

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 2 – 5, 2026
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, MARCH 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Using the new planetarium show **Encounters in the Milky Way** at the American Museum of Natural History as our guide, this class journeys through our home galaxy with the help of today's cutting-edge astronomy and visualization tools. We'll explore what scientists currently understand about the Milky Way — its structure, stars, black holes, and mysteries — and how complex research is transformed into breathtaking dome experiences that make the universe feel close enough to touch.

We'll also step back to 1935 and the opening of the original Hayden Planetarium to see how far the art and science of sky-storytelling have evolved — from early mechanical projectors immersive digital galaxies. Expect big ideas, beautiful imagery, and a few cosmic surprises along the way.

Course: **IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL**
Subject: Glorious Butterflies
Presenters: Ruth Ward
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

The metamorphosis of the butterfly has been used as a metaphor for transformation and individual growth. The butterfly's emergence from the chrysalis has often symbolized hope, rebirth, and forward momentum in life. The metaphor is universal, but in this presentation, we'll listen to examples of personal emergence in the life cycle of women pop vocalists.

MONDAY, MARCH 2 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Name That Tune
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

It's time for the ninth Name That Tune! You KNOW the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces it. Many songs from musicals and American standards begin with a verse, but most performers and recordings omit it.

I'll play 10 songs. I'll first play only the introductory verse. You guess the song. I'll then play an audio or video clip of the rest of the song including posted lyrics for us to sing along. I'll also say a bit about each of these iconic tunes. Come, enjoy, and help make beautiful music together!

MONDAY, MARCH 2 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **BALZAC: PERE GORIOT**
Subject: Chapters 2 and 3
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Tatyana Chernomaz, Andrea Irvine, Ellen Shapiro**

Please read **Chapters 2 and 3**. The human comedy continues as three new figures step forward: the two sisters, moving in very different social directions, and the formidable aunt who calmly explains what others prefer not to say aloud. Paris widens, alliances sharpen, and the rules of advancement grow clearer. Is it money or social position that ultimately determines rank? Balzac begins to test that question in earnest.

If you'd like to be part of the conversation about the next book, please plan to stay after class for a brief discussion.

Course: **PROFILES IN COURAGE**
Subject: Frederick Douglass
Presenter: Bob Belfort
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter, Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor**
Tech Support: **Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter**

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery, escaped to freedom and became the nation's most prominent Abolitionist. He was a legendary speaker, widely read biographer, ambitious newspaper publisher and tireless advocate for equality. He laid the foundation for future civil rights leaders like W.E.B. Dubois and Martin Luther King. Douglass was a brave, fascinating and complex man whose life is worth studying.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: The Haenyo, The Legendary Women Free-Divers Of Jeju Island
Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Gil Santiago, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Pete Weis

Dive into the remarkable world of the haenyeo, the legendary women free-divers of Jeju Island. Using clips from two documentaries and selections from fiction, this class explores how these divers have harvested seafood for centuries — with records reaching back to 434 AD — and how their lives blend tradition, endurance, and community. We'll also look at how the haenyeo have become a cultural symbol, a tourist draw, a scientific curiosity, and even part of modern environmental debate linked to wastewater releases from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. No advance reading or viewing required — just bring your curiosity and come ready to be surprised.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Originalism and the Court
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Sandra Abramson, Babette Ceccotti
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Originalism is the flavor of the times at the Supreme Court. But it hasn't always been that way, and may not have to be that way again, if changes in the composition of the court occur at the right time. In this class we will discuss pragmatism as the alternative to originalism. In the process, we will revisit Dobbs (abortion) and Bruen (gun licensing) with a special emphasis on the dissents for the insights they can provide on pragmatism.

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

We will continue developing new scene projects for Spring 2026. Teams led by Mary Beth Yakoubian and Yona Rogosin will produce scripted scenes from famous plays. Teams led by Ruth Ward, Lisa Bu and Donna Ramer will produce short original plays. Volunteers are invited to prepare and present monologues. New members are welcome. We need actors, directors, playwrights, and stage crafters. In particular, we need an audience for those who like to watch.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

COUTURIER OR FASHION DESIGNER?

Ce que l'on porte révèle quelque chose sur qui on est. Au sommet du dessein des vêtements, il paraît que la haute couture continue à être dominée par les hommes. Néanmoins, surtout au 21^{ème} siècle, on voit plus de femmes engagées dans le dessein, la production et le marketing des vêtements.

