

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 30 – Oct 3, 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 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: Bob Marley and The Wailers' *Kaya* (1978)
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

As an introduction to the album *Kaya*, the presentation will include a brief history of Reggae, a quick bio of Bob Marley and a short description of Rastafarianism, all of which are infused into Marley's songs. The album was one of only two mentioned in the recent biopic, *Bob Marley: One Love*.

Kaya is the tenth studio album by Bob Marley and the Wailers, released in 1978. The album's release coincided with the One Love Peace Concert, heralding Marley's triumphant return to Jamaica from exile in London. *Kaya* presented a gentler and friendlier version of Bob Marley & the Wailers, but it also documented Marley and his group at the peak of their abilities. *Kaya* reached the top five in the UK album charts.

Course: **STAR-CROSSED LOVERS**
Subject: Romeo and Juliet
Presenters: Paul Golomb and Howard Salik
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**, Ruth Ward

Paul Golomb and Howard Salik will talk about films that relate to our young lovers.

Paul:

Romeo and Juliet has been adapted for film several times, reaching back to the silent era. Three of the most direct film versions have been those made in 1936 (George Cukor, dir.), 1968 (Franco Zeffereilli) and 1996 (Baz Luhrman). All three represent approaches to the issue of going from stage to film. We will look at how each does it.

Howard:

If Shakespeare is a subject that intimidates and scares people off, then the film *Shakespeare in Love*, full of puns and pure absurdism, is neither academic nor forbidding but a film about who Shakespeare could have been ... nothing but a popular entertainer

for a mass audience who experiences a backstage love affair that leads to his masterpiece, *Romeo and Juliet*.

MONDAY, SEPT 30 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: "Name the Tune 🎵" – Again!
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz

You know the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces it. Many songs from musicals, American Songbook and standard songs begin with a verse, but most performers and recordings omit it.

Here's how it works. I play only the introductory verse and stop the recording. You guess the song. I then play an audio or video of the verse plus the rest of the song. Lyrics are posted for us to sing along. Come, bring your lunch, enjoy, and help make beautiful music together!

MONDAY, SEPT 30 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?
Subject: How AI Hires, Fires, and Promotes Employees in Today's Workplace
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Pete Weis

More than many thought possible just a few short years ago, Artificial Intelligence has infiltrated the hiring, promotion and firing practices in many corporations - both large and small. Big Brother is indeed alive and well in today's workplace.

Can AI detect which employees are likely to stay and which will probably quit? Can your facial expressions or voice patterns really reveal the type of worker you'll become? How comfortable would you feel at a job interview conducted by a robot?

During our session, a special guest who currently works in the HR department of a large, multinational corporation will offer his observations on whether current concerns about AI at the workplace are, in his view, legitimate or overblown.

Course: **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY (by Henry James)**
Subject: Chapters 12 – 22
Presenter: Patricia Geehr
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Patricia Geehr**, Sheryl Harawitz, Susan Keohane
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz, Steven Chicoine

James developed *The Portrait of a Lady* around the single character, Isabel Archer, an engaging young woman with an independent mind and bold spirit. Placed in a wealthy European setting, Isabel's desire for independence is tested when she turns down two marriage proposals. How does she justify her decisions?

The implication of these choices is reflected in subsequent chapters, especially in the choices she makes to befriend the "too complete" Madame Merle, and to allow Ralph's good intentions to intrude in her life. Finally, how do the other characters view her choices?

Remember James' recurring themes:

- Innocence and experience
- Uncultured American and highly cultivated European

Next class will not be until October 28. Reading: chapters 23 to 33.

TUESDAY, OCT 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Do We Still Have Separation of Church and State?
Presenter: Ilene Winkler
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried, Glenn Johnston
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

The current Supreme Court majority has hijacked the First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion and separation of church and state, turning it into a defense of discrimination in the name of religious liberty. How did this happen? We will begin by looking at why our founding fathers included this guarantee in the Constitution and examine the counterclaims that the U.S. was founded as a Christian nation—something that many Americans still believe. Then we will look at some of the recent cases on religious liberty as well as renewed controversies over school prayer, the Ten Commandments in schools, and public funding of religious private schools. There will be time for discussion and perhaps disagreements.

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 essay "When the *New York Times* Lost Its Way" by James Bennett, published in *The Economist* Magazine in 2023. In 2020, Bennett was fired from his very senior job as the head of all opinion journalism at the *Times* due to his decision to publish an op-ed piece by Republican Senator Tom Cotton advocating for the use of federal troops to stop the looting and violence that accompanied some protests of the murder of George Floyd. In this essay, Bennett defends his decision in the context of raising larger questions about the proper role of American journalism. The essay will be distributed in advance of the class through *QuestBusiness*.

Discussion leader: Steve Allen

TUESDAY, OCT 1 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: **DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS**
Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Marcel Proust, né 1871, est un écrivain français dont l'œuvre principale est intitulée *À la recherche du temps perdu*, publiée de 1913 à 1927. Ces livres sont une réflexion majeure sur la vie bourgeoise et aristocratique de la belle époque à Paris vers la fin du 19e siècle. Il a vécu une vie très intéressante que nous revisiterons ensemble.

