

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST
February 28 – March 3, 2022
This is an “A” Week

There are four links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, Classroom 52-53, and Classroom 27. Click on the appropriate link below to join a class no earlier than 15 minutes before its start.

Alternatively, you can enter a class by going to <https://zoom.us> and selecting “JOIN A MEETING.” You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode. Also, you can attend classes via phone by dialing 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the password.

FOR ALL AUDITORIUM CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5lRGEvbG9WWHNxbFI4YnRwdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0UmxBDRXQ0RDQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlpWnBGeFNcdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 25252

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek15bmITNIIjUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 8434 1199

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway, with presenters mostly presenting live. In some cases, a presenter may not be live at 25 Broadway, but will present from home via Zoom. In the week beginning February 29, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters except for Monday's History of Germany class and Tuesday's Comedy & Satire class.

MONDAY, February 28 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS

Room: Auditorium

Album: Linton Kwesi Johnson: *Forces of Victory* (1979)

The term "Dub Poetry" was coined by Dub artist Linton Kwesi Johnson in 1976, which consists of spoken word over reggae rhythms, originally found on the backing or "version" side of a 12 or 6 inch vinyl record. Dub poetry is predominantly concerned with politics and social justice, commonly voiced through a commentary on current events. LKJ is the master.

British-based author and dub poet, Johnson makes clever uses of the unstandardized transcription of Jamaican Patois and is allied to the Jamaican "toasting" tradition. He became the second living poet, and the only black poet, to be published in the Penguin Classics series.

In 2020 the pioneer of dub poetry has been awarded the prestigious PEN Pinter prize for his "political ferocity and tireless scrutiny of history."

Presenters: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: A PASSAGE TO INDIA

Room: Classroom 15-17

We will begin by discussing Chapters V and VI from the last class assignment and go on to Chapters VII – XI. What qualities of character do Aziz and Fielding share that lead them to quickly forge a warm friendship? Forster presents penetrating characterizations of the major figures in the novel, even some who are not the most sympathetic. What do we think of the character of Ronny, for example? Notice the obvious and subtle ways in which Forster reveals the prejudices and misunderstandings that arise between the British, Muslim, and Hindu characters in the novel.

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, February 28 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: HISTORY OF GERMANY

Room: Auditorium

Subject: 1500 -1648 and the Thirty Years War

Following Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation in the early 1500s, rivalry between leaders supporting Catholicism and those supporting Lutheranism dominated the history of the German peoples over the next 150 years. This culminated in the Thirty Years War from 1618 to 1648 in which nearly all of Europe was dragged into a conflict between Germans. The war was fought almost exclusively on German territory with devastating effect on the civilian population. We will also look at the history of the Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperors and of the other major German ruling families during this period.

Presenters: Caroline Thompson, Steve Allen

Coordinators: Caroline Thompson, Steve Allen

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Contemporary Poetry can enrich us all. We invite you to choose a poem that resonates for you, sending a copy in advance to Sheryl, at sherylnyc@gmail.com who will create a packet of poems to share on screen. We will ask you to read your poem aloud, including information about the poet's background. We then ask for another reading by a volunteer, followed by class reaction and discussion. Previous experience with poetry is not necessary. All are welcome.

Coordinators: Betty Farber, Martha Drezin, Frieda Lipp

TUESDAY, March 1 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS & THEIR WORK

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Alice Neel

Alice Neel's paintings of people are alive with her subjects' personalities; their eyes gaze intently, often at the viewer. Many she painted nude; she felt that the essence of each person, their energy, resided not only in their face, but also in their body. She painted pregnant women naked to depict the physical and emotional costs of bearing a child.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art recently had an enormous show of Neel's paintings. Her biographer, Phoebe Hoban, writes that Neel's life was shaped by three forces: "her relentless and transcendent desire to paint, her ongoing struggle with the sometimes mundane, sometimes tragic hardships of poverty, and her adamant refusal to conform."

