

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 21 - 24, 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, APRIL 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: Search for the Age of the Earth
Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

In this class I'll address a question that some curious minds have asked for thousands of years: "When did the Earth begin?" From begats to radiometric dating, we will examine the different ways that philosophers, theologians, and scientists tried to find the answer.

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Nina Simone – *Here Comes the Sun* (1971)
Presenter: Karen Levin
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Many describe Nina Simone as a jazz singer, as well as a performer of pop, cabaret, rhythm and blues, classical and gospel. However, she was also a songwriter, composer and arranger of music.

She recorded *Here Comes the Sun* for RCA in 1971. This was her 13th album, and she sings a medley of well-known songs by Bob Dylan, the Beatles, Jerry Jeff Walker and Paul Anka using her own arrangements and versatility.

I'll play the title song "Here Comes the Sun," "Mr. Bojangles," and "Just Like a Woman" as well as some other classic Nina Simone songs.

While you may not remember her music, she's a singer of great renown and performed all over the world.

MONDAY, APRIL 21 @ 12:10 - 12:50 PM

Event: **MEET THE CANDIDATES**
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are Donna Ramer (President – incumbent) and three candidates for member-at-large positions: Bob Belfort, Victor Brener, and Tracey Lee.

MONDAY, APRIL 21 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

As we approach the penultimate session of our deep dive into *Crime and Punishment*, Book 5 stands ready to challenge our perceptions and stir our debates. This critical juncture in Dostoevsky's masterpiece brings pivotal developments and moral quandaries that are sure to provoke thought and discussion. With only two sessions remaining, be sure to bring your questions and insights as we explore the complex layers of psychological turmoil. Let's unravel the intricacies of Raskolnikov's journey together, enriching our understanding of this profound narrative. Join us for a session not to be missed.

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

Spanning a period of 70 years, Frank Lloyd Wright was deemed by the American Institute of Architects as the greatest Architect of the 20th Century. He was loved by his clients and revered by his peer group yet condemned by the public. Throughout his career, he created both residential and commercial architecture of which eight are World Heritage sites, including Falling Water in Pennsylvania, Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois, and the Guggenheim Museum here in NYC. He was a man of many talents who designed and inspired architects from around the world.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Viruses have been in the news lately: from egg prices and worries about bird flu (H5N1) to the viruses that cause measles, polio, and shingles. We will discuss these, and other topics related to viruses, such as how AI is helping in studying viruses.

For those who want to do some reading ahead of the session, an article will be distributed through QuestBusiness

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The Powers of the President
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

In this topsy-turvy world, with an “Executive Order-a-day” President, how do we evaluate which orders are constitutional and which are not? What distinguishes legislative from executive power? What is the role of the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, in determining whether an order is Constitutional or not? What happens/will happen if the Executive does not accept and follow a judicial opinion? How could all of this led to a Constitutional crisis, or are we already in one now? We will discuss all of these questions and issues within the context of a review of prior and current Executive Orders.

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Event: **MEET THE CANDIDATES**
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are four candidates for member-at-large positions: Stu Parker, Ellie Schaffer, Lynn Vairo and Ruth Ward.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 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**

After covering Chapters 50 and 51 from our last class, we will plan to discuss the remaining chapters of the book. What does Pip consider the one good thing he achieved? Why does Orlick lure Pip to the marsh house to murder him? What plan do Pip, Herbert, and Startup pursue to get Magwitch safely out of England? Why does it fail? How does Pip feel and what self-awareness does he come to as Magwitch lies dying in prison? What does Pip tell him to comfort his last moments? When Pip is ill, Joe nurses him back to health. Why does he leave abruptly? What is Pip's plan when he goes to see Biddy and Joe, and what surprise does he find? Pip works with Herbert for many years in the East before returning to England and seeing Estella by chance. Dickens was persuaded by his editors to rewrite his original ending. Appendix A contains that original ending. Please read both endings and consider which one you think is best.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Taking the Ego Out of Self-Editing
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

Refining any written work is essential so we'll focus on how to gain emotional distance to be as subjective as possible, move beyond simple proofreading for typos and grammatical errors, and embrace revisions as essential to the creative process. We'll also take a look at a few tried-and-true ways to edit our own work and what to focus on when revising.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any genre — prose (no longer than 750 words), poetry or plays — and the group will offer constructive responses. Please bring in 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try "The Playground" or "I Taught Myself to..."

