

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 16 - 19, 2024

This Is an A 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: 861 6851 3691

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 886 0175 9047

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 872 5172 0128

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, SEPT 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: "The Houston Kid" by Rodney Crowell (2001)
Presenter: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Rodney Crowell delivers a master collection of story-songs about growing up poor in Houston. What makes *The Houston Kid* so special? Simply, its honesty.

Crowell has always been able to write catchy tunes, but here his lyrics dig down far enough to almost bury himself. The album comes off as a song cycle, showcasing the dark underbelly of American society as well as its hope. The music as well as the lyrics are raw and immediate.

Course: **STAR-CROSSED LOVERS**
Subject: Romeo and Juliet
Presenter: Roy Clary
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**, Ruth Ward

The first class about Romeo and Juliet will focus on a number of things including:

1. Its origins.
2. Its major themes, e.g., love vs lust, masculine violence, generation gap.
3. Its four major characters: Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio, the Nurse.
4. The question of whether or not the play is a true tragedy.
5. A discussion of the poetic style and several readings.
6. Its various adaptations; e.g., opera, ballet, poetry, and films.

MONDAY, SEPT 16 @ 12:10 AM -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY**
Subject: Music of the Heart
Presenters: Frank Montaturo, Lois Klein, Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz

Please join us for what hopes to be an agreeable fifty minutes of "Music of The Heart." This is an occasional offering exploring the power music has on our emotions. Feel free to bring your lunch and hopefully be prepared to be moved. Frank will introduce us to Lois and Sandra's selections.

MONDAY, SEPT 16 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?**
Subject: The History of Human Intelligence
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Pete Weis

Last fall, we began the first semester of the AI course with a history of artificial intelligence. For our second semester, we are beginning with a history of human intelligence, looking to compare and contrast it with AI.

We'll begin at the beginning, with the intelligence of bacteria, and follow the story of how natural selection responded to environmental challenges by developing new modes and structures of intelligence which have been preserved in humans. We'll look at animals, who developed neurons and brains, which allowed for Pavlovian associative learning; vertebrates who developed the cortex of the brain which allowed for trial-and-error learning; mammals who developed the neocortex which allowed for learning by simulation; primates who developed the frontal cortex which allowed for an understanding of other minds; and humans who uniquely developed language which created vast new learning opportunities.

At each stage, we'll consider parallel developments in artificial intelligence and how developments in AI can offer insights about human intelligence.

Course: **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY by Henry James**
Presenters: Patricia Geehr
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Patricia Geehr**, Sheryl Harawitz, Susan Keohane

Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz, Steven Chicoine

In addition to short stories, plays, and criticism, Henry James wrote twenty novels and is celebrated as a major figure in the history of the novel. The Portrait of a Lady, written in 1880 when he was 37, is considered his masterpiece. A master craftsman, in it he develops his abiding themes: the relationship between innocence and experience and the differences between uncultured Americans and highly cultivated Europeans. For our first discussion, read the first eleven chapters of the preferred Penguin Classics edition with the introduction by Philip Horne, available at Barnes and Noble.

TUESDAY, SEPT 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SUPREME COURT
Subject: Affirmative Action
Presenter: Robert Belfort
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

History and discussion of the US Supreme Court's long and winding road on affirmative action.

Course: NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Martha Drezin, Ellie Schaffer, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

We will discuss the 1968 essay "A letter to all good people" by Amos Kenan. Copies of this essay will be distributed in advance of the class on QuestBusiness.

Discussion Leader: Paul Golomb

TUESDAY, SEPT 17 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Presenter: Donna Basile
Room: 19

Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

René Magritte

René Magritte était un peintre belge, né en 1898. Il a été influencé par le mouvement Dada et les peintures de Giorgio Di Chirico, qui l'ont emmené au surréalisme. Il était contemporain de Joan Miró, Max Ernst et Salvador Dalí. Ensemble nous allons découvrir et analyser plusieurs oeuvres de ce grand peintre énigmatique.

René Magritte

René was a Belgian painter born in 1898. He was influenced by Dadaism and the paintings of Giorgio Di Chirico, which led him to the surrealism movement. He was a contemporary of Joan Miró, Max Ernst and Salvador Dalí. Together we will see and analyze several works of this great enigmatic painter.

TUESDAY, SEPT 17 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY
Subject: How New Amsterdam Became New York
Presenters: Michael Wellner
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

Do you know that NY City's official colors are orange and blue, and not the red and white that you might think of befitting a former English colony? Are you aware that the Dutch ruled New York for only forty years, from 1624 to 1664, but their influence prevails right up to this day? Please join us as we review the somewhat brief history of the Dutch founding of New Amsterdam, and the incredible, long-lasting (400 years after all!) effect they have had on our wonderful, diverse and generally very tolerant city.

Course: FLAWED GREATNESS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON
Subject: Jefferson on Faith, Religious Freedom, and Morality
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

We'll begin our second meeting by finishing our discussion of Jefferson's views on slavery and race. We will then consider Jefferson's views on religious freedom, on Christianity, and on the relationship between religious faith and moral virtue. Our goals will be to understand Jefferson's thoughts on these matters, to assess their relevance to moral, religious, and political life in the United States today, and to continue our effort to understand Jefferson's "flawed greatness."

