

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

November 10 – 12, 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, NOVEMBER 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: The Tales of the Constellations
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

Connect the dots? We all do that in order to make sense from a puzzle. Well, people from nearly all cultures have been connecting the dots in the sky since we first looked up. There is actually a scientific term for this all too human behavior – pareidolia, defined as an evolutionary adaptation to complete incomplete visual information. For example, if you see only part of the lion in the tall grass, you won't want to wait around to see the rest for confirmation before you run. Fortunately, we can also use this tendency in less dangerous circumstances to form pictures in the sky.

In this presentation we look at the dots in the sky known as stars and how the cultures of classical Greece and Rome created a whole pantheon of gods, goddesses, and others. Be prepared to hear some of the more familiar and ageless tales of love, war, and intrigue. We will also take brief considerations of those very self-same stars from a more scientific perspective. Questions, comments, and your own interpretations are always welcome.

Course: **IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL**
Subject: Trio: Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris
Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt were three of the most gifted singers of the '60s and '70s. On March 7, 1987, they combined their powers when they released the album, Trio. The album features traditional songs as well as pop classics like "To Know Him Is to Love Him." In the words of a critic: Their singular voices blend in seamless harmony, floating over the sweetest country melodies and poignant understated lyrics.

In February 1999 they released a follow-up album Trio II that featured their cover of Neil Young's "After the Gold Rush" that has been described as magical and inspired.

In addition to cuts from the albums we will hear songs they recorded individually. The harmonies and haunting words are sublime and a soothing balm for these rough times.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Seeing with AI: How Machines Read Images
Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

AI doesn't just write—it also sees. In this session, we'll explore how artificial intelligence analyzes imagery to detect patterns, symbols, and styles that humans might overlook. We'll see what AI notices about color, composition, and recurring motifs — and what those choices reveal about tradition and identity. A hands-on, thought-provoking look at how technology can sharpen our human ways of seeing.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **PROFILES IN COURAGE**
Subject: The Ultimate Whistleblower: Daniel Ellsberg
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

Daniel Ellsberg was an unlikely hero during the Vietnam War. Nothing in his early career prepared him for what followed. He became a "profile in courage," risking his professional career and his liberty in the service of a public good. Come join us and hear more.

Course: **THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV**
Subject: Books 10 and 11
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

We begin with a rare pause in the storm — Alyosha enters the world of schoolboys, where kindness and curiosity briefly replace family chaos. It feels almost peaceful... but only for a few pages. Soon we're pulled back to Ivan, trapped inside his own thoughts as guilt and reason twist into madness. Dostoevsky gives us one of the most haunting conversations in literature — a man arguing with his own devil. And just when we think we can't take

more turmoil, we finally learn who killed the Karamazov patriarch. As always, Dostoevsky leaves us wrestling with more questions than answers.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART AND PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE**
Subject: Landscape Architecture
Presenter: Marian Friedmann
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof**, Sharon Katz, Victor Brener
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis

From the Grand Canyon in the United States to the Golden Circle in Iceland, we've come to appreciate how natural processes, over millions of years, can create awe-inspiring landscapes. The extent to which humans can alter the landscape is truly remarkable. Throughout history, there have been brilliant individuals who have intervened in the landscape and altered it. Through wild imaginations, sublime designs, and critical planning, they were able to transform ordinary terrains into magnificent scenery, not in millions of years, but within the fraction of a lifetime.

Some were referred to as master-gardeners, landscape gardeners, but we have come to know them now as Landscape Architects. Come travel with me to see these amazing works.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The Supreme Court in the Civil War Era
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

During the 19th century many of the most important cases to come before the Court involved that "peculiar institution" of slavery. This presentation will examine those cases – leading up to and during the Civil War and the ensuing Reconstruction. Who were these men who served on the Court? What exactly did they decide and how did they explain their decisions and the results during their time on the Court?

Course: **THEATERWORKS**
Subject: Scene Rehearsals and Presentations
Presenters: Mary Beth Yakoubian, Yona Rogosin, Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter, Lisa Bu, Sol Zalcgandler, Donna Ramer
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Art Spar**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Ruth Ward, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Wayne Cotter, Martha Drezin

We will continue rehearsing and presenting scenes including “Death of a Salesman” directed by Yona Rogosin, “A Doll’s House” directed by Mary Beth Yakoubian, “The Phantom” an original play by Ruth Ward, and “Plunger” an original play by Lisa Bu. Sol Zalcgandler and Donna Ramer will present monologues. An active discussion will follow each scene presentation. New members are welcome.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

Une Discussion Muerte

Une situation sociale/émotionnelle intrigante sera décrite et discutée. Le texte français décrivant la question sera distribué et lu au début de la réunion, suivi d'une discussion en petits groupes et, vers la fin, d'un échange entre tous les participants.

