NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

December 8 – 11, 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: 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.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: How Musicals Get to Broadway and Why Tickets Are So Darn Expensive
Presenter: John Kenrick (Guest Presenter)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

Before John Kenrick became an entertainment historian, he worked for many years in the professional theater, serving as personal assistant to six Tony Award winning producers. So he brings real experience to this informative and irreverent multimedia discussion of the various paths musicals take to the Great White Way, and why we pay such outrageous prices to see them.

John Kenrick has worked in the theatre at every level from amateur to Broadway, eventually serving as personal assistant to six Tony Award winning producers, including the team behind the original production of Rent. He has taught musical theatre history at New York University's Steinhardt School, The New School University, and Philadelphia's University of the Arts. Creator of the educational website **Musicals101.com,** his books include *Musical Theatre: A History.* He is also a founding curator of the Museum of Broadway.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *The Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain*
Bantam Classics Edition
The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg, pages 443 - 469
How I Edited an Agricultural Paper, page 55
Facilitator: Harriet Finkelstein
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg analyzes the hypocrisy and frailty of human vanity and public reputation through the tale of a town that believes itself to be incorruptible. We will complete the reading of this dramatic story.

How I Edited an Agricultural Paper is about a journalist who takes a job editing an agricultural paper despite having no knowledge of farming. His editing is so nonsensical that it causes outrage and chaos among the readers.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEYS**
Subject: What's at the Museums?
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Join us for a lively Noontime Medley as we explore what museums 'do' - their missions, their choices, and the stories they tell (and sometimes don't). We'll look at three newly opened or re-opened museums, examine how curators pair objects, and invite you to think about what makes a museum relevant today.

A fast, engaging tour through fresh galleries, bold ideas, and the evolving role of museums in our cultural lives AND bring your lunch.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS**
Subject: The Three Acting "Bs"
Presenter: Roy Clary
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter,** Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**

This session will feature three great American actors: (the three "Bs"): Edwin Booth, John Barrymore, and Marlon Brando. We'll focus on these actors' enormous influence and impact on American theater. The first two Bs were hailed for their performances as Hamlet and their realistic portrayals influenced other contemporary actors. In fact, Laurence Olivier credited Barrymore with inspiring his own Hamlet interpretation.

Although Brando's only Shakespeare performance was Mark Antony in the film version of *Julius Caesar*, he brought new levels of realism to the theater and film and influenced such actors as Dustin Hoffman and Robert DeNiro. Come to the class and deepen your understanding and appreciation of these three acting legends.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Rest in Peace: Past, Present, and Future
Presenter: Carole Blane
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian,** Bob Gottried, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Come down the rabbit hole with me as we explore burial traditions old and new — including green burials and today's evolving death practices. A fresh, honest look at how we say goodbye.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: The Rockefeller Mesoamerican Collection at the Met Museum
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener,** Ellen Shapiro

A revelatory history of creative expression — parallel to, but independent of, the rest of the world — unfolded in Mexico thousands of years prior to European colonization. Over the course of several millennia, artists transformed select materials into monumental stone sculptures, intimate sculptures, finely crafted gold ornaments, and other works in wood, ceramic, shell and textile. The Rockefeller Collection reflects the diversity of indigenous nations in ancient Mexico and celebrates the visual cultures, origin stories, and daily lives of the people who made them. It's a journey through time and space, to Olmecs, Toltecs, Aztecs and Zapotecs. Join us and find out why Take Me Out to the Ballgame is relevant to this all.

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Bob Belfort, Nina Sanders, Larry Shapiro

Topics:

1. "Will the Humanities Survive Artificial Intelligence?" by Graham Burnett from *The New Yorker*, April 26, 2025

2. "Everyone is Cheating Their Way Through College" by James Walsh from *New York Magazine*, May 7, 2025

Both essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

Pedro Almodóvar: Mi vida en "looks"
Abrazando el thriller, el melodrama, la comedia disparatada, la farsa, el cine negro, la ciencia ficción y el western , el célebre cineasta Pedro Almodóvar ha forjado un género propio: el "Almodrama". De *Volver* a su nueva película, *La habitación de al lado,* Almodóvar virtualmente compartirá con nosotros las claves (y algunos secretos) del icónico vestuario de sus películas.

Pedro Almodóvar: My Life in "Looks"
Embracing thrillers, melodramas, slapstick comedies, farces, film noir, science fiction, and westerns, celebrated filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar has forged his own genre: what has been dubbed the "Almodrama." From *To Return* to his latest film, *The Room Next Door,* Almodóvar will virtually share with us the key elements (and some secrets) of his iconic film costumes.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FEDERALIST PAPERS**
Subject: The Federalist Papers: A Primer on Constitutionalism
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: **Andrea Irvine**

In our last class, we will focus on the Founders' views on the need for a Bill of Rights and on how the Constitution should evolve in the future. We will also relate our discussion to current events and to the state of constitutionalism today.

