

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

May 13 - 17, 2024

This Is a B Week

There are three links 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.

Below are given the links (in red), meeting IDs, and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If Zoom is installed on your computer, you can enter any hybrid class by clicking on the appropriate link:

AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 813 5977 7119

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 893 8196 3761

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 834 6569 8593

Passcode: 252525

Alternatively, you can enter a class using your browser by going to <https://zoom.us/join> and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with 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 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, MAY 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CLASSICAL MUSIC**
Subject: Stravinsky's Three Early Ballets
Presenter: Sol Makon
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Sol Makon**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Victor Brener

Early in the 20th century, Igor Stravinsky launched his revolutionary classical music career with symphonic avant-garde innovations of ballet music. In three ballets, Stravinsky assigned imaginative orchestration to musical interpretations of Russian folklore. In successive ballets, Stravinsky increasingly expanded his repertoire of inventive harmonies, harsh dissonances, and dynamic rhythms. The Firebird was composed in 1910, followed by Petrushka in 1911, and The Rite of Spring in 1913. The Rite of Spring, considered radical at its first performance, would determine the direction that 20th century classical music would follow.

We will explore Stravinsky's life until the year 1914, when WWI and the probability of a Russian revolution would force him to leave Russia and move to Switzerland. Stravinsky would not return to Russia until 1962. For each of the three ballets, there will be a short introduction, followed by a YouTube segment called "Behind the Music," which explains some of Stravinsky's musical objectives and methods. Finally, there will be a YouTube excerpt from a ballet performance.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather
Part IV The White Mulberry Tree, 7 & 8
Part V Alexandra, 1, 2, 3
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

Grief-stricken by Amedee's death, Emil seeks out Marie. Under the white mulberry tree, Emil and Marie embrace. Discovering the pair, Frank Shabata commits a dastardly deed.

A distraught Alexandra, having decided that Emil and Marie are at fault for what happened, travels to Frank's prison to secure his release. Then Alexandra receives word from Carl that he is on his way back to her. How does it all end?

MONDAY, MAY 13 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MONDAYS
Subject: Summer in The City
Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz

Join us as we explore the variety of activities awaiting us this Spring/Summer that are in and around the NYC area. Whether you're seeking art, history, music, nature, or simply a breath of fresh air, this session will guide you through the endless possibilities for enriching experiences just a stone's throw away from your home. Bring your lunch and any added suggestions.

MONDAY, MAY 13 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: GREAT PLAYS
Plays: Two short plays:
The Last Can, by D. M. Larson
New Life, by Alex Acuff
Cast: John Davis, Yona Rogosin, and Ruth Ward
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward

Have you ever experienced a period of complete confinement when the stockpiling of food and water became of primary importance? In The Last Can, spouses Nel and Melle cope with the realization that they are down to their last can of sustenance. How do they react?

And have you ever wished you could have more than one life, that your soul could be reborn in another body? Some ideas about reincarnation may seem foreign or ancient to us. However, in New Life, we see the possibility of reincarnation in a modern bureaucratic setting that may seem all too relatable.

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: What's New in Science
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schulteis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

We'll review some of the most interesting science developments over the last few months. Some articles that will be part of the discussion will be circulated about a week in advance through QuestBusiness. As always, we look forward to lively and wide-ranging discussions of these and whatever topics pop up!

TUESDAY, MAY 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Frankenthaler/Hartigan/Mitchell
Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

The Abstract Expressionist period after WWII was an exciting and rebellious time, encompassing various artistic styles, and was the first American movement, to achieve international influence, and put New York City at the center of the Western art world. While many of the well-known artists such as Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko were men, several women came to the fore to become synonymous with this era, among them Helen Frankenthaler, Grace Hartigan and Joan Mitchell. We will look at the lives of these remarkable women, and the large body of work that they have left behind, changing the art world forever, and paving the way for generations to follow.

TUESDAY, MAY 14 @ 12:10 – 12:45 PM

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish Conversation)**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only

Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Richard Elrauch
Tech: Ruth Ward

The room will be available for self-directed informal conversation in pairs. There will not be a formal presentation or a "leader." The subject for discussion will be what participants plan on doing for their summer vacation and what, if anything they hope to accomplish. All are always welcome at whatever level of proficiency they are at. Those wishing to bring light food items from countries where Spanish is the primary language are encouraged to do so. This will stimulate both tastebuds and conversation.

