the U.S., who overcame discrimination and obstacles to make important discoveries in the marine sciences, related to biology, paleontology, and oceanography.

Course: **UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: The Outlook for U.S. Health Care
Presenter: Emily Mines
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

Are you curious about the current state of our healthcare system, how it works and where it might be heading?

Join us as we compare and contrast the healthcare system here in the U.S. to other countries around the world. How did ours become the way it is? What are its strengths and weaknesses? ... and we will talk about changes occurring as a result of the Trump

administration's appointments and executive orders affecting the Department of Human Services, the primary federal agency under which the CDC, NIH, FDA, Medicare/Medicaid and myriad other agencies and program operate that are related to the health of American people.

One thing is for sure; we are in for some big changes! We invite you to come join the conversation.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Subject: Taking Manhattan
Speaker: Russell Shorto
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

Russell Anthony Shorto is an author, historian, and journalist. He is best known for his book on the Dutch origins of New York City, *The Island at the Center of the World*. Shorto has been the New Netherland Institute's Senior Scholar since 2013. In 2022, he founded the New Amsterdam Project at the New York Historical Society with a mission to promote awareness of New York's Dutch origins.

He is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine* and was the director of the John Adams Institute in Amsterdam. He now resides in Cumberland, Maryland, where he wrote *Revolution Song*, his narrative history of the American Revolution.

Taking Manhattan tells the riveting story of the birth of New York City as a center of capitalism and pluralism, a foundation from which America would rise. It also shows how the paradox of New York's origins — boundless opportunity coupled with subjugation and displacement — reflects America's promise and failure to this day. His work has been described as “astonishing” (*New York Times*) and “literary alchemy” (*Chicago Tribune*). He has once again mined archival sources to offer a vibrant tale and a fresh and trenchant argument about American beginnings.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2:30 - 4:00 PM

SPECIAL EVENT

Event: Meet *Q Review's* Creative Team
Place: Quest lunchroom
Presenters: *Q Review's* Creative Team

Come to the Quest lunchroom right after our
Distinguished Guest Lecturer's presentation

**Celebrate our 30th edition of *Q Review* and find out
how you can contribute to the next issue!**

Festivities and treats will ensue.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **NYC & ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS**
Subject: BoCoCa
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitsier

What is/where is the neighborhood of **BoCoCa**? Well, to be honest, there is no NYC neighborhood with that name. Actually, it is a concocted name (likely by the real estate industry) for an area very near Downtown Brooklyn that is the combination of the first letters of three neighborhoods -- **B**oreum Hill/**C**obble Hill/**C**arroll Gardens. We'll amble through these three lovely old neighborhoods visiting their churches, homes, commercial centers and see how people lived hundreds of years ago and today.

Course: **OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS**
Subject: Exodus
Presenters: Pete (and Judy) Weis
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

If you celebrate Passover, you will revisit the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. If you don't celebrate Passover, come to this presentation and hear appropriate music by George Frederic Handel's oratorio Israel in Egypt and see how it was illustrated by many artists from 15th-20th centuries (most notably Marc Chagall).

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: "Why Judge?"
Facilitator: Paul Golomb
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: **Larry Shapiro**

The Canadian scholar Robert Gibbs titled his comprehensive study of analytic philosophy Why Ethics? He endeavored to provide a positive answer (in sharp contrast to the current American administration). Rather than trying to tackle the entire book, we will look at a section that investigates the challenge of taking responsibility for rendering a judgment on others.

Course: **JAZZ: YESTERDAY AND TODAY**
Subject: New Dutch Swing
Presenter: Steve Koenig
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinator: **Debbi Honorof**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

Since the 1960s, New Dutch Swing has referred to two generations of improvisers and composers and a collective portrait of a musical world both strange and familiar. One thing that makes the Dutch players remarkable is their ability to conflate the serious (their technical skills and knowledge of the history of jazz and beyond) and a fun-loving sense of humor unique to these players. They've created a sort of alternative universe for jazz, where humor counts for more than dead seriousness; where the boundaries between music and theater blur; where a unique blend of cultural influences, from Surinamese to South African, find their way into the mix; where pranksters Charles Ives and Thelonious Monk are major influences; and where covers include works by Kurt Weill and George Gershwin. All of these ensembles and players have a fluid connection no matter whether they play solo or in overlapping combinations. Han Bennink can play his drum kit solo with his feet. The Willem Breuer Kollektief can play straight or be the Harlem Globetrotters of jazz. Come for serious fun.

CultureQuest

SALOME FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL

**Friday, April 25th 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Metropolitan Opera House**

Richard Strauss's *Salome* returns to the Metropolitan Opera this season after 20 years with a new production. Claus Guth, one of Europe's leading opera directors, gives the biblical story—already filtered through the beautiful and strange imagination of Oscar Wilde's play—a psychologically perceptive Victorian-era setting rich in symbolism and subtle shades of darkness and light. Headlining the new staging is soprano Elza van den Heever as the abused and unhinged antiheroine, who demands the head of Jochanaan, sung by celebrated baritone Peter Mattei.

- **WHEN:** Friday, April 25th at 10:30 AM
- **WHERE:** Metropolitan Opera. Please arrive no later than 10:00 AM
- **COST:** FREE. Limited to 50 participants.
- **TO RESERVE:** Contact Estelle Selzer at Eselzer19@gmail.com ASAP to secure a reservation. Put Salome Rehearsal in the subject. Your email will be acknowledged. We will have a waitlist.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancel will be placed on "future waitlist only" when they sign up to attend future CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.