

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

May 5 - 8, 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, MAY 5 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Just think of the profound significance in the act of *measurement*. There is probably not one facet of life that doesn't involve taking the measure of something. In fact, the act of measuring is profoundly essential to the very foundation of our civilized lives. We constantly are measuring time, distance, amount, age, velocity, temperature, and size of just about everything in our existence. In fact, without measurement, what we call objective knowledge would be meaningless. This morning, we will trace some of the highlights of humanity's growing precision in taking the measure of the cosmos. We will examine the achievements of classical antiquity, medieval Islam, the European Renaissance, the Age of Reason, and the Scientific Revolution. We will continue with a look at the accomplishments of the 19th century's Industrial Revolution and the breakthroughs of the early 20th century. Finally, we will conclude with an examination of the latest findings from our own 21st century and cast an eye toward the uncertain future. As always, comments and questions are most welcome.

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Ike and Tina Turner — The Hunter (1969)
Presenters: Steve Koenig and Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Ike and Tina sprouted in the late 1950s from rhythm and from blues. Most people know either their middle-period recordings, such as "River Deep, Mountain High," or their hit cover of a Creedence Clearwater song, "Proud Mary."

The Hunter is riddled with blues, as in the title track, and the classics "I Smell Trouble" and "The Things I Used to Do." There's also some fierce funk, as in "Bold Soul Sister." Actually, the entire album is a delicious amalgam of blues, funk, New Orleans, Southern soul, and rock. Pow!

MONDAY, MAY 5 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Literary Showdown: The Year Was 1925...
Presenter: Sheryl & Andrea
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

1925 gave us *The Great Gatsby*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *The Trial*—three wildly different masterpieces that changed the literary landscape. As we mark 100 years since their publication, let's celebrate this year in the arts with a spirited debate: Which one deserves the coveted **Quest 1925 Award**?

Bring your lunch – your curiosity – your opinions!

MONDAY, MAY 5 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

We've followed Raskolnikov through murder, guilt, cat-and-mouse games, philosophical anguish, and spiritual reckoning. In this final session, we'll bring it all together—what has changed, what remains unresolved, and what Dostoevsky ultimately wants us to see. Does redemption truly arrive in Siberia? What happens to Sonya, to Porfiry, to our own sense of justice? Come ready to reflect, question, and perhaps forgive.

Course: **ARCHITECTURE: FUNCTION, DESIGN, AND STRUCTURE**
Subject: Henry Hobson Richardson: Visionary Harbinger of Modern America
Architectural Practice
Presenter: Linda Downs
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof, Sharon Katz, Victor Brener**
Tech Support: **Victor Brener, Susan Diehl, Bob Reiss**

At the end of the Civil War there was a national effort to re-establish American identity and aspirations civically and culturally. Henry Hobson Richardson brought architectural

expertise from his studies in Paris back to a country that lacked an accredited architectural school and had followed the colonial standards based on English 18th century designs for a century.

Richardson set the course for radical new architectural styles drawing from diverse sources such as French Romanesque churches to contemporary Japanese roofing practices. His 'launching pad' centered on Trinity Church in Boston where he established an architectural firm with young architects who subsequently changed the character of American architectural design.

Richardson's influence has placed his work on a par with Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright in bringing a new vision and professional architectural practice to modern American architecture.

TUESDAY, MAY 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

We'll be looking at some of the most significant scientific discoveries of recent months. As always, we look forward to lively and wide-ranging discussions of this and whatever topics pop up.

For those who wish to do some reading in advance of the class, articles will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Originalism and How the Supreme Court Reaches Its Decisions
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

In the relatively recent past, the Supreme Court has certainly rendered some "interesting" decisions: Presidential Immunity; the Dobbs decision; Voting Rights; the Chevron Deference; and so many more. So, in today's class, we will (at least try) to examine the history and rationale behind these most critical decisions.

TUESDAY, MAY 6 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Subject: Louis Pasteur
Presenter: Marion Kokot
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

L'oeuvre de Louis Pasteur

Louis Pasteur est connu pour avoir développé la pasteurisation, démontré la théorie microbienne des maladies, créé des vaccins et fait des découvertes majeures en fermentation et en chimie. Venez découvrir comment ces contributions ont considérablement amélioré la santé publique, jeté les bases de la médecine moderne et sauvé d'innombrables vies.

The Work of Louis Pasteur

Louis Pasteur is known for developing pasteurization, demonstrating the germ theory of disease, creating vaccines, and making key discoveries in fermentation and chemistry. Come and hear how these contributions significantly improved public health, laid the foundation for modern medicine, and saved countless lives.

TUESDAY, MAY 6 @ 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

For our last class we will be showing director David Lean's acclaimed 1946 film of *Great Expectations*. This film has wonderful performances by superb British actors and considered by many film critics to be David Lean's finest work. It runs for just over an hour and a half, so we will begin right on time. Do come and enjoy it.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Revision
Presenter: 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

In our last class for the Spring semester we'll be continuing our focus on revision. In addition to reading the revisions done at home for a piece done in our last class, we'll be working with a partner to revise work done in this class. As always, we'll start with a 10-minute exercise using a prompt that students will have the option of sharing with the class or not. The group will give feedback to pieces written at home—poetry, prose or other script. Prose pieces should not exceed 750 words and plays should be about five minutes. Need some inspiration? How about Forgiveness. Please bring 14 copies of your work from home to share with the group.

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: Abolition and Slavery in New York
Presenter: Susannah Falk Lewis
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

How did people in the United States decide that it was immoral to own slaves? How did they decide ending slavery was so important that it merited going to war to free all the slaves? In particular, how did New Yorkers, many of whom profited greatly from the cotton industry of the slave south or rioted against the draft, debate and resolve these questions?