An Open Discussion

An intriguing social/emotional situation will be described and discussed. The French text describing the issue will be distributed and read at the beginning of the meeting, followed by small group discussion and, toward the end, an open exchange among all participants.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: Changing Roles of Women
Presenter: Emily Mines
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

Today, women can not only participate in politics, but they can run whole departments of the government. They can make decent wages and they are *allowed* to own real estate, control their own finances and enter into contracts, even when married. They not only can go to college, but in fact now comprise the majority of degrees granted. As America established itself, and after the writing of the Constitution, none of these features of life for women were the general case.

We will examine how the developments during the 19th century set the stage for all these facets of life for women that in 2025 we take for granted.

Additionally, we will look at developments in women's health and reproductive rights, including recent controversies, that continue to play out today.

Course: **MORAL TALES FOR OUR TIMES**
Subject: To Kill a Mockingbird
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

We will begin by discussing Chapters 10 and 11 from the last class and go on to Chapters 12-21. What do Jem and Scout learn when Calpurnia takes them to her church? How does the visit of Aunt Alexandra and the surprise reappearance of Dill affect the children? Atticus shows great courage in foreseeing and confronting an angry crowd at the jail. Why does the mob disperse? Jem is now twelve years old. In what ways has he changed? Think about the different attitudes and actions of Maycomb's residents with regard to the trial. Why do you think Mayella Ewell becomes so angry with Atticus even though he questions her with kind courtesy? The children sneak in to watch the trial and sit with the Negroes in the balcony. Jem is sure Atticus will win the case. Is Atticus confident of this? Is Reverend Sykes?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Writing in the Humor Genre
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

What defines the humor genre? At its best, humor reveals the heart of human experience. It can challenge norms, highlight the ridiculous, offer social critique, and help us feel a

little less alone in the chaos of life. Whether dry or slapstick, observational or outrageous, the humor genre helps us survive—with a smile.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt which you can choose to read aloud or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any prose genre, poetry, essay or short play and the group will offer constructive responses. Writing that is read in class should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be serialized and read over consecutive classes. Please bring in 15 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: Looking Back at Myself As a Child.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Jim Brook will lead a discussion of whether *The Comedy of Errors* is a Shakespeare comedy like, e.g., *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Ellie Schaffer will present *The Boys of Syracuse*, a 1938 musical adaptation of *The Comedy of Errors*. Her discussion will include talking about the show's creators: Richard Rodgers (music), Lorenz Hart (lyrics), and George Abbott (book). Several scenes and song videos will be shown including *Falling In Love With Love* and *This Can't Be Love*. Even in short clips, the show is a comic delight and a worthy version of *Comedy of Errors*.

Save the date theater lovers: on December 3, director Kate Kohler Amory will talk about her wonderful 2024 production of *The Comedy of Errors* staged at Shakespeare & Co.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: Timeline of a Judean Princess – Salome
Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

What do you know about her? What do you 'think' you know about her?

Join me as we follow her from the First Century AD all the way to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in 2025

NOVEMBER 12 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **Book Club: Fiction**
Book: Table for Two
Author: Amor Towles
Presenter: Joan Vreeland
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

By the author of the acclaimed novel *A Gentleman in Moscow*, *Table for Two* offers us shorter works: six short stories based in contemporary New York City and a novella set in Golden Age Hollywood. With his usual elegance and wit, Towles examines the human experience, ranging from a Russian immigrant landing in New York, to a rare book scam, to a prominent lawyer's secret life as a disco roller skater, and more.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. *The Manchurian Candidate* (David Judlowitz)
2. *Mr. Scorsese* (Vince Grosso)
3. *Stiller and Meara – Nothing is Lost* (Howard Salik)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

Here is a list of must-see films that are all available by streaming on Amazon or Apple!

The Manchurian Candidate

First on our agenda: David Judlowitz takes us through a gripping world of espionage and intrigue with the original classic featuring the legendary Frank Sinatra, now streaming on Amazon Prime. Get ready for a cinematic experience that will keep you on the edge of your seat!

Mr. Scorsese

Join Vince Grosso as we delve into the first two segments of this captivating series available on Apple. Witness the extraordinary journey of Martin Scorsese, from his

childhood struggles with illness to becoming a cinematic legend, all from his humble beginnings in Little Italy!

Stiller And Meara – Nothing Is Lost

Streaming on Apple. Howard Salik takes you on a journey with Ben Stiller and his sister Amy as they share poignant stories about their iconic parents, growing up on the vibrant West Side, and the loneliness they experienced. It's a family tale you won't want to miss!

Course: TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD
Subject: Books 20 and 21
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

Zeus lifts all restraints, allowing the gods to join the battle as they choose, and the field erupts in divine chaos. Meanwhile, Achilles—after mourning Patroclus and receiving his new armor from Thetis—returns to war, fully restored and burning with terrible anger. The fighting becomes mythic: rivers rise, gods collide, and Achilles' wrath burns through everything in its path. These chapters bring the gods and mortals into open conflict, blurring the line between human passion and divine power. It is the height of the epic's storm—where vengeance, grief, and divine power collide.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 @ 2:45 PM

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

Join us for a 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.