Born in 1900, Neel was ignored by the art establishment for most of her career; what was prized was abstract expressionism, the province of men. Neel painted her neighbors, her friends, her family, artists, writers

and performers, political radicals, homosexuals, trans-people: the poor, the working-class, the middle class.

Neel joined and remained loyal to the Communist Party. She was to lead a life that was, according to biographer Hoban, “Wild even by Bohemian standards.” Join us as we look at and discuss a representative sampling of Alice Neel’s vast output.

Presenter: Ellen Shapiro

Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Joseph Auslander

In our exploration of American poet laureates, the class will read and listen to the poetry of Joseph Auslander, the first Poet Laureate of the United States, a position he held from 1937-1941. His style was that of a traditional poet, and he skillfully crafted poems with regular meter and rhyme schemes employing lush descriptive language. During World War II he became known especially for his poetry commending the courage of Nazi occupied countries, *The Unconquerables*.

Presenter: Lynnel Garabedian

Coordinators: Art Spar, Roy Clary, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, March 1@ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS

Room: Classroom 52-53

Subject: La Bourgogne, la région et le vin

Nous voyagerons à Bourgogne où nous goûterons les vins magnifiques – les chardonnays, la côte de Nuits, la Nuits-Saint-Georges. Nous

goûterons aussi quelques aliments fameux de la région -- le lapin à la dijonnaise, le bœuf bourguignon et les escargots bourguignons. Alors, même si nous ne les goûtons, nous en discuterons !

Subject: Burgundy, the region and the wine

We'll travel to Burgundy and taste the magnificent Burgundian wines – the Chardonnays, the côte de Nuits, the Nuits-Saint-Georges. We'll also taste some of the famous food of the region – the rabbit à la dijonnaise, the beef bourguignon, the snails of Burgundy. Well, even if we won't taste them, we'll discuss them!

Presenter: Sandra Abramson

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, March 1 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FABULOUS FIFTIES/COMEDY AND SATIRE

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Mel Brooks – America's Funny Man

Mel Brooks is a comic genius and polymath. Brooks wrote, produced, directed, and starred in some of the most uproarious film and television comedies, including "Get Smart," "The Producers," "Blazing Saddles," "Young Frankenstein" and dramatic films such as "The Elephant Man," "My Favorite Year," and the remake of "The Fly." He is in that rare circle of talent who has received three Emmys, three Grammys, three Tonys, and one Oscar.

Brooks' unabashedly brash approach to humor earned him both acclaim and scorn from the public and critics. But Brooks never shrunk from pushing the boundaries of political correctness or battling conformity, censorship, and staid thinking. Brooks ridicules life and society and makes us laugh in the process. We will explore this complex comedy giant's life and career.

Presenters: Glenn Johnston, Sandy Frank

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

(NOTE: *This class runs until 3 p.m.*)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Please join us in person or on Zoom.

- **Open to all writing genres.**
- **Keep prose to under 750 words or create multiple parts to share over a few classes.**
- **Class begins with a ten-minute free-writing exercise (sharing is optional).**
- **Bring a notebook for in-class writing.**

This class, we will look at writing dialogue, so please bring a short example you've read or written. Also, take some time in a public space to (very subtly) listen to a conversation, then note the physical and other characteristics of the people and venue. We'll use these eavesdropping in class to develop a narrative scene and dialogue. Also, feel free to bring in a piece you've written and would like to share.

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Course: READING EDITH WHARTON (*In-person only*)

Room: Classroom 52-53

We will discuss chapters 6 to 10 which demonstrate how Edith Wharton's life was interwoven with her writing. She believed the world she had grown up in had been destroyed by World War 1, and she set *The Age of Innocence* in the 1870's "to especially give the atmosphere of the Old New York of my youth."