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Opening Lines
Presenter: Judy Hampson
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

The first line of any piece of writing is what makes us want to keep on reading. We are going to look at some first lines from interesting writings and talk about how we can adapt their ideas to our own writing.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any genre, poetry or prose and the group will offer constructive responses to it. Writing that is read in class should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be read over consecutive classes. Please bring in 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: A Favorite Relative or A Favorite Teacher.

TUESDAY, SEPT 17 @ 3:00 PM

Course: **MEDITATION CLASS**
Subject: SEIZA (Quiet Sitting) Meditation
Presenter: Rev. Miki Nakura
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Auditorium
Coordinator: Donna Ramer

This is a thirty-minute Seiza meditation class led by Rev. Miki Nakura of Higashi Hongan-ji temple in Kyoto, and the Jodo-Shinshu Shin Buddhist New York Sangha. Rev. Miki has been holding weekly chair meditation classes at CWE for about a year and at CCNY/CUNY for a few years.

More info about his approach at [Miki Natura Senza Meditation](#) No pre-registration needed.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **POWER: THE GLORY OF IT**
Subject: Power In A Can - The Story of Energy Drinks
Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Ellen Shapiro

More than \$100 billion in sales every year; the Ukrainian army depends on them; one of them has been the fastest growing stock in the past 20 years; this is just part of the story of energy drinks. Yet, most of us don't know what they are and have never tried one.

Come learn about their history and popularity. Try a sample if you dare!

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: THE TEMPEST**
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer**, Bob Reiss

The class will read aloud from the play beginning with Act I, Sc.2,

In addition:

1. Jim Brook will talk about the process of staging the play from the point of view of the Director working with the various play Designers.
2. Ellie Schaffer will discuss an essay by Professor Paul Cantor that examines the play from the standpoint of Plato's idea of the Philosopher King and how Platonic aspects of the human psyche as distilled in Caliban and Ariel undermine the formation of a wise and just society.
3. Roy Clary will talk about Prospero the Magician and the power Magic brings to him.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 18 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. Wicked Little Letter (Yona Rogosin)
2. Thelma (Marian Friedmann)
3. Hit Man (Vince Grosso)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

See the transformation of The Crown's elegant Queen Elizabeth to a crude, insulting matron in Sussex, England, to a 93-year-old in Los Angeles who refuses to be scammed to New Orleans, where a teacher decides to become a part-time Hit Man...hmm....quite a career change

“Wicked Little Letters” Reviewed by Yona Rogosin (Rotten Tomatoes 80/88) When Edith and her fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. Streaming: Prime, Apple, Netflix, Fandango at Home

“Thelma” Reviewed by Marian Friedmann (Rotten Tomatoes 98/83) After 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her. James Bond has nothing on her. Streaming: Prime, Apple Fandango, YouTube

“Hit Man” Reviewed by Vince Grosso (Rotten Tomatoes 97/93) A professor moonlighting as a hit man for his city police department descends into dangerous, dubious territory when he becomes attracted to a woman who enlists his services. Streaming: Netflix

Course: **HEALTH AND MEDICINE**
Subject: Men's Health Issues: Prostate Cancer and Erectile Dysfunction
Speaker: Bob Gottfried
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Karen Cullen**, Bob Gottfried, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Tamara Weinberg

In this presentation we will focus on two significant health issues faced by men: Prostate Cancer and Erectile Dysfunction. Come to the Health and Medicine class to learn the signs and symptoms for diagnosing prostate cancer, the treatments available, and the side effects of various treatment options.

The second part of the presentation will focus on how to treat erectile dysfunction, its causes, and the physical and psychological ramifications to men diagnosed with it.

THURSDAY, SEPT 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE AND IN THE ARTS**
Subject: Painting and Sculpture Based on Old Testament Stories and Characters
Presenter: Jamie Sykes
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter, Jamie Sykes
Tech Support: **Ilene Winkler**

Western Art is filled with wonderful paintings and sculptures based on the narrative of the Old Testament. This class will focus on a few of these works, as well as a few that are not so wonderful. Discussions will include not only the artistic aspect of the works, but also how the artists have chosen to follow, adjust or even ignore the underlying Old Testament stories.

Course: **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Poisonous Creatures
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitser

Have you ever had poison ivy? Food poisoning? Been stung by a bee? A jellyfish? A snake? Many plants and animals have evolved the ability to make a poison to catch their food or to defend themselves. Encounters with the numerous poisonous creatures in the world can be unpleasant, and even lethal. We will define some terms - poison, venom, toxin, and take a quick tour through the enormous variety of organisms - from microbes to mammals - that you would probably not want to have a close encounter with. But we can learn about and appreciate the variety of ways that they have evolved to deliver their poison to us or other species that mess with them.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI by Betty Medsgar
Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Schulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian

Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

The never- before- told full story of the break in at the FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, by a group of unlikely activists- quiet, ordinary, hardworking Americans- that made clear the shocking truth and confirmed what many had long suspected, that J. Edgar Hoover had created and was operating, in violation of the US Constitution, his own shadow Bureau of Investigation. Come to Questers Choice to learn the whole story.