Marcel Proust, born in 1871, is a French writer whose principal work is called *In Search of Lost Time*, published between 1913 and 1927. His books are a major reflection of bourgeois and aristocratic life in Paris during the « Belle Epoque » towards the end of the 19th century. He lived a very interesting life which we will revisit together.

TUESDAY, OCT 1 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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

In the last class on New York history, we learned how the Dutch landed in what is now Manhattan. Unlike settlers in New England, they were traders, seekers of wealth, not settlers. Their primary source of trading profit was beaver fur. But their other source, not generally known, was trading African people for profit with Dutch, English and French traders. Despite the Dutch reputation of tolerance, the Dutch also owned slaves.

We will ask how did Black people, both free and enslaved, live? What was their status? What brought about slave uprisings and how did the Dutch and English colonists deal with them?

We will also take a “deep dive” into the life of Phyllis Wheatley, the first African American poet of the colonial era. Though she lived in Boston, she embodied the issues facing the colonists. And, finally, we will think about the morality of slavery in the light of fighting for liberty from England,

Course: **FLAWED GREATNESS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON**
Subject: The "Blessings of Self-Government" - Democracy and Constitutionalism
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sandy Kessler**, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Why did Alexis de Tocqueville call Thomas Jefferson democracy's "most powerful apostle?" During this class we'll address this question by exploring how Jefferson understood democracy and how he interpreted the U.S. Constitution. More specifically, we'll examine his views on states' rights, the separation of powers, term limits for presidents, etc. We'll also consider the historical significance of Jefferson's views, their relevance today, and the contradiction between Jefferson's views and his life as an aristocrat.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Internal Dialogue
Presenter: Donna Ramer
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

Getting inside a character's head gives you an opportunity to expand the depth of characters so your readers have more insight into how they think and feel and how they interpret and respond to the world around them. In this class, we'll take a close look at how to develop and write internal dialogue.

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: *I dreamt that ...* -- or – *I taught myself to...*

TUESDAY, SEPT 24 @ 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, OCT 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **POWER: THE GLORY OF IT**
Subject: Power of An Egyptian Queen
Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Ellen Shapiro

Mark Anthony called her “Egypt.” She was the last of the Greek rulers of the Eastern Mediterranean - writers called her beautiful but no-one knows what she looked like. She spoke nine languages to hold onto a glittering throne and when she lost it, she chose poison to avoid the humiliation of captivity. Her history was written by powerful men who manipulated her image for their own good - it was less threatening to believe her fatally attractive than fatally intelligent. Come meet Cleopatra VII.

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

The class will continue reading aloud and discussing the play beginning with Act I, Scene 2, Line 337. In addition, Roy Clary will refer to Shakespeare in a Divided America by James Shapiro and the chapter on Immigration. Shapiro points out how over more than a hundred years, racists used twisted interpretations of Shakespeare and The Tempest to support their opposition to a culturally diverse America. Come and share the discussion.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 2 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films: 1. Kidnapped – The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara” (Judy Winn)
2. The Graduate (Saul Makon)

3. Unfrosted (Bob Reiss)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Today's Cinema Quest begins in the Jewish Quarter of Bologna 1858 when the Pope's enforcers swoop into a Jewish home to claim one of the family's sons, followed by a re-visit to the life of college grad Benjamin Braddock, who's been advised that his future success lies in "plastics" and finally Jerry Seinfeld's analysis of that American breakfast phenomenon: *Poptarts*."

Kidnapped – The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara, reviewed by Judy Winn (Rotten Tomatoes 86/80) In 1858, in the Jewish quarter of Bologna, the Pope's enforcers burst into the home of the Mortara family. By order of the cardinal, they have come to claim their seven-year-old son, Edgardo. Streaming: Prime, Apple, Fandango at Home

The Graduate, Reviewed by Sol Makon (Rotten Tomatoes 87/90) Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman) has just finished college and, back at his parents' house, he's trying to avoid the one question everyone keeps asking: What does he want to do with his life? An unexpected diversion crops up when he is seduced by Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft), a bored housewife and friend of his parents. Streaming: Prime, Apple Fandango,

Unfrosted, Reviewed by Bob Reiss (Rotten Tomatoes 55/55) Michigan, 1963. Kellogg's and Post, sworn cereal rivals, race to create a pastry that will change the face of breakfast forever. A tale of ambition, betrayal, sugar, and menacing milkmen, Unfrosted stars writer/director Jerry Seinfeld. Streaming: Netflix

Course: **HEALTH AND MEDICINE**
Subject: Your Brain's Centers for Speech and Language and the Disorders That Affect Them After Strokes or Other Traumatic Events
Speaker: Joyce West
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Karen Cullen**, Bob Gottfried, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Tamara Weinberg

Much can go wrong with our brains as we age. Most of our concerns, however, fall under the rubric of "normal aging." While this presentation will focus on a brain disorder, aphasia, that decidedly is not normal and is the consequence of damage to the brain, the study of aphasia has led to our understanding of how normal language is localized in the brain. We'll look first at areas in the brain that cause aphasia when affected by strokes or head trauma and then at more recent findings on how normal language processing probably occurs.

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

Rosh Hashanah – Quest is Closed