What we wear says something about us. At the pinnacle of clothing design, haute couture, is a field still, arguably, dominated by men. Yet in the 21st century, women are making their mark in the design and sale of wearable fashion.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Writing Poetry, A Short Guide
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

Poetry writing can challenge us to use our creative powers, which are available to everyone. A short guide to writing poetry will give us a look at many of the elements of a poem including tone, figurative language, imagery, and using the senses. Then we'll have a chance to put them to use.

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: Learning Something New.

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: The Suffrage Movement in New York
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**, Sandra Abramson, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Pete Weis, Michael Wellner

The suffrage movement started in upstate New York (Seneca Falls in 1848). By the early 20th century, New York State had become a leader in the movement, and many of the leaders and members lived in New York City. We will discuss some of the leaders, organizations and activities in New York City, including rich women, middle-class women, minority women, and working-class women who contributed to the movement and the eventual passage of suffrage in NY State, preceding the eventual passage of the suffrage amendment for women nationwide.

Course: TWO NOVELS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF
Subject: Mrs. Dalloway
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler
Tech Support: Bob Reiss

We will continue discussing *Mrs. Dalloway* through the middle of page 139. Through Virginia Woolf's innovative stream-of-consciousness technique, we enter the minds of main characters and know their thoughts and feelings at the moment of experience. The author treats Hugh Whitbread and Lady Bruton differently, only describing them. What do they represent in English society in 1923? Virginia Woolf became one of the most influential writers of the 20th century partly because of her original, expressive use of the English language. Since the class agreed to postpone *To the Lighthouse* until the fall, there is time to read the book more slowly and look for arresting words, images, sentences, and passages and share these in class if you like. In addition to heart-breaking emotions, there is also humor and satire.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SHAKESPEARE: HAMLET
Subject: Act II
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer, Joan Lambe, Bob Reiss

Class Study will include:

1. Jim Brook will discuss the various ways in which the Ghost appears.
2. A brief review of Act I.
3. Selected passages read and discussed.
4. Scenes from the Laurence Olivier 1948 film will be shown.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: Archaeology 101
Presenter: Gil Santiago
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Archaeology broadly involves the study of the human past through **material remains**. This includes a diverse range of physical evidence and the methods used to recover, analyze, and interpret it.

Join me 'with the Quest way of looking into the past.' No testing, no studying, no grades. Only voluntary quizzes on world traveling and hopefully having fun as we learn about our past and our everchanging improving tools to dig into the technology to uncovering it, and the Timelines that change with new discoveries.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB: FICTION**
Book: Theo of Golden
Author: Allen Levi
Presenter: Gail Spitalnik
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

In this quietly beautiful novel, a stranger arrives in the small city of Golden and visits a coffee shop where ninety-two pencil portraits hang on the walls, portraits of the people of Golden done by a local artist. He begins purchasing them, one at a time, and putting them back in the hands of their rightful owners. With each exchange, a story is told, a friendship born, and a life altered. A story of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is about the power of creative generosity and the kindness that binds us to one another.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. Train Dreams (Vince Grosso)
2. One Battle After Another (Bernadette Cullen)
3. Ordinary People (Howard Salik)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

Oscar ballots are still available. Send your name and email address to

Howardsalik0@gmail.com,

and we'll email your ballot; then print it, check off your selections, and deposit it in our office mailbox.

We start with the sleeper hit of the year – and a likely Oscar contender – **Train Dreams**. Reviewed by Vince Grosso (streaming on Netflix), this powerful true story transports viewers to the turn of the twentieth century, where a humble logger finds both love and purpose. As he builds a home and family with his soulmate, their happiness is upended by fate's cruel twist. The journey that follows is one of rediscovery, as he comes to see the forests he once destroyed through new eyes, encountering both the beauty and brutality of the natural world. (Cast: Joel Edgerton, Felicity Jones, and William H. Macy)

Bernadette Cullen turns an insightful eye to **One Battle After Another**, another strong favorite for Oscar recognition (streaming on HBO). This gripping film follows a washed-up revolutionary, haunted by the paranoia of his past, as he tries to rebuild his life with his spirited, fiercely independent daughter. Together, they confront the lingering consequences of old choices, fighting for forgiveness and a future beyond regret. This is a story of survival, family, and the enduring cost of rebellion. (Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn, and Benicio Del Toro)

