

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

November 11 - 14, 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, NOV 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: *Muswell Hillbillies* by the Kinks (1971)
Presenter: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

The Kinks came to America's attention in the early 1960s during the "British Invasion," which also introduced us to The Beatles, The Who, and The Rolling Stones. In the 1950s, Muswell Hill was a working-class community in England where lead singer/songwriter Ray Davies' and his brother Dave, the band's lead guitarist, were born and raised. In the mid-20th Century, Muswell Hill began to become gentrified, forcing out many working-class residents.

Muswell Hillbillies, released in 1971, is a lively collection of country, blues and rock songs, many of which were inspired by the English music hall tradition of the early 20th Century. Listening to *Muswell Hillbillies* a half-century after its release, the songs feel remarkably prophetic as Ray laments the extent to which machines and corporations have stripped us of our humanity. His song "Acute Schizophrenia Paranoia Blues" could have been written yesterday.

Course: **STAR-CROSSED LOVERS**
Subject: West Side Story- Star-Crossed Lovers on Manhattan's Upper West Side
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**, Ruth Ward

In 1957, four giants of musical theater - Arthur Laurents, Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim – created *West Side Story*, a work equal in theatrical artistry to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

We'll look at the genesis of the show, the collaboration of the creative team, the plot parallels and differences. We'll explore aspects of the book, lyrics, music and dance, and we'll watch excerpts of iconic musical numbers. To quote Sondheim, "Somethin's, Comin', I don't know what it is, but it is, gonna. ..." be enjoyable!

MONDAY, NOV 11 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY
Subject: Book Chats
Presenter: Kathy Cook
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz

Before long, our winter break will be here. What could be better than having a good book to read on a cold January night? I am sure that some of the books we have read are just wonderful. So, let's share great book suggestions and talk about them. This is a great opportunity for readers who are seeking new titles and authors or simply enjoy talking about books.

If you are tired of book groups or would never dream of joining one, Book Chats is for you. If you are in a wonderful book group, Book Chats is also for you. In other words, it is for everyone who enjoys reading and discussing great books they have read. Please join us for a lively discussion about books.

Read the suggested books or not. It's up to you. Book Chats is casual and fun. Readers of all genres welcome + bring your lunch.

MONDAY, NOV 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?
Subject: Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Pete Weis

Intellectual property -- Patent, Copyright and Trademark -- gives rights to an inventor, author or distributor of unique works or products. This area of law is nowhere near to settling on a way to successfully deal with inventions or works created with the aid of artificial intelligence. How can creators of such works protect the fruits of their labors? How may others argue that *their* property has been wrongly appropriated through the use of A.I.?

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

Isabel marries Osmond in a simple ceremony at the small American Chapel in Florence, attended by only her aunt and Ralph and Osmond's daughter Pansy and his sister. The warnings of her friends and family about her marriage are borne out, most especially Ralph's words that there was something "small" in Osmond, and he was narrow and selfish. Unable to convince Isabel, Ralph finally decided that "she was wrong, was deluded, was consistent. and had invented a fine theory about Osmond and she loved him."

Four years pass and it becomes clear that Isabel is unhappy. Chapter 42 details Isabel's marriage and shows that Osmond wants to make her into a puppet. These chapters also introduce Lord Warburton and Edward Rosier as admirers of Pansy.

TUESDAY NOV 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Chief Justice John Roberts
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Who is Chief Justice John Roberts? Where did he come from? Where is he going? With whom is he going? Does he know what it means to "call balls and strikes?" Does he have any core beliefs? Or does he bend with the wind? So many questions, some with answers and others with none. We'll look at his background and how he became Chief Justice and what he has done in this position. We'll also conjecture on where he might go if/when the composition of the court changes in the next four years!

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Subject: Parkinson's Law and Other Short Essays
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Martha Drezin, Ellie Schaffer, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

For this week's Essays class, we will be reading C. Northcote Parkinson's satirical essay "Parkinson's Law," a version of which was first published in *The Economist* magazine in 1955. Parkinson, a naval historian, mixed genuine statistics about bureaucratic bloat with purely fanciful equations to simultaneously parody office politics and pretentious social science research.

We'll also look at two recent essays that explore the continuing relevance of Parkinson's observations: (1) Derek Thompson's May 2024 web post for *The Atlantic* magazine that looks at administrative growth in universities and (2) anthropologist David Graeber's 2013 essay "The Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs" in *Strike* magazine.