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Pete Weis

In this course we will see the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, and film excerpts. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Animal Migrations
Speaker: Judy Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis,** Konstantin Dolgitser

Thousands of species of animals undergo regular migrations, in some cases for very long distances ... and then back again. These animals include aquatic invertebrates, insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Some migrate swimming in the water, some walk on land, and some fly in the air. What triggers it? Why do they do it? How do they navigate? These migrations are generally dangerous, killing many migrators from natural hazards (drowning, exhaustion, injury, predation) as well as human-caused risks (such as

walls/fences blocking the route, highways across the route, artificial light at night) which are major causes of death. Steps are being taken to reduce some of the human-caused risks to migrations.

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: Upheavals
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

For the past 11 months, we've been focusing on the "down" side of upheavals! It's time to focus on the "upside." And there have been many in recent months – with the election of two progressive (relatively) female governors in New Jersey and Virginia, a social democratic mayor for New York, and democrats winning in 50 elections around New York state! We need to look to the past, the present and the future if we want to begin to figure out how to usher in a more upheaval period. I think it's time to do that – don't you?

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB: CREATIVE NONFICTION**
Book: *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel*
Author: Julie Satow
Presenter: Susan Diehl
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Carol Blane,** Debbi Honorof

Join us for the Creative Nonfiction Book Club where we will discuss creative nonfiction books. Creative nonfiction, also known as narrative nonfiction, is a genre that brings true stories to life through the techniques of fiction writing, including vivid descriptions, character development, and engaging narratives. These books are designed to both inform and entertain, presenting factual information in a compelling, novel-like manner. So far we've discussed a Grandma who walked the Appalachian Trail at the age of 67 and the life of Gauguin. This December book is about New York and should be a fascinating read.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Dr. Danielle Ofri
Jan and Stuart Eisler Memorial Speaker
Subject: The Doctor-Patient Relationship
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss,
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Danielle Ofri is one of the foremost voices in the medical world today, speaking passionately about the doctor-patient relationship and bringing humanity back to health care. She is a practicing internist at Bellevue Hospital, the nation's oldest public hospital, and is a clinical professor of medicine at NYU. She is a founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning journal, *Bellevue Literary Review*.

Her writing appears in the *New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Slate Magazine*, *The Lancet*, *NEJM*, as well as in Best American Essays and Best American Science Writing. She has performed stories for the Moth, and her TED talks include Deconstructing Perfection and Fear: A Necessary Emotion.

A recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Humanism in Medicine Medal from the Gold Foundation, and an honorary doctorate of letters, Ofri is the author of six books about life in medicine. Her newest book is "*When We Do Harm: A Doctor Confronts Medical Error*."

As an ever-struggling student of the cello, she is well acquainted with error.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: GEOGRAPHY**
Subject: Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau and North Alabama Hill Country
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Judy Weis,** Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitser

North Alabama and Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau are geographically distinct within states and tend to be different in other ways. When I said to a famous Alabama writer that I had visited Huntsville many times, she remarked that "Huntsville isn't really Alabama." Huntsville, of course, is in northern Alabama. How can you tell someone is from North Alabama? A North Alabamian will pronounce "admire" as "ed-my-er" while a southern Alabamian will say "ed-mahr." That's just the beginning of what stands out. Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau was home to an anti-Confederacy movement and where Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King went to study nonviolent resistance techniques. Is geography destiny? Let's talk about it.

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: Ancient Chinese Poetry
Presenters: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter

Ancient Chinese poetry stands as one of the richest literary traditions in world history, revered for its expressive subtlety, philosophical depth, and musical elegance. Rooted in early works like the Book of Songs and flourishing through dynasties such as the Han, Tang, and Song, Chinese poetry evolved alongside the nation's cultural and political life. Poets often used concise imagery and natural scenes – mountains, rivers, moonlight, changing seasons – to explore enduring themes such as friendship, longing, impermanence, and harmony between humans and nature. Across centuries, this poetic tradition has remained a vital bridge between art and philosophy. Together we will revere its ability to convey profound feeling in remarkably few words.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN**
Subject: Dichotomies of Forgiveness
Presenter: Roy Clary
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Elaine Martin,** Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Felix Pena,** Donna Ramer

In our last class, we'll tackle the emotion of forgiveness, specifically as it appears in religions and literature as well as how it connects to us to our personal growth. There will be a special focus on how forgiveness resonates in plays by Shakespeare, with clips from *The Tempest*, *King Lear,* and *The Merchant of Venice* to underscore the complicated dichotomies of forgiveness.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: The Dangers of Free Speech
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

We'll look at the issues raised by historian Fara Dabhoiwala in his recently published book *What is Free Speech? The History of a Dangerous Idea*. We will look at an interchange between Dabhoiwala and philosopher Kwame Appiah in the pages of *The New York Review of Books* and also consider some related issues concerning the role of internet gatekeepers.

Readings will be distributed through QuestBusiness

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (Note: This class ends at 3:00 PM)
Coordinators: **Judith Winn,** Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

Write a poem using the cue word "holiday" 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.

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QUEST HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Barbetta Restaurant

321 W 46th St, New York, NY 10036
Friday, December 12, 12:00 Noon