Continuing our Robert Redford remembrance, Howard Salik revisits the acclaimed classic **Ordinary People** directed by RR (available on Amazon Prime). The film explores the emotional aftermath of a tragic sailing accident, focusing on young Conrad, who struggles with overwhelming guilt over his brother Buck's death and attempts to take his own life. (Cast: Mary Tyler Moore, Donald Sutherland, and Judd Hirsch) **anchor** this moving portrait of a fractured family seeking healing, understanding, and the courage to move forward.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE CANTERBURY TALES**
Subject: The Man of Law's Tale, The Shipman's Tale, and The Prioress's Tale.
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

For our next session, please read **The Man of Law's Tale, The Shipman's Tale, and The Prioress's Tale**.

If our first three tales suggested a kind of medieval mathematical equation—

The Tale = sex (± fulfillment ± betrayal ± prohibition ± punishment)

We now move into more difficult terrain. The Man of Law confronts abuse and endurance. The Shipman turns marriage into money and money into sex. The Prioress forces us to confront medieval antisemitism. *The Canterbury Tales* contains comedy, cruelty, devotion, cynicism, and faith—sometimes all at once. It has everything.

Course: **YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT**
Room: Computer Lab
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Joan Lambe, Ruth Ward

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 @ 2:45 PM

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

Join us for a relaxing 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 MARCH 5 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **BEETHOVEN: THE LATE YEARS 1815-1827**
Subject: Late Beethoven String Quartets
Presenter: Jim Hopkins
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Arlene Hajinlian**, Jim Hopkins, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Joan Lambe, Tamara Weinberg

The late string quartets of Ludwig van Beethoven were written between 1824-26, at the end of his life, when he no longer cared about pleasing audiences, and only wrote what he truly felt. They can sound strange, but they are deeply human—full of struggle, humor, tenderness, and surprise. Come to gain greater understanding of these monumental treasures.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: The Language Poets and Prison Poetry
Presenter: Peter Dichter and Frieda Lipp
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Language poetry and its poets demand the reader to be involved and, in the moment, cheek to jowl - while engaging with the poem's text. This is done by using an assortment of techniques such as purposively creating irregularities in grammar, atypical line breaks and in choices in how the poem is formatted/ laid out on the page. One sentence may not follow the next in terms of the readers' expectations. Ron Silliman, one of the movement's theoreticians, termed the phrase, "the new sentence," to indicate his break with the past.

Prison poetry is poetry written by incarcerated people. Its content and subject matter may vary widely, and it gives voice to a segment of society not often heard at a point in time when the writer is not free at a time when the United States has a disproportionate percentage of its citizens in prisons.

THURSDAY MARCH 5 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Rainbows (Gloria Peropat)
2. The Hew Coast (Joyce West)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. *Rainbows* by Joseph O’Neill. Presented by Gloria Peropat
Joseph O’Neill, Irish born writer is an esteemed author of several award-winning novels including his latest, *Goodwin* (2024), a NY Times “best book of the year”. His short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, and other literary magazines and *Rainbows* is part of the O’Henry collection of the best short stories for 2022. ***Rainbows*** is told from the perspective of its protagonist, Clodagh, a graduate student from Ireland who shares the story of her multi-dimensional journey over several years,

2. *The New Coast* by Paul Yoon. Presented by Joyce West
Poignant dystopic story of two young boys surviving in the aftermath of a devastating war. As they move into yet another shanty town, details of what remains among the rubble reveal their perilous situation. While clear that their parents have died, they are still searching for a sister who disappeared when they were bombed. The fantasized “*new coast*” of the story’s title turns out to be just as shattered as the interior of the country,

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

Course: **QUESTER’S CHOICE I**
Subject: Balance
Presenters: Ann Goerd and Laurie Spiegel
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Are you concerned about your balance? You are sure it has decreased and you worry about falls? It seems OK, but it is not as good as it used to be? You know you have pretty good balance, and you want to keep it that way? Whatever your concern might be, we will address all of those situations. We will talk about the components of balance, tell you

which ones you can affect in order to improve or maintain your current status, and how to do that.

CULTUREQUEST

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

History of the Dioramas and Planetarium Visit

This Tour Is Sold Out and the Waitlist Is Closed