

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 9 – 12, 2026
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.

MONDAY, MARCH 9@ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: South Pacific
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

While South Pacific is set against the background of the Second World War, more than anything, Rogers and Hammerstein saw an opportunity to make a statement about racial politics in contemporary America. The show was meant to critique the fact that Americans fought a war against enemies they perceived as racist when “their own racism remained unresolved” and continued even past the war’s conclusion. While this theme is certainly serious and unusual in a musical, it doesn’t detract and in fact enhances the legendary score. We’ll take a deep dive into the latter.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux edition)
This week we will read:
Comrade Laski – p. 61
7000 Romaine, Los Angeles 38 – p. 67
California Dreaming – p. 73
Marrying Absurd – p. 79.
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Comrade Laski profiles Michael Laski, a fringe communist leader in Los Angeles. *7000 Romaine, Los Angeles* 38 profiles the personal mythos of 20th Century business magnate Howard Hughes. *California Dreaming* focuses on the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, which Didion uses as a symbol of the “moral emptiness and mutation of intellectualism in the state. *Marrying Absurd* portrays Las Vegas weddings as a commodified, transactional spectacle that reduces the sacred institution of marriage to a shallow, 24-hour business.

MONDAY, MARCH 9 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: A Musical Journey"
Presenter: Paul Clements
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

From English folk clubs to downtown New York stages, Paul Clements has traveled a long and winding musical road. For our Noontime Medley, he brings his fingerstyle acoustic guitar—intimate, intricate, and deeply expressive. Expect 40 minutes that moves across styles, across continents, and into the quiet magic of strings and wood.

Bring your lunch. Bring your ears. Let the strings do the talking.

MONDAY, MARCH 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS**
Subject: *Here's Jack!* The Cinematic Adventures of Jack Nicholson
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**

Jack Nicholson's angular eyebrows, ironic smile and taste for exaggeration have combined over the decades to create some of cinema's most iconic characters. From the unhinged Randle McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* to the ultra-uptight Marine Colonel Nathan R. Jessep in *A Few Good Men*, Nicholson's roles have been varied and memorable.

This session will feature video clips highlighting some of Jack Nicholson's most noteworthy performances over a 50-year career, while also examining the peaks and valleys of both his professional and personal lives. Whether you were scared to death by Nicholson's bone-chilling performance in *The Shining* or enchanted by his portrayal of ex-astronaut Garrett Breedlove in *Terms of Endearment*, this session will provide you with a deeper understanding of the actor and the man.

Course: **POWER OF PLAY**
Subject: The Serious Side of Play
Presenter: Candy Johnson
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Carole Blane**, Joe Aboulafia, Candy Johnson,
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Play is more than fun—it's a way we make meaning. This presentation explores play through the work of scholars who have studied how play shapes learning, culture, and identity. We'll look at some key theories, frameworks, and types of play while experiencing a few playful moments ourselves.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt
Presenter: Lynnel Garabedian
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Ellen Shapiro

In the mid 1860's a group of six French artists banded together to promote and practice a new direction in painting which came to be known as Impressionism. Berthe Morisot, a young painter, was the only woman who was a pioneering member of this movement. A few years later American Mary Cassatt joined the group. Both of these talented women concentrated on the everyday lives of contemporary women and children to create masterful and beautiful works. Recognized and acclaimed by critics in their own time, later dismissed by history, their stellar contributions to art are now being revived.

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

Topic:

1. "The Naked Face" by Malcolm Gladwell from *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2002,
2. "Consider the Lobster" by David Foster Wallace, from *Gourmet Magazine*, August 2004

Copies of these essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 @1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

We continue with the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, and comedies selected for their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE II**
Subject: Rob Reiner: Actor, Filmmaker, Activist, Podcaster
Presenter: Marsha Porcell
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Most of us remember Rob Reiner for his portrayal of "Meathead" on *All in the Family*. He is also known as a legendary filmmaker. Perhaps less well known is his work as a prominent activist: outspoken and generous with his time and resources for causes ranging from democracy and free speech to public health, gun safety, and marriage equality. Above all, he was a devoted husband, father, and friend—a loving and lovable man. Do you have a story about him that you want to share?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: Project 2025
Presenters: Michael Wellner
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

It is safe to say that almost every one of us has heard something about Project 2025. But how much do we really know? This morning we'll have a long look at it, listen to two fascinating interviews, and hopefully learn some new and important information that is affecting each of our lives in such important—and not always good—ways.

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Quantum Computers and Quantum Engineering
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

Extraordinarily tiny particles, such as the electrons within atoms, obey laws of physics totally unlike the physics of ordinary objects that we can see and touch. One way of expressing this is that an electron can be in many different places at the same time.

The physics that governs these tiny particles is called quantum physics. Over the past few decades, physicists, mathematicians, and engineers have been working to design devices that can take advantage of these strange physical laws. The application receiving the most current attention is the building of quantum computers that are capable of solving hard problems very much faster than any ordinary computer.