THURSDAY, SEPT 19 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: WORLD OF RELIGION
Subject: Shinto
Presenter: Ellen Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

The sense of wonder is alive in Japan. Shinto is the spirituality that accepts and deepens our connection with the mysterious. Deep in forests, near the sea, wedged into crowded cities, Shinto shrines, huge and tiny, can be found. A strangely shaped rock, a majestic tree, the sun itself, can all be “*kami*” or gods. But Shinto is also the stuff of everyday life in Japan. And it was used to motivate the Japanese military during World War II. Come listen as we attempt to understand the role of Shinto in Japan’s history, while appreciating its almost inexpressible, numinous spirit.

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Stories: 1. That Girl (Larry Shapiro)
2. Adventures of a Near-Sighted Man (Frieda Lipp)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Stories to read:

1.- “That Girl” by Addie Citchens. Presented by Larry Shapiro

I count this story as one of my happiest reading discoveries of 2024. In addition to this and one other in *The New Yorker*, Addie Citchens has been published in the *Paris Review* and *Oxford American*. I imagine her editors read her with the same fascination and delight

I experienced. Citchens was born in the Mississippi Delta in 1980 and lives in New Orleans.

2. “Adventures of a Near-Sighted Man” by Italo Calvino. Presented by Frieda Lipp

Italo Calvino, the Italian writer, reporter, anti-fascist and ex-Communist, here spins a vintage yarn. Amilcare Carruga buys a new pair of glasses. At first a whole new wonderful and beautiful world blossoms before his eyes - numbers on an approaching train – faces - details etched on a lamp post - above all -faces. He now sees and is seen! But wait - is he? Is he seen? Maybe the new glasses are not so wonderful after all.

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness.

A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the lunchroom,

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

Course: **ACTING WORKSHOP II**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Dena Kerren
Tech Support: None Assigned

Class members will present various theater exercises that relate to everyday life.

CULTUREQUEST
Brooklyn Army Terminal

Friday September 27, 2024, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
In-Person Tour

Today, the Brooklyn Army Terminal is considered the premier hub for modern and creative industrial business and entrepreneurs. The enormous and impressive complex was designed by Cass Gilbert, the iconic Beaux Arts architect of the Woolworth Building, and the Custom House (located next to Quest). The construction of the Terminal was completed in 1919, too late for WW1, but during WW2, served as the largest military supply base in the world. More than 20,000 personnel were employed there.

The terminal continued to operate in post WW2, but changing technologies eventually deemed the facility obsolete. In 1981, NYC purchased the terminal from the Fed Government and repurposed its use. Today, innovation abounds.

Our tour will be guided by Andrew Gustafson from Turnstile Tours.

TOUR LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

Brooklyn Army Terminal is located at 140 58th St, Brooklyn. It is accessible by:

Ferry From Pier 11:

- Take the 2 or 3 Train to Wall St
- walk two blocks to South Street Pier 11
- Ferry ride is just 12 minutes from Wall St.

Subway:

- Take the R or N to 59th Brooklyn express stop.
- Walk to 58th St. and then turn right and walk three blocks towards waterfront.

Car:

- There is free public parking at Pier 4 for visitors to the Brooklyn Army Terminal.

SCHEDULE AND MEETING POINT INFO

Our tour will last from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

For Those Coming by Ferry

- 11:00 AM: Meet at Wall Street, Pier 11
- 11:16 AM: Board the Rockaway Ferry
- 11:33 AM: Arrive at Brooklyn Army Terminal
- 11:33 AM–1:00 PM: Walking tour of Brooklyn Army Terminal

There are return ferries to Manhattan all afternoon, at 1:03, 1:59, 2:09, 2:53, and 3:00 PM

For Those Coming by Subway

- 11:20am: Meet in at Brooklyn Army Terminal - Building A.
- From the 59th St. Brooklyn express stop; it is a four-block walk to the Terminal (1st Ave & 58th St.).

After the tour ends at 1pm, we will gather at the informal Pete's Italian restaurant, located in the lobby of Building B for food and conversation. We will still be close to Ferry for return to Manhattan.

Accessibility

Just a cautionary note as there is about 1.5 miles of walking on this tour.

Cost

The cost is \$20 which includes one way ferry ticket. Attendees are responsible to purchase their own return ticket. Please note that Ferry does not accept MetroCard.

Registration

We can accommodate 20 participants---We will have a wait list. Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who fails to cancel or show, will be placed on a wait list for future CultureQuest trips. Thank you for your understanding of this policy.

To Confirm Your Spot

- Send an email ASAP to Lois Klein at loisnataliek@gmail.com.
- Please indicate:
 - whether you will take the ferry or the subway to the terminal.
 - Whether you plan to stay for lunch
- Make a check out to Quest for \$20 and put it in CultureQuest mailbox in the office.