

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 1 – 4, 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: 899 9142 8608

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 890 4628 0269

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 874 2995 4279

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, SEPTEMBER 1

Labor Day – No Classes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART AND PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE**
Subject: In Search of San Juan Hill
Presenter: Sean Khorsandi, Guest Speaker
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof**, Sharon Katz, Victor Brener
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis

San Juan Hill was a vibrant and diverse community in Manhattan before it was demolished to make way for Lincoln Center. The densely populated neighborhood was known for its lively cultural scene and various community organizations. Through the lens of available resources, we will learn how the neighborhood came to be, how it not-so-simply vanished, the forces that led to its demise, current scholarship initiatives, and the concept of Social Justice Urbanism.

Sean Khorsandi is the Executive Director of LANDMARK WEST! a 40-year-old preservation and land use nonprofit serving the Upper West Side. Sean has a Bachelor of Architecture from Cooper Union and a Master of Architecture from Yale. He teaches seminars on Urban Design at NYU.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Birthright Citizenship: Trump's Executive Order v. Fourteenth Amendment
Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

On his first day in office in his second term as President, Trump issued Executive Order 14160 entitled "Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship." This was an attempt to end birthright citizenship by fiat, in disregard of the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedents. Come to the Supreme Court class to learn about the history

of birthright citizenship, the current status of Trump's Executive Order, and my opinion about how the Supreme Court will ultimately rule on the constitutionality of the order.

Course: **THEATERWORKS**
Subject: Broadway Opening
Presenters: Mary Beth Yakoubian, Yona Rogosin, Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter, Bob Shick
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Art Spar**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Ruth Ward, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Wayne Cotter, Martha Drezin

TheaterWorks will open at 25 Broadway with readings from “Anne of the Thousand Days” led by Mary Beth Yakoubian and “On Golden Pond” led by Yona Rogosin. Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter and Bob Shick will lead original improvisational scenes. Come one, come all! We need actors, directors, playwrights, and stage crafters. In particular, we need an audience for those who like to watch. An active discussion will follow each scene.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

On va apprendre l’argot français! Je vais vous présenter des mots ou expressions les plus courantes d’argot et après on les emploieront en classe. On s’amusera bien pendant cette réunion!

We are going to learn French slang! I’ll introduce you to some of the most popular French slang and afterwards we’ll use these in sentences in class. It will be a fun time for all!

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: From the Civil War to the Gilded Age
Presenter: Ilene Winkler
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Pete Weis, Ilene Winkler

By 1900, New York was our nation's undisputed financial and commercial center, and most major U.S. corporations had moved their headquarters to lower Manhattan. Millionaires had built lavish mansions on Fifth Avenue, while poor immigrants crowded into ramshackle tenements. Because of the widespread disparity between rich and poor, the era became known as The Gilded Age—gilt being a thin veneer of gold over a plain metal.

This class will provide an overview of our city during the latter half of the 19th century—Tammany Hall and Boss Tweed, the ups and downs on Wall St and high society, and attempts by workers and the poor to improve their circumstances amidst chaotic economic conditions. We will have time to ponder how this history has influenced today's city and what insights may be relevant to our Second Gilded Age.

Course: MORAL TALES FOR OUR TIMES
Subject: Act I of Robert Bolt's play A Man for All Seasons
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler
Tech Support: Bob Reiss

For historical background information about the play, the preface is interesting and helpful in understanding the plot and themes. The focus of our discussion for Act I will be the major characters and their various interactions with each other.

Act I begins with a conversation between Thomas More and Richard Rich. What can we discern about the difference between the two men? What is significant about More giving Rich a silver cup? Act I ends with a conversation between Rich and Thomas Cromwell. What has happened to Rich? What are the different arguments that Cardinal Wolsey and King Henry present to persuade More to openly approve Henry's divorce from Catherine? Why does Henry so very much want More's support?

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP
Subject: Memoir — Down Memory Lane
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

This semester we will focus on writing in many genres. Starting with the first class, where we will go down memory lane to write a memoir, we will proceed over the semester to write about adventure, romance, fairy tales, spookiness, crime, and imagination.