All welcome - no signups, no commitments - fresh air and community.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Subject: Acclaimed Poet Laureate Ada Limon

Presenter: Linda Schwartz
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Ada Limon is the 24th Poet Laureate and the first Latina to hold the title. She was appointed in 2022 for a span of just under three years and is celebrated for her deeply emotional poetry, connection to the natural world, and easily accessible, personal style. It is her belief that poetry is experiential and that it should “wash over” us rather than feeling it is a “puzzle to be solved.” To that end, we will immerse ourselves in her poems through in-class reading and discussion.

A handout will be sent prior to class, and hard copies will be distributed in class. No prior reading or knowledge of the poet is required.

Course: ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY
Subject: Social Consequences to Americans of the Vietnam War
Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine, Michael Wellner

This presentation will examine the origins of the Vietnam War, the escalating U.S. involvement, the political and social divisions it caused, and the lasting legacy to Americans, both Vietnam veterans and those who opposed the war. This will be an interactive class in which all Quest members who lived through this terrible period in American history will be asked to participate. If not enjoyable, the presentation should rekindle memories and be interesting.

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, NOVEMBER 13 @ 12:20 PM – 12:45PM

Course: CHAIR MEDITATION
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: Donna Ramer

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation every Thursday afternoon.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Meeting: QUEST HEARING COMMITTEE
Room: 15-17
Format: In-person Only

The Quest Hearing Committee is holding an **in-person** meeting to discuss any difficulty you are having hearing or being heard in classes. Bring your problems, suggestions and lunch.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Stories: 1. Happy Days (Larry Shapiro)
2. The Writer of the Family (Ken Sasmor)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Stories to read:

1. "Happy Days" by Han Ong Presented by Larry Shapiro

"Happy Days" is a story about a little theater company preparing and performing a play by Samuel Beckett. It is unlike any story I've ever read. Author Han Ong is an immigrant, a high school dropout, and recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and a Pulitzer Prize, among many other awards.

2. "The Writer in the Family" by E.L Doctorow Presented by Ken Sasmor

"The Writer in the Family" entertains and poses vexing questions about what to do to protect an elderly relative and whether that protection poses an ethical dilemma. E.L. Doctorow (1931–2015) was an American novelist, editor, and professor, best known for his works of historical fiction. He wrote 12 novels, including the award-winning novel *Ragtime*.

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. Printed copies are now in the Quest Office.

Any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye9@gmail.com.

Course:	WORLD OF RELIGIONS
Subject:	Christian Science and Yazidism
Presenters:	Ellen Gottfried and Ann Goerd
Room:	27
Format:	Hybrid (To Be Recorded)
Coordinators:	Ruth Ward , Bob Gottfried
Tech Support:	Bob Reiss , Ruth Ward

Christian Science (Ellen Gottfried)

Christian Science calls itself a religion, Christians consider it both a cult and a science, but scientists call it dangerous fraud. Join us as we discuss the tenets of what has always been controversial as well as some of the court cases it has generated.

Yazidism (Ann Goerd)

This is the religion of the Yazidi people. No one else practices it because few people who were not born into a Yazidi family have learned about this religion. The impression is that it is based on ancient beliefs, but the Yazidi community does not appear in the historical record until the 12th century. The Yazidis, who lived primarily in northern Iraq, came to world's attention recently, when ISIS invaded that region and tried to exterminate them. This presentation will provide some of the information that is known about Yezidism, and also how it may be changing.

CULTUREQUEST

CULTUREQUEST VISITS THE FRICK MUSEUM A Refined Collection in a Renovated Mansion

Friday, November 21 at 11:00 AM

On Friday, November 21st, join Culture Quest for a special visit to the Frick Collection, one of New York City's most treasured cultural landmarks. Housed in the former Beaux-Arts mansion of industrialist Henry Clay Frick, the museum holds a world-renowned collection of European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts from the Renaissance through the 19th century. Following its recent \$22 million renovation and expansion, the Frick offers visitors beautifully restored galleries and enhanced access to the original 1914 residence. Highlights of the collection include masterpieces by Rembrandt, Whistler, and Vermeer — including Vermeer's luminous *Officer and Laughing Girl*, one of only three works by the artist in the museum.

This is a rare opportunity to experience the elegance of a historic mansion and the brilliance of some of Europe's greatest artists — all within one of New York's most refined museum settings.

WHEN: Friday November 21 – Please arrive by 10:45, the tour will begin promptly at 11:00 AM

WHERE: On the day of your visit, arrive via the entrance at 10 E 71st street. **Note that this is not the main entrance but instead the group entrance around the block.**

COST: \$18.00

TO RESERVE: send an email asap to dena@kerren.us. Put Frick in the subject line. You will be advised by return email if you are registered for the tour.

PAYMENT: If registered, please leave a check for \$18, made out to Quest Lifelong Learning, in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office no later than Wednesday, November 12th at 2:30 PM. Zelle payments are also accepted. If you pay through Zelle, send it to Quest's Zelle email address at

q25broadway@gmail.com

before Wednesday November 12th. Please note "Frick Tour" when sending Zelle payment.

LUNCH: Optional – suggestions to be announced.

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