As a small added treat, we'll read a short satirical essay "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (that's "Americans" spelled backwards) by anthropologist Harold Miner, published in 1956 in the academic journal *American Anthropologist*. Miner shows what anthropological field work would look like if applied to mainstream US society rather than remote tribes.

These essays will be distributed through *QuestBusiness*.

TUESDAY NOV 12 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Meeting: REVISIONS TO QUEST'S BYLAWS
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Facilitator: Wayne Cotter, Chair, 2024 Bylaws Committee

Every three years, a bylaws committee is appointed to review and propose changes to Quest's bylaws. The 2024 Bylaws Committee will be discussing with Quest members its proposed revisions during noontime sessions on Tuesday November 12 and Wednesday November 13. Prior to these sessions, the revisions will be emailed to all Quest members via QuestBusiness.

All Quest members are invited to attend. The session will be hybrid. Members will vote on the bylaw's changes via email a few days after these meetings conclude.

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Presenter: Laura Lopez
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Nous allons revisiter un best-seller de tous les temps que beaucoup d'entre vous connaissent depuis l'enfance: *Le Petit Prince*. Cette fable pour tous les âges est parmi les oeuvres les plus traduites au monde, et ses thèmes d'amour, de perte, de solitude et d'amitié sont intemporels. Nous allons aussi apprendre un peu de la vie de son auteur, l'aviateur pionnier, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

We will revisit an all-time bestseller familiar to many of you since childhood: *The Little Prince*. This fable for all ages is one of the most widely translated works in history, and its themes of love, loss, solitude and friendship are timeless. We will also learn about its author, the pioneering aviator, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

TUESDAY, NOV 12 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

Brooklynites, do you know you live on the site of the biggest battle of the Revolutionary War? Staten Islanders, do you know your borough was a Tory and British army stronghold? Manhattanites, do you know your city was nearly destroyed by a brutal British occupation that lasted most of the war? Everyone, come learn about New York's unique role in the war for American independence and celebrate President Washington's triumphant entrance into our beloved city.

Course: **FLAWED GREATNESS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON**
Subject: The Women in Thomas Jefferson's Life
Presenters: Roy Clary, Bob Reiss
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sandy Kessler**, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Roy Clary will perform a dramatic monologue written by Bob Reiss entitled Mr. Jefferson's Women. Young Jefferson learned early that homemaking was the realm of his mother and six sisters. From adolescence through maturity, his views about domesticity scarcely wavered, while his discomfort around women brought a succession of embarrassments as he sought to control his emotions.

After Rebecca Burwell declined his awkward proposal of marriage, Jefferson reacted first with despondence, then with predatory misogyny, and finally with the attempted seduction of Elizabeth Moore Walker, the wife of a boyhood friend. His marriage at twenty-nine to Martha Wayles Skelton brought a decade of genuine happiness but ended in despair with her death from complications of childbirth. In Paris a few years later, Maria Cosway rekindled his capacity for romantic friendship but ultimately disappointed his hopes. Against the background of these relationships, Jefferson's liaison with Sally Hemings is explored in depth.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: What's the Difference Between Prose and Poetry?
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

In this class we will begin with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share with the group or not. Then we'll look at a piece of prose and look for poetic images in it.

We'll experiment with creating a poem from a paragraph of prose by selecting particular words. Does a poem have to rhyme?

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. A suggested topic: *Look at a familiar scene and describe it, using vivid words.*

WEDNESDAY, NOV 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **POWER: THE GLORY OF IT**
Subject: Green Hydrogen Power: Wishful Thinking or a Critical Part of a Decarbonized Future
Presenter: David Bartash
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Ellen Shapiro

There is a lot of serious money and talent being expended to free the world of its

hydrocarbon addiction. Foremost among these efforts are the building of massive facilities that harness natural forces like solar and wind and use them to create a virtually endless supply of clean electricity. Harnessing the sun and wind sounds great, but what happens when the sun doesn't shine, and the winds don't blow? Enter hydrogen, and especially green hydrogen. Join me as we travel to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Australia and other places where land is cheap and dry, and the specter of near-term costs do not outweigh perceived long term national interest.