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga

WEDNESDAY, March 2 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SLAVERY'S ROLE IN U.S. CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT

Room: Auditorium

Subject: NY Times 1619 Project, Critiques by Historians, Left and Right

We will explain the 1619 Project's intention and present some of the evidence Nikole Hannah-Jones, the New York Times reporter and Project Director, uses to support her provocative thesis – that slavery was not marginal to US history but central to our historical experiences. We will discuss the academic and political critiques of this Project, including how an organized right wing is using both the 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory (CRT) to attempt to control what is taught and not taught in our public schools.

Presenters: Barbara Barnes, Mimi McDermott

Coordinators: Richard Byrd, June Zaccone

Course: SHAKESPEARE

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: Romeo & Juliet

The class will continue to read aloud from Romeo & Juliet beginning with Act I, Scene 5. A clip from the Franco Zeffereilli film of 1968 (Mercutio's Queen Mab speech) will be shown. There will be lots of time for discussion.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, James Brook, Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, March 2nd - 12:10 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Course: ART TALKS

Room: 15-17 (*In person only*)

Come join for short talk and fun discussion. This month Lynnel will introduce us to a favorite of hers, Virginia Berresford. A modernist painter, printmaker, gallery founder and graduate of Wellesley College, Columbia University and Academie Moderne, Paris. Three major museums now hold her work in their permanent collections - Whitney Museum of American Art being one.

Presenters: Lynnel Garabedian

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

WEDNESDAY, March 2 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: READING THE RABBIS

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: On Suffering

The conventional definition of God includes such attributes as omnibenevolent (all-good) and omnipotent. If such is the case, then how can there be suffering in the world. The Talmudic Sages tackle this issue in the text we will consider.

Presenter: Paul Golomb

Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

WEDNESDAY, March 2 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: INDIE FILMS

Room: (Zoom only - *use Auditorium link to enter session*) (*Note 2 p.m. start time*)

Three diverse films ... all highly rated by Rotten Tomatoes and all currently streaming.

THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH – Roy Clary

Joel Coen's film is a minimalistic approach with powerhouse performances tells the story of a soldier whose overriding ambition and thirst for power cause him to abandon his morals and bring about the near destruction of the kingdom he seeks to rule.

I'M YOUR MAN – Madeline Brecher

Hey there, if you've had it with "dating sites" like Tinder, wouldn't you prefer to link up with a robot programmed to meet all your needs, and who looks like Matthew Crawley from Downton Abbey? Meet the perfect partner as our robot takes a deep dive into human feelings while keeping things delightfully funny and oddly romantic.

NIGHTMARE ALLEY 2021– Howard Salik

Guillermo del Toro's *Nightmare Alley* is a modern noir thriller: An ambitious conman with a talent for manipulating people with a few well-chosen words hooks up with a female psychiatrist who is even more dangerous than he is. (Was Tyrone Power's conman in the 1947 version more convincing than Bradley Cooper?)

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold, Brenda Zusman

THURSDAY, March 3 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ANTISEMITISM: PAST, PRESENT, FACTS, MYTHS

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Black Antisemitism

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality" -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The network of mutuality that binds Black and Jewish Americans together has inspired partnership and accord at times, indifference or

hurtful misunderstanding at others, and sometimes, even in this city, open conflict and violence. Can we do better? Is Black antisemitism a clear and present danger?

To understand what separates us and possibly make improvements that are true to our values, we need to examine the history and context of conflict, including economic and political factors. We'll hear from experts and representative voices, provocateurs and conspiracy theorists, mediators and peace makers from both communities.

Presenter: Larry Shapiro

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Marian Friedmann, Bob Reiss

Course: THE NOBEL PRIZES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: 1973 Nobel Prize for ... Animal Behavior???

There is no Nobel Prize for "Biology" but specifically for "Physiology or Medicine." However, in 1973 it was given for something that was neither Physiology nor Medicine, but to three pioneers in the newly developing field of Animal Behavior or Ethology. The three were Karl von Frisch, Konrad Lorenz and Nicolas Tinbergen. In the class we will discuss their lives and careers, and their major discoveries that led the Nobel committee to stretch greatly the definition of "physiology" or "medicine."

