

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

October 14 - 17, 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, OCTOBER 14

**Indigenous Peoples' Day
Columbus Day**

Quest is Closed

TUESDAY, OCT 15 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SUPREME COURT
Subject: The Many Questions of Clarence Thomas
Presenter: Babette Ceccotti
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

How does a Black conservative originalist interpret the Constitution? In many ways as it turns out. In his 33 years on the Supreme Court Clarence Thomas has used his opinions to explain why policies like affirmative action and school integration do not solve underlying problems of racial inequality. His opinions on criminal justice matters are often sharp and jarring. He favors expansive free speech rights -- but not for high school students, and definitely not for cross-burnings. We will see how his life and views as a black conservative are reflected in some of the many opinions of Clarence Thomas.

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 "Shipping Out: On the (Nearly Lethal) Comforts of a Luxury Cruise" by David Foster Wallace, published in *Harper's Magazine* in 1996. The essay will be distributed in advance of the class through *QuestBusiness*.

TUESDAY, OCT 15 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Subject: *La farce de Maître Pathelin*
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Malgré les horreurs de la guerre, de la peste et de la famine, le peuple français du Moyen-Âge aimait rire. Les farces sont des pièces de théâtre comique, où on se moque des professions et surtout de l'autorité. En classe, nous allons lire *La Farce de Maître Patelins*, et chaque participant volontaire va jouer un rôle. Voulez-vous jouer le drapier, l'avocat, le juge? Rinos bien.

Despite the horrors of war, plague and famine, the French people of the Middle Ages loved to laugh. Farces are comic plays, where professions and especially authority are mocked. In class, we are going to read *The Farce of Master Pathelin*, and each willing participant will play a role. Do you want to play the draper, the lawyer, the judge? Let's have a good laugh.

TUESDAY OCT 15 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY
Subject: The English Colony
Presenters: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

"Our chiefest unhappyness here is too great a mixture of nations, and English the least part." (A settler's complaint.) After the renaming of New Amsterdam for its new landlord, The Duke of York, the English minority in New York City faced two challenges: how to wrest a profit from a colony that had under-performed for the Dutch, and how to turn a port town where 18 languages were spoken into a place where English settlers would feel at home. Let's discuss how that turned out, and add this question: why did their successes lead to estrangement and a burgeoning independence movement?

Course: FLAWED GREATNESS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON
Subject: The Louisiana Purchase
Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

President Thomas Jefferson, acting in a manner outside of his belief in limited government and of executive action constrained by the U.S. Constitution, violated his own core beliefs by purchasing Louisiana and doubling the size of the territory of the United States. Learn the details of this momentous decision that ultimately led to our country expanding to its current size.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Working with Partners
Presenter: Helen Saffran
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

In this class we'll work with partners, sharing what we have written in response to the prompt. We'll have a dialogue with our partner as we make suggestions for making the writing livelier.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share with the group or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any genre, in 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: Role Models or A Favorite Sport.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Experience the magic of storytelling, the ancient, person-to-person art. Listen as I tell some stories (for adults), then we'll play with them in non-threatening ways. No judgment: only go as far as you feel comfortable. Have fun!

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 and discuss Act II. A video of Act I, scene ii starring Christopher Plummer as Prospero at the 2010 Stratford Shakespeare Festival will be shown. Plummer's performance is powerful...but not without warmth.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 16 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. Jules (Dena Kerren)
2. The Grapes of Wrath (Kathy Cook)
3. War Game (Madeline Brecher)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

From a Fantasy UFO that lands in a suburban Pittsburgh backyard, back to the 1930s, the Okies head to California for a better life; to a War Game and how to defend against a Presidential Coup.

Jules - Reviewed by Dena Kerren (Rotten Tomatoes: 85/90).

Jules follows Milton (Ben Kingsley), who lives a quiet life of routine in a small western Pennsylvania town but finds his day upended when a UFO and its extra-terrestrial passenger crash land in his backyard. Streaming: Prime, Fandango at Home, Paramount. 1 hr. 30 min

The Grapes of Wrath - Reviewed by Kathy Cook (R/T: 100/88).

The Joad clan is introduced to the world in John Steinbeck's iconic novel and is looking for a better life in California. After the bank seizes their drought-ridden farm, the family -- led by just-paroled son Tom (Henry Fonda) -- loads up a truck and heads West. Streaming: Prime, Apple, Fandango at Home. 2hr 9min

War Game - Reviewed by Madeline Brecher (R/T: 75)

The film follows a bipartisan group of US defense, intelligence, and elected policymakers from five presidential administrations as they participate in an unscripted role-play exercise. Portraying a fictional President and his advisors, they confront a political coup backed by rogue members of the US military in the wake of a contested 2024 presidential election. Streaming: Prime, Apple, Fandango at Home. 1 hr. 34 min

Course: **HEALTH AND MEDICINE**
Subject: Thalidomide and the FDA Black Box
Presenters Arlene Hajinlian and Donna Ramer
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Karen Cullen**, Bob Gottfried, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Tamara Weinberg

Hundreds of prescription medications have black-box warnings about potential serious side effects. And a few dozen are required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to have a REMs program, a stringent process in the doctor's office and at the pharmacy when prescribed. In this session, we will show how the most notorious drug of all — thalidomide — changed the FDA approval process and gave birth to these black box and REMS programs.

