

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 28 – October 1

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: 831 2470 2819

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 859 5495 1087

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 874 2995 4279

Passcode: 252525

Meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms are also listed above in case such information is needed. 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.

When joining Quest classes on Zoom, please make sure that your full name is displayed for security purposes. If you need help displaying your name, please contact a Technology Committee Member.

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 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Opening Choruses
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner, Sandi Schein

What a festive way to begin the day! Just sit back and enjoy 13 opening choruses from 13 (count 'em) hit musicals. It's also the ultimate presentation for me, the presenter because no commentary is necessary. Yes, the only presentation skill I will need is to press a button. There is a premise: these fabulous choruses were created to briefly set up everything you are about to see during the course of the musical. Oh, it's about Tradition! Isn't this Weimar Germany? So this is Hades! Wasn't Hamilton one of our founding fathers? Tell me more about this barber! Nants' ingyama. Yes, a totally uninformative, but highly entertaining morning is in store. Because thinking is overrated

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
(Hemingway Library edition 2020 – SCRIBNER)
Facilitator: Ruth Ward
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This session we will read pages 21 - 52.

The Old Man and The Sea delivers a powerful message about human resilience, stating that "man is not made for defeat ... a man can be destroyed but not defeated."

Hemingway's writing is highly regarded for its minimalist style, direct prose, and ability to convey deep emotion and complex themes.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Beyond the Classroom: What Are Other Lifelong Learning Communities Doing?
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

Lifelong learning takes many forms. around the world, organizations offer not only lectures, presentations, and discussion groups, but also garden visits, walking groups, art-making, music, games, and activities organized by members themselves.

We'll take a look at some of these programs, including the University of the Third Age in Cambridge, England, and explore a hypothetical question:

If we could add something new to Quest, what might it be?

No changes to our existing program are required — just an opportunity to exchange ideas and discover possibilities.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARCHITECTURE: HISTORY, DESIGN AND PRACTICE**
Subject: Green and Sustainable Architecture
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Victor Brener, Debbi Honorof
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

Green architecture is a design and construction philosophy that reduces a building's environmental impact and uses resources efficiently across its entire lifecycle. Its principles include energy efficiency techniques such as natural ventilation, strong insulation and renewable power systems. For materials, architects can choose local, recycled, or renewable options. Water conservation can offer rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and low-flow plumbing fixtures. Indoor spaces use non-toxic, low-emission materials to protect the health and comfort of people inside. Other features include green roofs, living walls, or native landscaping to support local biodiversity. We will discuss many of these methods and include copious examples.

Course: **COMPELLING THEATER AND CINEMA**
Subject: Jean-Luc Goddard, Pioneer of the French New Wave
Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Frieda Lipp, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

French-Swiss filmmaker Jean-Luc Goddard was one of the central figures of the French New Wave (Nouvelle Vague) movement. Best known for his breakthrough film "Breathless" starring Jean-Paul Belmondo and Jean Seberg, Goddard challenged conventional filmmaking in the 1950-60s. In this session, we will explore his years as a film critic at the famous Cahiers du Cinema, moving on to his long career as a filmmaker, screenwriter, and director, who became more political and experimental over time. We'll focus on a few of his most famous, and critically acclaimed, films.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART OF THE WORLD: PREHISTORY THROUGH GOTHIC ART**
Subject: Mesopotamia: The Beginning of Civilization
Presenter: Susan Diehl
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss & Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro

Ranging from about 3500 to 340 BCE, Mesopotamia is known for seminal developments in human history. Starting in the fertile valley between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, now Iraq, the people of Mesopotamia were among the first to plant cereal crops allowing for urban living, work specialization, government and social organization. During this time written language appeared and laws were developed that were surprisingly humane and fair (it would take a few thousand years before western laws caught up). It was an era of turmoil with expansive wars. Massive architecture of extraordinary quality celebrated each successive king and his victories.

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

Topics:

1. "St. Paul Remade Human History. How Did He Do It?" by Adam Gopnik from the April 20, 2026 issue of *The New Yorker*,
2. "As Kennedy Went" by Linda Greenhouse from the March 12, 2026 issue of *The New York Review of Books*

Copies of these essays will be circulated in advance of the class through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Meeting: **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Tracey Lee, Laurie Spiegel (co-chairs), Leslie Goldman, John Davis, Vince Grosso, Laura Lopez, Sheila Sasmor, Ken Sasmor (QPal coordinator)

Who can attend: All new members (Spring 2026 and Fall 2026) are invited to attend each fall meeting

Meet other new members. Learn about the varied ways you can connect and interact with other members in our community. Find out about available resources at Quest. Ask questions and share experiences.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Marsha Porcell
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsers, Victor Brener,

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: **POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF JOHN LOCKE**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sanford Kessler**, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Andrea Irvine**