As always, we'll start each class 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 Getting a Haircut. Please bring 14 copies of your work from home to share with the group.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

The Comedy of Errors (COE) is based on the Menaechmi by the ancient Roman playwright, Plautus. The first session will feature an exploration of Plautus and his brand of comedy, plus a video of the first scene from *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* which features several Plautus character types, including the clever slave, Pseudolus (played to perfection by Zero Mostel). COE is a cacophony of fun with slapstick, puns, and mistaken identity. Come and enjoy.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: Elon Musk and his Corporate Babies Part 2
Presenter: Gil Santiago
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Elon Musk never explicitly says his companies are his "babies." There are several instances where he has used language that conveys a similar sentiment, often describing his ventures with a strong sense of personal attachment and dedication, essentially treating them like his own children. This presentation will give a quick overview of his main companies.

SpaceX, The Boring Company, Solarcity, X, Xai, Neuralink, Red Planet 3

Each of his companies could easily fill up a lecture. Let's review the tech of his companies and the future potential and problems of those companies that might make,

The World's First Trillionaire

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **Book Club**
Book: Infidel
Author: Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

The Book Club is making an exception to its focus on fiction with this month's choice – because it's a memoir that reads like a gripping novel. With wit and a keen eye, Ayaan eloquently details her extraordinary journey from a strict Muslim upbringing through civil war, forced marriage, and asylum to becoming a member of the Dutch Parliament fighting for Muslim women's rights.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. The Conversation (Donna Basile)
2. The Friend (Bob Reiss)
3. I'm Still Here (Paul Adler)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

You can determine if a film is streaming or still in theaters by Googling “Just Watch” plus the film's name, and *voilà!*

Now, join us for reviews of three films that are high on the Rotten Tomatoes Scoreboard:

The Conversation – Donna Basile

The first in our espionage series. Gene Hackman's Oscar-nominated performance as a surveillance expert in Francis Ford Coppola's drama that explores themes of guilt and responsibility in the area of diminishing privacy. (Streaming on Amazon Prime)

***The Friend* – Bob Reiss**

When a solitary writer adopts and bonds with a Great Dane that belonged to a late friend, she begins to come to terms with her past and her own inner life.
(Streaming on Amazon Prime, Apple)

***I'm Still Here* – Paul Adler**

As Brazil faces the tightening grip of military dictatorship, Eunice Paiva, a mother of five, must reinvent herself and her family when authorities abduct her husband. A Brazilian film and Oscar winner. (Streaming on Amazon Prime, Apple)

Course: TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD
Subject: Books 10 and 11
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

We'll be resuming our journey through Homer's *Iliad* with **Books 10 and 11**. In Book 10, the story takes an unexpected turn into the world of spies, night raids, and a touch of espionage — a very different flavor from the set-piece battles we've seen so far. Book 11 then swings us back into the daylight of full-scale combat. Come ready to share what struck you most — whether a vivid image, a puzzling moment, or a theme that needs working through.

Attendance at previous semester is not necessary to join us. Each book of the *Iliad* can stand on its own merits, with timeless themes of pride, fate, the gods, and human nature.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 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 Andrea & Marian for our Fall 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, SEPTEMBER 4 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Modern Poetry Translation
Presenter: Ellen Rittberg
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Please note: There is no prior reading required for any of our sessions, and the new format of the class includes time at the tail end of each session for whoever wishes to bring in a poem to share.

In this session, we'll be exploring how poet-translators approach the arduous task of translating. The art of translation requires creativity: the translator is in effect creating a new poem. Some questions we will explore include: What if there isn't any word or phrase that roughly approximates the original? How important is it to be faithful to the sound of the poem, its wordplay and its structural elements? How far can one stray from the original? Does the translator have a duty to be as faithful to the text as they can or are there other rules and strictures that sometimes inhibit or render that goal nearly impossible? We'll be looking at translated poems from 1950 to the present. Feel free to bring a translation of a non-English poem and the poem in its original language and, if you speak the language of the original, we'd love if you would then read all or part of it aloud, and if you do, please kindly make at least twelve copies for the class.

Course: **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**
Subject: The Social Impact of the Mexican-American War
Presenter: Robert Belfort
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine, Michael Wellner

The Mexican-American War receives only limited attention in our high school history textbooks, even though it laid the foundation for the country we live in today. The War was about much more than a land dispute. It was fundamentally driven by Americans' growing belief in Manifest Destiny and the intensifying battle over the expansion of slavery. The War reflected the divisions in American Society and reshaped the nation's future.