In this talk, we'll explore just how the laws of quantum physics lead to these extraordinary results, which will allow us to understand both the potential and the limitations of quantum engineering

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB: CREATIVE NONFICTION**
Book: *Gods of New York: Egotists, Idealists, Opportunists, and the Birth of the Modern City*: 1986-1990
Author: Jonathan Mahler
Presenters: Debbi Honorof and Carole Blane
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Carole Blane**, Debbi Honorof

Gods of New York is a creative non-fiction book that chronicles the transformative and chaotic final years of 1980s New York City, focusing on the clash between its identity as a financial capital and a working-class city. The book covers major events like the AIDS epidemic, the crack crisis, and Black Monday, alongside key figures like Donald Trump, Ed Koch, Rudy Guiliani, and Al Sharpton. The book also explores how the city's social fabric was reshaped by financial booms, social strife, and tabloid culture. Author Jonathan Mahler will be at Quest on Wednesday, March 25 as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Ellen Jovin
Subject: *Rebel With a Clause*
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Are you concerned about the Oxford comma, who vs. whom or the proper use of the semicolon? If so, you won't want to miss acclaimed grammar and language expert Ellen Jovin. She is the author of *Rebel With a Clause* and the subject of an award-winning grammar road trip documentary of the same name made by her filmmaker husband, Brandt Johnson. She and her husband have visited all 50 states with her "Grammar Table" and have talked to people of every imaginable background to settle disputes and share a laugh. Even if you're not a grammar nerd, come hear Ellen's inspiring story of how we can make connections and promote civil discourse in a time of social and political upheaval.

Ellen and Brandt are the founders of Syntaxis, a communication skills training company. Ellen has studied more than 25 languages and had a blog for many years, "Words & Worlds of New York." She has a B.A. in German studies from Harvard University and an M.A. in comparative literature from UCLA. Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: HISTORY**
Subject: Origin and Evolution of Life
Presenter: Judith Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Judy Weis, Pete Weis**
Tech Support: **Pete Weis, Bob Reiss**

A long time ago—about 4 billion years ago—some of the various molecules on the earth managed to interact some way (no one was there to measure exactly what was going on) to create the first entity, in the ocean, that had metabolism and could reproduce itself. After that, primitive life became more complex, came on land, and evolved in many different directions to produce the great diversity of life currently on our planet. We will travel through the various eras as animals and plants diversified and became more complex and diverse—up until the age of dinosaurs. (Stay tuned for the next session in two weeks!)

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: Political Poetry of Protest and Resistance
Class Leaders: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter**

We are continuing with our pursuit of poetry that engages with social struggles and political upheavals. This is powerful poetry that aims to protest, raise awareness, inspire change, reflect on power, justice, and human conditions like racism, war, or inequality, using powerful language to challenge norms, give voice to the marginalized, and connect individual struggles to broader historical contexts. As discussed in our opening class, these poems—whenever written, wherever written—are astonishingly applicable and relevant today.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**
Subject: Ellis Island: America's Gateway
Facilitator: Laraine Mancuso
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried**
Tech Support: **Konstantin Dolgitser, Pete Weis**

Come spend some time exploring Ellis Island. We will look at how the immigration station came to be, its place in the timeline of US immigration, do some myth busting about what happened on Ellis, and take a close look at the two “state of the art” hospitals built on the island to treat sick immigrants. Forty percent of all Americans can claim at least one ancestor having come to America through Ellis Island.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: A Philosophical Look at Democracy
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort**
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine, Larry Shapiro**

The basis for our discussion will be an analysis of the concept of democracy by Bernard Crick (1929–2008), a prominent British political theorist and socialist. Crick was a staunch defender of democratic values, civil liberties, and a pluralistic society where different groups and ideas could coexist. He was a particular advocate of politics as the

peaceful, negotiated resolution of conflicting interests through debate rather than force. He raised many interesting questions: What are the key defining characteristics of democracy? What are the tensions between democracy and populism? What is the proper role within a democracy for the shielding of elite decision makers from immediately having decisions overridden by democratic institutions?

We encourage members to prepare for our discussion by readings that will be distributed through QuestBusiness—excerpts from Crick’s book *Democracy: A Very Short Introduction* and brief essays from both the left and the right debating the desirability of independence for the courts and for the Federal Reserve.

Course: **POETRY WORKSHOP**
Subject: Creating Poetry
Presenter: Judy Hampson
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (**Note:** This class ends at 3.00 PM)
Coordinators: **Judy Hampson**, Helen Saffran, Linda Schwartz

We will begin by reading a poem together and discussing it. What are the poetic elements in the poem? How does it make us feel?

There will be a writing prompt related to the poem, and an opportunity to share. Suggested prompt for this week: Visualize an early version of yourself. Describe your appearance and emotions at that time. How do you feel now, looking back at that stage in your life? Use vivid language to create an image for the reader.

Members who choose to bring in poems written at home will read them to the class and get feedback.

CULTUREQUEST

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

**History of the Dioramas and
Planetarium Visit
March 13, 2026**

This Tour Is Sold Out and the Waitlist Is Closed