Our next class will focus on Chapter Five of Locke's Second Treatise of Government. In this chapter, Locke presents his theoretical argument for capitalism. This includes a defense of private property, economic inequality, and the legitimate acquisition of wealth. After analyzing the text, we will discuss the workings of capitalism in America today in terms of Locke's intentions, our quality of life, and economic justice.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE II**
Subject: August Wilson, Poet and Playwright
Presenter: Ann Goerdt
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

August Wilson, best known for his ten plays that form the American Century Cycle, was a poet as well as a playwright. What in his background prepared him to tell the story of African American people across the twentieth century, and to have it recognized as one of the greatest epic poems of American letters? Examining his life experiences in the first three decades of his life helps us to understand how well qualified he was, and perhaps to further increase our appreciation for his plays as they unfold from 1904 to 1997.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 @ 2:45 PM

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

We'll take a new route, south to The Battery, then west to walk along the Hudson and ending up in Brookfield Place for coffee, wine, food, whatever fits the day. No pressure, no pace to keep — just fresh air and community and always assistance with transport directions to get home.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: The Mathematics of Secrets
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Konstantin Dolgitsers, Pete Weis

For thousands of years, people have been inventing secret codes to hide private military, diplomatic, commercial, and personal communications from prying eyes. For just as long, the wielders of those prying eyes have been inventing ways to break those secret codes. This battle has become particularly heated in the past 200 years as inventions such as the telegraph, radio transmission, and the internet have exponentially increased the number of messages with sensitive information that can be easily read by others than the intended recipients.

Fortunately, a startling discovery in the 1970s revealed that mathematical formulas could be used to create secret codes that are extremely close to unbreakable. Virtually all of current internet communications and protection of private information in databases is derived from this mathematical discovery.

We are also beginning to see practical applications of a second startling discovery about the power of mathematical formulas: the ability to provide verification of selected information from credentials without revealing anything other than the selected information. For example, you could send over the internet proof from a government document that you are over 21 without having to reveal your actual age or any other information about you. This new advance has many promising potential applications in areas like financial transactions and proofs of regulatory compliance without having to divulge trade secrets.

This talk will cover both the history of these discoveries and an intuitive overview of the mathematics that makes them possible.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY**
Subject: Why are we so unhappy when the economy is so good
Presenter: George Hicks
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Ruth Ward

Many people feel there is a disconnect between the overall mood of the country and how things are going in general. So we will explore the state of the U.S. economy and how it appears to different groups in the country. And, we will examine measures of US happiness, including consumer confidence and satisfaction, rising anxiety, and trust in institutions. Come prepared for what we hope will be a lively discussion.

Course: **IMPROV FOR ALL**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Bob Shick**, Susan Diehl, Gordon Gilbert, Arlynn Greenbaum

Are you curious about Improv? Performers have traditionally used it to loosen up, explore new ideas, and enhance their creative abilities. Our workshop will follow one of the fundamental mottos of Improv – to learn, have fun, and enjoy yourself! People who take Improv report they are more flexible in their thinking, do things they never thought they could do, and can appreciate when new things come along. All the games in the Workshop will be explained and demonstrated. And participation is voluntary. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of Improv!

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 @12:10 – 12:50PM

Meeting: **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**
Subject: Open Forum for New Course Ideas
Room: 15-17
Coordinator: **Ellie Schaffer**

Join other Quest members to explore ideas for new courses for Spring 2027 and beyond. Bring your lunch and your passions. Sweets will be provided to stimulate the brain!

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

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Gayle Feldman
Subject: *Nothing Random: Bennett Cerf and the Publishing House He Built*
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

At midcentury, Bennett Cerf was a household name — a witty panelist on *What's My Line* and the head of Random House, which he co-founded. He published everyone from

Eugene O'Neill, Gertrude Stein and William Faulkner to Truman Capote, Ayn Rand, Philip Roth and Dr. Seuss. Gayle Feldman's comprehensive biography, which has received rave reviews, paints a vivid portrait of 20th century New York and the golden age of publishing.

Gayle has written for *Publishers Weekly* for 40 years and since 1999 has been the U.S. correspondent for *The Bookseller*. She is also the author of a cancer memoir, *You Don't Have to Be Your Mother* and *Best and Worst of Times: The Changing Business of Trade Books*. She spent more than 20 years researching and writing *Nothing Random*.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: WHATS ON TOP?**
Subject: Deserts
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Judy Weis, Pete Weis**
Tech Support: **Pete Weis, Felix Pina**

The Arabic word sahra (Sahara) is defined as "a desolate land to be traversed as quickly as possible." I can't do justice to this vast topic in one class, but I'll try to keep a leisurely pace while comparing the different kinds of deserts, the histories of some representative deserts and the conditions that desertified (real word!) them. I'm especially interested in the adaptations living things make in order to survive in the desert. I'll also say a bit about my desert experiences. Because I've been careful about when, where and how I visit deserts, I wouldn't call them "desolate," but inviting.