THURSDAY, OCT 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Darwin – The Early Years
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitser

The legendary naturalist Charles Robert Darwin, 1809 -1882, is one of history's best-known scientists. His groundbreaking book, which presented a theory of evolution by natural selection, is still the foundation of modern evolutionary study more than 160 years after its publication, and his five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle, including his trip to the Galapagos Islands, is still a widely recounted tale. But his story is more complex.

But first we'll have to learn: What hobby made Darwin the object of ridicule when he was a kid? Did his experiments in taxidermy include his habit of eating the animals he studied? How did he manage to spend nearly five years on the *HMS Beagle*, when he was constantly seasick? Did he actually have his lightbulb moment while visiting the Galapagos? Why did it take more than two decades for him to get his act together and write *On the Origin of Species*?

You'll have to come and find out the answers

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Evangelicals in America
Presenters: Laura Lopez
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Schulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

This talk will address who and what is an evangelical and define their core beliefs. The speaker will also touch on their history in America from colonial times, cover famous pastors like Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell, and discuss how evangelicals have impacted presidential elections from Jimmy Carter to Donald Trump.

Course: **OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS**
Subject: Book of Job as Contemporary Literature
Presenter: Anna Shuster
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter, Jamie Sykes
Tech Support: **Ilene Winkler**

What happens when bad things start to happen to good people? Can a good person withstand adversity and continue to be good? Or does he capitulate and lose everything he has lived for? This is an age-old story, as relevant today, as the original of thousands of years ago. We will relate the story of Job to a number of contemporary books, stories, events, even as they are playing out today.

THURSDAY, OCT 17 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **WORLD OF RELIGION**
Subject: Buddhism and The Baha'i Faith
Presenters: Ruth Ward and Bob Gottfried
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Buddhism – Ruth Ward Presenter

Is Buddhism a religion? As it has no god or deity to worship, some scholars describe it rather as a philosophy or moral code. In any case, it is the world's fourth-largest religious faith, with over 520 million followers comprising seven percent of the global population. Is there any doubt about its relevance in today's world? Come to hear more and decide.

The Baha'i Faith – Bob Gottfried Presenter

Are you interested in learning the fundamentals of a religion most Americans know nothing about? Come to the World of Religions class to get an introduction to the Baha'i Faith, its founders, its holy books, and how it incorporates the prophets of other religions into its own teachings.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Then Later, His Ghost (Joe Aboulafia)
2. Nepal (Joan Vreeland)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. *Then Later, His Ghost* by Sarah Hall - Presented by Joe Aboulafia

In a post-apocalyptic world buffeted with continuous fierce, destructive storms, a man sets out to find a particular Christmas present for a pregnant woman for whom he has taken responsibility. Sarah Hall, the author, describes in detail the conditions of the English village and the man's quest. Shakespeare's *The Tempest* plays a part in the story, including several quotes from the play. But what does the title "*Then Later, His Ghost*," mean?

2. *Nepal* by Marina Gudelj - Presented by Joan Vreeland

Nepal is about a woman's relationship to a rebellious sibling. She corresponds with her sister, whose decisions have thrown their family into conflict. Author Marina Gudelj is a Croatian writer living in Split, with a degree in Croatian language and literature from the University of Zadar. *Nepal* was translated from Croatian by Ena Selimovic, a Yugoslav-born writer and translator.

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the lunchroom. For 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

The class will continue with theater games and exercises.

CULTUREQUEST

Poster House Museum Tour 'Lester Beall & A New American Identity'

**Friday, October 25, 2024, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
(In-person tour)**

Join us and learn about Lester Beall, an American graphic designer and a leading proponent of modernist graphic design. In 1933 President Roosevelt initiated the New Deal, a service of federal programs and agencies designed to spearhead economic recovery. Among the programs created was the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The REA helped build energy infrastructure in areas where private companies refused to operate, extending electricity to remote areas. Lester Beall was hired to advertise REA's work via a series of posters which provided new and effective visual communications. Through the 1930s and 1940s Beall produced innovative and highly regarded work. Following our tour you are invited to view the museum's newest poster exhibits.

When: Friday, October 25th, 11:30 AM Museum Tour

Where: Arrive via the Group Tours Entrance at 114 W 24th Street, a few buildings west of 6th Avenue where we will be met by a member of the museum.

Cost: \$10.00. Limited to 20 participants. Please leave a check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning in our Culture Quest mailbox in the Office by October 22.

Highlight: Optional Breakfast at the Historic Chelsea Hotel at 9:30 AM. If you plan to join us for breakfast at the Chelsea Hotel, advance reservations are A MUST!

The cost of breakfast is not included in the \$10.00 admission fee. Reserve your spot no later than October 16th. We will meet in the lobby of the Hotel at 9:30 AM. (We are not accepting reservations for breakfast only.)

**To Reserve Breakfast and The Tour
email dena@kerren.us**