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: Irish and German Immigration
Presenters: Mary Ann Donnelly and Toni Dickenson
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 unprecedented number of German and Irish immigrants who settled in New York in the 1840s and early 1850s changed New York from a city with many immigrants to a metropolis defined by them. By 1855 there were more immigrants than native-born inhabitants. Prior to the wave of immigration New York did not even rank as one of the 20 most populous cities of the world, yet by 1860, only London, Paris and Beijing were bigger. Few things shaped New York City's identity as decisively as immigration but inevitably pushback occurred. We will look at the experience of Irish and German immigrants as they arrived in large numbers to escape harsh economic conditions and political persecution at home, only to find that their integration into American society was not without considerable prejudice and discrimination. Anti-immigrant sentiment is not new to our city.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

From Eve's first bite to the inception of Apple Computer, the apple has symbolized the quest for knowledge. This presentation explores the essence of curiosity: is it a singular force driving discovery, or a trait with multiple dimensions? We'll examine how individual curiosity shapes society and delve into its role in human progress. Join us to explore the depths of this fascinating characteristic and its diverse impacts across various contexts.

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

The class will read aloud and discuss the decision by the banished Coriolanus to join the enemy Volscian army, led by Aufidius, that is preparing to make war on Rome. We will explore the relationship between the two great adversaries and their muscular warrior culture. To help us better understand the banishment of Coriolanus, we will watch a scene from the film that starred Ralph Fiennes.

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. Babygirl (Estelle Selzer)
2. Safety Last (Wayne Cotter)
3. My Old Ass (Paul Adler)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Leading off, Estelle Selzer will review **Babygirl**, where a high-powered CEO, played by Nicole Kidman, puts her career and family on the line when she begins a torrid affair with a much younger intern.

Our classic comedy today is the silent film **Safety Last** featuring Harold Lloyd. Wayne Cotter will take us on the journey of a young man who moves to New York City hoping for

a good job to support and then marry his girlfriend, but he finds city life is more challenging than he thought.

For our third film, Paul Adler reviews **My Old Ass**. On her birthday, a free-spirited 18-year-old experiments with hallucinogenic mushrooms and comes face to face with her 39-year-old wise-cracking old-ass self, who warns her of the actions her younger self should not follow about family and love.

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

In Book 6 of *The Iliad*, the war-torn fields of Troy serve as the backdrop for deeply personal interactions that illuminate the human element in Homer's epic. This section juxtaposes the battlefield heroics of the Greek warrior Diomedes and the Trojan warrior Glaukos with the poignant domestic scene between Hector and his family. A rare exchange of armor between enemies highlights themes of ancestral bonds. Most movingly, Hector's tender yet heartrending farewell to his wife, Andromache, and their son Astyanax, casts a shadow of destiny and tragedy, emphasizing the relentless grip of fate and the inevitable costs of war.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 @ 2:45 PM

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

Andrea and Marian will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River. They will start at Battery Park and head north ending at a "rest" stop for a glass of wine, a cup hot soup, socialization. It is up to you how far you walk. No signups – No commitments just serendipity – community and a healthy heart. A great way to end a week of Questing.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Subject: Diane Seuss
Presenter: Karen Millard
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Felix Pina

2022 Pulitzer Prize winner Diane Seuss is the author of six acclaimed poetry collections. A born and bred Michigander, her unique style is marked by audacious honesty, high and low culture, a sometimes-self-deprecating humor and lyrical and digressive storytelling. While living in New York City in the 1970's, she began her writing career and was regarded as the clear and compelling voice of a country woman who met the big city and its dark and dirty underbelly. Over the years, she explored the purposes of poems, cycling through multiple forms in the process. Currently a professor and editor, she lives in Kalamazoo.

Class participants are encouraged to bring in favorite poems to share with the class.

Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE
Subject: The Quran, Women and Islam in America
Presenters: Sabeeha Rehman and Khalid Rehman
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg

Come to a very special session of Questers Choice to listen to our guest speakers. Their talk will illustrate the history, content and significance of the Quran, in particular, its unifying message regarding "People of the Book." They will draw the distinction between culture and theology and its impact on how faith is practiced, particularly as it relates to the role of women. They will describe the history of Muslims in the U.S., the fall-out after 9/11, what Muslims in America are doing to bridge the divide, and the role the audience can play in uniting our country. A very timely talk.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 @ 12:10 - 12:50 PM

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Five Bridges (Heidi Shedlin)
2. Sandstone Farmhouse (Dennis Sherman)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1.- "Five Bridges" by Colm Toibin – Presented by Heidi Shedlin

This is a story about an Irishman in his forties, who came to the U.S. decades ago and overstayed his tourist visa. He makes the difficult decision to move back to Ireland to avoid the risk of being deported. He must leave behind a young daughter. Colm Toibin is an Irish novelist, short story writer, essayist and journalist.

2.- "Sandstone Farmhouse" by John Updike – Presented by Dennis Sherman

This story by John Updike appeared in The New Yorker some thirty-five years ago. Updike (1932-2009) was one of the most honored writers of the last half century, writing widely and in almost every form. While perhaps most well-known for his novels, Dennis liked best his short stories, and says it is particularly important to bring a hard or electronic copy of the story to this class.

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 "illusion" 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: The Syncretic Religions of Africa and Irreligion.
Presenters: Ruth Ward and Paul Adler
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

What is religious syncretism? It is the combining of two different belief systems to create something new. Syncretic religions of African origin like Vodou in Haiti, Santería in Cuba, and Candomblé in Brazil emerged from the blending of African spiritual practices with the beliefs of Christianity and Islam, preserving ancestral connections while adapting to new contexts. These syncretic religions created unique belief systems that incorporated divergent sets of deities and rituals. They were often practiced in secret under the guise of Christian worship within the historical context of slavery. Join with us to explore some of the deep-seated beliefs and ritual practices of these lesser-known world religions.

Irreligion is a broad concept that encompasses various positions and draws upon an array of philosophical and intellectual perspectives, including atheism, agnosticism, skepticism, rationalism, and secularism. Some individuals who are considered irreligious may still believe in a higher power or spiritual force, but without adhering to a specific religious tradition or belief system. We will take a look at some aspects of irreligion, and how it fits into our modern view of ethics, morality and faith.

CULTUREQUEST

Guided Walking Tour of Little Italy & Visit to the New Italian American Museum

In-Person
Friday May 2, 2025

Whether you have Italian American roots, love NYC, or are a curious Quester, this Amici Little Italy tour will introduce you to a cultural legacy that has endured for generations. Between 1840 and 1920, four million Italians arrived in NYC with dreams to build a better life for their families. Over the years, however, due to the rising costs of city living, many

of these families have moved to the suburbs. As we walk down the narrow streets, with their colorful tenements, hear the sound of accordions, and smell the aroma of newly baked bread, we will see how the old architecture has mingled with the new cafes and chic boutiques. At the end of our guided tour, we will briefly visit the new Italian American Museum on Mulberry Street. Because your taste buds will surely have been stimulated, we have lunch reservations at Lunella, a family-owned Italian restaurant in the neighborhood.

When: Friday, May 2, 2025. The tour will begin at 11:00 AM — Please arrive by 10:45.

Where: Our tour will begin at the Italian American Museum located at 151 Mulberry St. The Museum is easily accessible by subway with nearest stations being Canal St and Grand St.

Accessibility: Just a cautionary note: 1.5 miles of walking on this tour.

Reserve: Send an email ASAP to Lois Klein at loisnataliek@gmail.com

Cost: \$22 per person.

The tour is limited to 20 participants. We will have a waitlist. Please leave a check, made out to Quest Lifelong Learning, in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office no later than Tuesday, April 22nd @2:30 PM. Please indicate whether you will be joining us for lunch.

Note: Please sign up to come. Anyone who does not show without canceling will be placed on a waitlist for future CultureQuest trips. Thank you for your understanding.