Course: **YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT**
Room: Computer Lab
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Bob Reiss, Ilene Winkler

Want to share your passion but don't know how to create a presentation? Come join our workshop and learn basic PowerPoint - all skill levels welcome! Each session will begin with a short presentation demonstrating how to create a slideshow and add images, text, and videos. Then you can work on your presentation with individual assistance. Bring your own laptop with PowerPoint installed or use a computer in the lab. If using a CCNY computer, bring a thumb drive with a USB-A connector to save your work. Experienced PowerPoint users are encouraged to join in to share their skills and learn more advanced techniques as time permits.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 @ 12:20 –12:45 PM

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

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

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. *Techniques and Idiosyncrasies* by Yiyun Li. (Arlynn Greenbaum)
2. *Heavy Snow* by Han Kang. (Nancy Richardson)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1.- “Techniques and Idiosyncrasies” by Yiyun Li. Presented by Arlynn Greenbaum
Yiyun Li, born in Beijing in 1972, is Director of Creative Writing at Princeton. She has written a memoir, “*Dear Friend*”, six novels including the recently published “*Things in Nature Merely Grow*”, and four short story collections including “*Wednesday’s Child*”, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. In our story, the main character, Lillian, has lost two sons to suicide. Yiyun Li lost her two sons to suicide, and wrote about it in a *New*

Yorker essay, "A Matter of Facts," which is included along with the story. Join us to learn more about this brave, talented writer.

2.-“Heavy Snow” by Han Kang. Presented by Nancy Richardson

Han Kang (Korean: 한강; born 1970) is a South Korean writer who rose to international prominence with her novel *The Vegetarian*, becoming the first Korean language novel to win the Intl. Booker Prize for fiction in 2016. Kang is the first Asian woman and first Korean to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2024. The narrator of this story has been asked by her hospitalized friend to rescue the friend’s pet bird on a remote island in a heavy snowstorm. How far will friendship take her? (Story is excerpted from Kang’s novel “*We Do Not Part*.”)

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:	WORLD OF RELIGIONS
Subject:	Roman Catholicism
Presenter:	Paul Adler
Room:	27
Format:	Hybrid
Coordinators:	Ruth Ward , Bob Gottfried
Tech Support:	Bob Reiss , Ruth Ward

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian church with 1.3 billion members worldwide. It is characterized by its hierarchical structure, headed by the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, and its adherence to specific doctrines and traditions. We will take a look at the history of the church from its early beginnings to present day and its impact on Western civilization which has significantly shaped the development of art, culture, and law.

CUTUREQUEST

Radio City Music Hall Tour Experience

Friday, Sep 12, 2025, 11:00 – 12 Noon

The Radio City Music Hall Tour Experience offers a 60-minute guided tour behind the scenes of the "Showplace of the Nation." Guests explore the venue's history, art deco architecture, and iconic spaces like the Grand Foyer and the Great Stage. A highlight of the tour is a visit to the Roxy Suite and a meet-and-greet with a Radio City Rockette.

WHEN: Friday, September 12, 2025. Please arrive by 10:45. The tour will begin promptly at 11 a.m.

WHERE: The Radio City Music Hall Tour Experience entrance is located at 1260 6th Avenue (Avenue of the Americas), between West 50th and 51st Streets.

COST: \$24 – Limited to 20 participants. You will receive an email if you make the cut for the tour. When you do, please write a check or pay through Zelle. Checks are made out to Quest Lifelong Learning and are due in the CultureQuest box in the Office by Thursday, September 4 by 2:30 p.m. If you pay through Zelle, use Quest's Zelle email address, q25broadway@gmail.com and send payment before Thursday, September 4 at 2:30 pm. You must include "CultureQuest Radio City Tour" in the message box to credit it correctly. Again, the amount is \$24. If we do not receive payment by the due date, please understand that we will go to the waitlist.

TO RESERVE: Send an email ASAP to Debbi Honorof at dhonorof@gmail.com. Please put Radio City Tour in the subject line of your email. Your email will be acknowledged within a few days. We will have a waitlist.

LUNCH: Optional

LOCATION: To Be Announced

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