Course: **NONFICTION GEMS**
Subject: The Case Against Reality by Donald Hoffman
Presenter: Judy Hampson
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Donna Ramer, Carole Blane, Ellie Schaffer**
Tech Support: **Joan Lambe, Felix Pina**

Dr. Donald Hoffman, a cognitive psychologist asserts that our perceptions do not give us a true picture of objective reality. Throughout evolution, our senses have become refined

to help us survive in this world, but do not always tell us the truth. He presents convincing examples to demonstrate that what we see, hear and feel is not always a true representation of what exists in our world. Hopefully, by the end of this presentation you will have some insight into how we are being persuaded that what we experience is not reality.

THURSDAY @ 12:10 PM – 12:40 PM

Course: CHAIR YOGA
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Lisa Levine

Quest members are invited to join Lisa Levine for chair yoga. Chair yoga is an overall stretch, strength and breathing practice done in street clothes and wearing shoes if you choose. Expect to increase flexibility, find balance, improve muscle tone, reduce stress and increase body awareness. We will focus on simplicity and safety while creating a challenge for experienced yogis.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE
Subject: Repugnant markets, kidney donations, and surrogacy
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: Joan Lambe, Felix Pina

A challenging question for advocates of an expansive view of personal liberty is the degree to which some consensual agreements create widespread feelings of repugnance. There are some relatively benign examples, such as bans on selling horse meat for human consumption while allowing it to be sold for consumption by pets — the concern is not for the well-being of the horse but for feelings of disgust at the practice. But other examples are far more challenging. In our discussion we will focus on two particularly troubling issues — bans on kidney donations and bans on birth surrogacy. We'll look at what philosophers and economists have had to say on both sides of these issues and then discuss.

While summaries of the issues will be presented in class and will allow all meaningful participation of all members, we will be circulating relevant readings in advance of the

class through QuestBusiness and urge all members who will attend to do at least a little of the reading in advance.

Course: **HUMAN BIOLOGY**
Subject: Understanding the Cell
Facilitator: Bob Majeska
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mark Cardillo**, David Bartash, Marion Schulteis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

Cells are fundamental units of all living entities; they sustain themselves, grow and reproduce independently. Cells with rare exceptions have retained these capabilities as they combine to generate all the life forms we recognize. Knowing how individual cells operate is useful not only to understand how the organisms they comprise (like humans) function – but also the basis for many diseases and their treatments.

This session will review several aspects of cells and how they operate. Topics will include cell composition (NOTE: a modicum of chemistry here), cell “anatomy” (structures identifiable under microscopes of different power) and processes common to all cells (energy utilization, growth, reproduction, death). The session will also consider how cells become specialized in making different tissues and how cells communicate.

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

Nature is all around us and a constant source of inspiration. Ever walked through a park and felt a sense of peace descend upon your shoulders? Walked beside the ocean and watched waves crash onto the rocks and curl around footprints left in the sand? Looked up at the night sky and wondered at its sheer beauty?

We'll look at a couple of poems that describe nature. If you have a favorite, please bring it in with you to share.

We encourage you to bring in poems of your own to read to the class, or you can just listen to what others have written.

There will be a writing prompt to stimulate ideas, and an opportunity to share. Suggested prompt for this week: Think about a moment this summer when you felt moved by the sight of something in nature. How did it make you feel?

CULTUREQUEST

NY Transit Museum Tour October 16, 2026

How do we get there? . . . By subway of course
Step into a world of NYC layered nostalgia

Situated in a decommissioned subway station in downtown Brooklyn is the NYC Transit Museum.

Visit vintage subway cars featuring wicker upholstered seats, ceiling fans to circulate air flow, leather strap hangers, advertising posters and “Meet Miss Subway” winning stories.

Learn about the different turnstile designs made to discourage fare jumpers. Learn about the construction and engineering of our city’s transportation. Not only will you be learning about NYC transportation, but you will be transported in time!

Join us –

- **When:** Friday, October 16, 2026 at 11:30AM
- **Where:** 99 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
- **Cost:** \$15.00 per person, limited to 20 people. There will be a waitlist.

To Reserve: Send an email asap to: Sharon Katz, schatzykatzy@netscape.net. You will be notified if you make the cut. 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 Wed. October 7th by 2:30 PM.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Culture Quest now has its own, new Zelle email address. If you pay through Zelle, you must send it to Culture Quest’s new Zelle email address: quest25cq@proton.me before Wednesday, October 7 at 2:30 p.m. You must include: CultureQuest, NY Transit Museum Tour to credit it correctly. Again, the amount is \$15.00. If we do not receive payment by the due date, please understand that you will go to the waitlist.

2. Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn’t show or cancels will be placed on a “future waitlist only” for following CQ events. Thank you for your understanding.