TUESDAY, MAY 14 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Presenters: Steve Allen, Lois Klein, Ellen Waldman, Jane Lubin
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter

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 : **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**
Subject: Poets of the Harlem Renaissance
Presenter: Ellen Rittberg
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Stuart Parker
Tech Support: Steven Chicoine

The styles and themes of the largely forgotten female literary figures of the Harlem Renaissance varied widely. Some tackled social issues including lynching, poverty, and politics. Others addressed their status as black women and mothers and the domestic sphere. Some embraced more traditional European forms; others wrote in a more free, experimental manner. Poets whose poems will be discussed include Jesse Redmond Fauset, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Gwendolyn Bennett, and Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson. Male poets will also be covered including Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, and Jean Toomer.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**
Subject: *The Chaos Machine: The Inside Story of How Social Media Rewired Our Mind and Our World* by Max Fisher
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

In *The Chaos Machine* (2022), international reporter Max Fisher uncovers just how deeply, and negatively social media has affected our world. Big tech companies have allowed their unsupervised algorithms to exploit weaknesses in the human mind, earning them billions of dollars by spreading misinformation and hate speech. Fisher's exploration includes the role social media played in the rise of Trumpism, far-right extremism and the genocides in Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

The problem is that social media companies have little incentive to confront the human cost of their empires despite being partially to blame for political and cultural crises. Fortunately, there are alarmed outsiders and Silicon Valley defectors who are ready to confront these issues.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: An Analysis of Where the U.S. Stands Today
Presenters: Maureen Berman and Michael Wellner
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

With the close of the Spring 2024 session, we will have completed three semesters exploring the “Upheavals in American Values” that are affecting American Society today. Our class has often focused on what’s gone wrong in society, so in the last class we’d like class members to share their views on what’s working, in addition to the major problems that we face today. And we’ll end the class with a rousing round of Election Trivia: Yesterday and Today. Prizes will be awarded for the most correct answers.

Please join us for a chance to contribute your views on the issues you believe that we should all care about.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB**
Book: *Grey Bees*
Author: Andrey Kurkov
Presenter: Linda Downs
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

This novel -- a National Book Critics Circle Award winner for translated fiction [Ukrainian to English] -- tells the story of Sergey, an elderly beekeeper living in Ukraine's Grey Zone, the no-man's-land between warring factions. When he leaves his tiny village to take his bees to safety, the journey leads him to encounter the panoply of people on both sides: loyalists, separatists, Russian occupiers, and Crimean Tatars. With warm yet politically incisive humor, Ukraine's most famous novelist uses Sergey's odyssey to present an illuminating portrait of modern conflict.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **THE ACTING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Potpourri II
Cast: Wayne Cotter, Jennifer Jolly, Dorothy Kiara Lahm, Yona Rogosin, Mary Beth Yakoubian, Sol Zalcgendler
Director: Roy Clary
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Dena Kerren
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

The Workshop will present its annual year end production. Monologues and Scenes from Doubt, The Belle of Amherst, and Politically Correct Bedtime Stories will be included, as well as works by John Guare, Lewis Carroll, and Lucas Hnath.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS**
Subject: Victorian Flatbush
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss

Ask anyone you meet what they know about Brooklyn, and they'll probably begin to talk about Flatbush, the heart of Brooklyn. But very few will talk about Victorian Flatbush, the eleven neighborhoods that make up the first suburban "bedroom" communities in New York City. Primarily composed of free-standing wood frame houses with wrap around porches, stained glass windows and front and back yards, the neighborhoods could fit in Connecticut or Massachusetts. We'll look at the infrastructure, terrain and human foresight that made these beautiful developments possible. We'll take a walk through the neighborhoods and "look" at some of the magnificent homes and who lived in them.

Course: **YOUNG BEETHOVEN**
Subject: Beethoven's early years in Vienna
Presenters: Arlene Hajinlian, Larry Shapiro, and a Guest Violinist
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

For our final class, Larry will discuss Beethoven's first two symphonies, the first written in 1799, and the second in 1801. And our guest violinist Shawn Barnett will join Arlene, to discuss and perform Beethoven's 4th Sonata for Piano and Violin, Op 23 in A minor also composed in 1801. Beethoven wrote nine of his ten sonatas for piano and violin in a short span of five years, between 1797 and 1803.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR**
Subject: "Year of The Dragon"
Presenters: Sheryl, Ellen, Z'eva, Marion, Andrea
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**

Embark on a journey into the realm of dragons in this class that transcends mere academia. From ancient myths to contemporary tales, we'll explore the rich tapestry of dragons worldwide through storytelling, dance, art -- celebrating their symbolism and enduring presence in human history.

And as this semester ends - we will toast, with a glass of sake, these amazing mythical creatures.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE**
Subject: A Pragmatist Approach to Ethics
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

Richard Rorty's essay "Justice as a Larger Loyalty" is a good example of how a pragmatist philosopher attempts to build a motivating ethical argument based on existing moral intuitions without appeal to the abstract reasoning favored by more traditional philosophers. Our discussion will look at both the specifics of this essay's arguments and the virtues and limitations of this overall approach. Rorty's essay will be circulated in advance through QuestBusiness.

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.)
Coordinators: **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran
Tech Support: None Assigned

Write a poem using the cue word "fountain" 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.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 @ 2:45 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather by elevators on 7th floor
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marian Friedmann

Andrea and Marian will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River. They will start at Battery Park and head north ending at a "rest" stop for wine, food, socialization. It is up to you how far you walk. No signups – no commitments just serendipity – community and a healthy heart.

A great way to end a week of Questing.

FRIDAY, MAY 17 @ 12:00 NOON

**QUEST ANNUAL SPRING END-OF-THE-SEMESTER
LUNCHEON**

Osteria Sicily

**Friday, May 17 at 12:00 Noon
330 West 46 Street Between 8th and 9th Avenues**