Presenter: Judy Weis

Coordinators: Laura Lopez, Marion Schultheis

THURSDAY, March 3 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: ACTING WORKSHOP (*In-person only*)

Room: Auditorium

Because the actors are in rehearsal for an upcoming production, the class is closed for anyone not cast. The production is called “From Serious To Silly...a potpourri of skits and scenes.” It will be presented in the Great Plays class on Monday, May 9.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, John Spiegel

Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: Walt Whitman: The Man, His Voice, and His Times

Walt Whitman needs no introduction to Quest! The adage, “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread”, seems to be apropos to my inviting you to yet another visit with our American “Bard”. Living during a century that was fraught with dissension; the political party system was collapsing, expansionism, urbanization, slavery, and our nation’s very existence being threatened, it was Whitman who eloquently, but directly and simply, found beauty, expressed opinion, elevated the common man, and created a vision of America to be viewed with awe.

Presenter: Sandy Gordon

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Caroline Thompson

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

Room: Classroom 15-17

1. *“Confessions of a Shinagawa Monkey”* by Haruki Murakami

Presenter: Anita Hunter

Haruki Murakami (born 1949) has published 14 novels in English. His novels, essays, and short stories have been bestsellers in Japan as well

as internationally, with his work translated into 50 languages and selling millions of copies outside Japan.

2. “*The Seventh Sally*” by Stanislaw Lem
Presenter: Steve Allen

A PDF of the story will be emailed separately via QuestBusiness, along with an article on Lem, and discussion questions.

Stanisław Lem (1921-2006) was a Polish writer of science fiction and essays on various subjects, including philosophy, futurology, and literary criticism. Many of his science fiction stories are of satirical and humorous character. Lem is one of the most highly regarded science fiction writers of the twentieth century. His fiction has often been praised by philosophers and scientists, and this story could have been written as a philosophy text on arguments for and against the theoretical possibility of creating machines that should have the same rights as people.

(Note: Look for copies of the short stories, and other info, in a separate email about the class sent via QuestBusiness to all Quest members.)

If you have any questions, please email Nancy, nancyrye@earthlink.net

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

CultureQuest Tour

**A TRIP TO ISTANBUL ... VIRTUALLY
Friday, March 11th from 11am to Noon**

Are you lamenting another year without travel? CultureQuest proposes to change that! We invite you to join us on a private virtual walking tour, this time in the heart of historical Istanbul.

Turkey has always been a bridge between the orient and occident, and its capital has played a central role in three great empires—as Constantinople in the Roman and Byzantine Empires and as Istanbul in the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Born and bred in Turkey, Safak Kulansi is the perfect guide for this exciting tour, entitled **THE CAPITAL OF EMPIRES, as showing us his city is his great passion.**

No packing is required...but please mark your calendar and watch for signup instructions in the next few days. Remember, you must sign up in advance or you won't be able to access the site on March 11th. We think you'll love this tour!

WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS

The New Members Meeting is designed to develop familiarity with all aspects of Quest and to encourage new members to participate in our Lifelong Learning Community.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 12 noon in the official Lunch Room (you may bring lunch)

Note: This meeting is in-person (not zoomed)

Guest speakers will be:

Paul Adler - Art Editor of *Q Review* magazine, Co-Coordinator *Live Models Art Class* (currently suspended due to Covid), and Member of

Safety Committee. Discussion will encompass the multifaceted art talents at Quest, as well as safety evacuation procedures.

Renee Woloshin - Chairperson *CultureQuest Committee - Virtual & Live Tours.* Discussion will encompass live Friday Museum tours and scheduled zoom tours. These tours both live and virtual enrich our lectures.

All new members of 2021 and 2022 are most welcome. Our New Members Meetings will take place once a month. Please look for our monthly notices online in the NWAQ, and on the bulletin board in the hall.

**Pam Gemelli, Betty Farber , John Spiegel
New Members Committee Co-chairs**