We are going to explore these issues by looking at the history of slavery in New York between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. We will take an excursion to Britain to examine the abolitionist movement there as it strongly influenced the American view of slavery. Finally, we will look at Uncle Tom's Cabin as a major factor in changing the minds of so many Americans about slavery.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **POWER: THE GLORY OF IT**
Subject: Napoleon
Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Napoleon Bonaparte is often portrayed as a ruthless military leader, but he also had a softer side. This presentation will offer a look at his childhood home and family in Corsica, his marriages, mistresses, and two sons. We will also take a look at his personal tastes, his impact on style, clothing, decoration, as well as his homes and gardens. An overview of the "softer" legacy he left behind as Emperor of the French. Come join us to explore this man's enduring projection of power in history.

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

In many of Shakespeare's plays, the child/parent relationship is of exceeding importance — perhaps never as much as in the relationship between Coriolanus and his mother, Volumnia. Beginning with the final act of the play, we will discover and explore the tragic nature of the play with a special emphasis on the relationship between Volumnia and her son.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **Book Club**
Book: Long Island
Author: Colm Toibin
Presenter: Anita Hunter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

In this final class of the Spring semester, we'll be discussing a novel by acclaimed Irish author Colm Toibin. After Long Islander Eilis Lacey learns of her husband's infidelity, she returns to her native Ireland for the first time in twenty years. It's ostensibly to celebrate

her mother's 80th birthday, but the trip will also bring her face-to-face with a former love. The painful choices and consequences that follow are presented in deeply affecting but resolutely unsentimental prose.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. The Apprentice (Howard Salik)
2. Groundhog Day (Kathy Cook)
3. Sing Sing (Hedy Shulman)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Howard Salik tracks the film **The Apprentice**, which unveils young Donald Trump's calculated ascent from the confines of Jamaica Estates and the sting of his father's constant criticism. His early days collecting rents in Brooklyn's Coney Island were merely a steppingstone to the "big leagues," navigated with the guidance of the infamous Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong).

Kathy Cook discusses **Groundhog Day**, which presents a brilliant and deceptively simple premise: cynical weatherman Phil Connors (Bill Murray) finds himself inexplicably trapped in a time loop, forced to relive Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, over and over again.

Our journey then shifts to Westchester, where Hedy Shulman leads us into film inside the formidable walls of **Sing Sing** prison in Ossining, New York, to witness the extraordinary true story of a wrongly convicted inmate (Coleman Domingo) who finds an unexpected path to redemption by transforming hardened criminals into a working acting theater group including the best of Shakespeare.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**
Subject: Books 8 & 9
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

As we wrap up the semester, we'll read through to the end of Book 9 — and celebrate with a festive treat! Feel free to bring a favorite nibble to share. In these two pivotal books, the tide begins to turn. In Book 8, Zeus himself intervenes, tipping the balance in favor of the Trojans and forbidding the other gods from interfering. The Greek forces falter, and

their morale begins to crumble. Then, in Book 9, the Greeks — desperate for a reversal — send an embassy to Achilles, offering lavish gifts and heartfelt appeals. But Achilles, wounded in pride and spirit, refuses to return to battle.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 @ 2:45 PM

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

All welcome to join Marian and Andrea for the final Spring Semester Walk along the Hudson River - 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, MAY 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Reading and Writing Poetry Using New and Old Forms
Presenter: Ellen Rittberg
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Throughout this and previous semesters, we’ve discovered poetry that uses both established and newer forms or older forms that are being altered, and their rules broken to create new and innovative forms. In this, our last class, after a brief presentation of some of these forms, the group will break into smaller groups and will attempt to write poems using one or more of these forms. Ghazals, villanelles, Spenserian-, Shakespearean- or Terrance Hayes-like sonnets, anyone? Bring a pen or pencil and paper and if you don’t or forget, it will be provided.

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

Many of you have heard about or seen Improvisation troupes such as Chicago's Second City or New York's Peoples' Improv Theater (the P.I.T.). In this 90-minute class, you will see that we are all capable of doing Improv and having fun with the experience. In this process, we will try something we haven't done before, build teamwork, and do something we did not think we were capable of. Participation is optional.

THURSDAY, MAY 8 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: SmartPhone Photography
Subject: Abstract Photos
Room; 19
Format: In-person Only
Coordinators: 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.

THURSDAY, MAY 8 @ 12:20 –12:45 PM

Course: **CHAIR MEDITATION**
Facilitator: Ken Sasmor
Room: 22
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: **Donna Ramer**

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation **every** Thursday afternoon

THURSDAY MAY 8 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. The Frenzy (Lynn Vairo)
2. The Haunting of Hajji Hotak (Ken Sasmor)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. **"The Frenzy" by Joyce Carol Oates.** Presented by Lynn Vairo
Joyce Carol Oates (b. 1938, age 86) is an American author who has published 58 novels, a number of plays and novellas and many volumes of short stories, poetry and non-fiction. *The Frenzy* is a story about a weekend trip to Cape May, NJ, taken by a married father in his forties and the nineteen-year-old woman he calls his "teen-aged mistress."

2. **"The Haunting of Hajji Hotak" by Jamil Jan Kochai.** Presented by Ken Sasmor.
A mysterious and intriguing story in which a family is under surveillance for reasons unknown. The author, **Jamil Jan Kochai** (b. 1992) is an Afghan American novelist and short story writer. This story was published in the *New Yorker* and won the prestigious O'Henry prize in 2023.

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 nancyr9@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 "forgiveness" 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: Mormonism
Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Come to today's class to learn about the history of Mormonism, its founders, and the tenets of the religion. You may be surprised at what will be revealed.