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 the play beginning with Act III, scene 3. Here, the magic acts of Prospero continue, e.g., shapes appear and invite King Alonso and his followers to eat and drink, but when they try to do that the food and drink vanish. Reading further into Act IV, Prospero gives Miranda to Ferdinand as his bride-to-be. To celebrate, Prospero creates a masque which includes singing and dancing centering on mythological goddesses. Some scholars believe this masque was added for the play's performance during the wedding festivities for King James's daughter, Elizabeth in 1613.

WEDNESDAY NOV 13 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Meeting: **REVISIONS TO QUEST'S BYLAWS**
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Facilitator: Wayne Cotter, Chair, 2024 Bylaws Committee

Every three years, a bylaws committee is appointed to review and propose changes to Quest's bylaws. The 2024 Bylaws Committee will be discussing with Quest members its proposed revisions during noontime sessions on Tuesday November 12 and Wednesday November 13. Prior to these sessions, the revisions will be emailed to all Quest members via QuestBusiness.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV 13 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC - (Note Room Change)**
Films : 1. Lee (Marian Friedmann)
2. Farewell Mr. Haffman (Paul Adler)
3. The Pawnbroker (Sandra Abramson)
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded) Use Zoom link for Room 27**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Today's three films take us back to WW II: First stop: London, a Vogue model adopts a second career as a wartime photojournalist; next to Paris during the Nazi occupation when a Jewish jeweler agrees to lend his shop to his associate until the war ends; back to New York where a concentration camp survivor grapples with profound nightmares and deep-seated anger that haunt him.

Lee -- Reviewed by Marian Friedmann (R/T: 94), The true story of American photographer Lee Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed photojournalist for Vogue Magazine during WW II. Streaming: Prime, Apple, Fandango at Home
1Hr 57 min.

Farewell Mr. Haffman -- Reviewed by Paul Adler (R/T: 100/99). After the Germans occupy Paris, a talented jeweler arranges for his family to flee the city and offers one of his employees the opportunity to take over the store until the conflict subsides. Streaming: Prime, Apple, YouTube, Fandango. 1Hr 56 min.

The Pawnbroker -- Reviewed by Sandra Abramson (R/T: 86/87). A Jewish pawnbroker, a victim of Nazi persecution, loses all faith in his fellow man until he realizes too late the tragedy of his actions. Streaming: Netflix 1hr 41min.

Course: **HEALTH AND MEDICINE**
Subject: The History of Anesthesia from Craft To Profession
Presenter Larry Shapiro
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Karen Cullen**, Bob Gottfried, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Tamara Weinberg

“The abolishment of pain in surgery is a chimera. It is absurd to go on seeking it...knife and pain are two words in surgery that must forever be associated in the consciousness of the patient,” French surgeon Alfred Velpeau, 1839

Why did it take so long for anesthesia to be tested and put into practice? It has now been in use in surgery for about 150 years and has been called America's most important contribution to medicine, yet one of the major histories of medicine doesn't include anesthesia in the index. No surgery proceeds without it, yet there remain questions and mysteries about how it works. We'll look at some of the major developments and blunders, and meet some of the key innovators, many of whom are better known for something else. As time allows, I'll offer some personal history and ask for yours.

THURSDAY, NOV 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

As described in this new book, marine pollution comes in many types: excess nutrients, metals, organic chemicals, oil, debris (mostly plastics), microplastics, heat (from climate change), ocean acidification (from climate change), pharmaceuticals, invasive species (biological pollution) and more. Each type of pollution has its own chapter that includes its major sources, biological effects, and ways to reduce them. While many require government action to be reduced, there are some kinds of pollutants where individual people can make a difference. Come and learn how you can make a difference. .

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE (Note Room Change)**
Subject: Ulysses S Grant
Presenters: Howard Salik
Room: 19
Format: Hybrid (**Use Zoom link for Auditorium**)
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Ulysses S. Grant, born Hiram Ulysses Grant, was a pivotal figure in American history. The son of a humble leather tanner, he rose to become a Civil War hero and eventually served as U.S. President. His leadership was instrumental in securing Union victory and ending slavery. Despite struggling with alcoholism and facing a controversial presidency, Grant left behind a complex legacy and remains a significant figure in American history. Come to learn more about U.S. Grant.

Course: **OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS**
Subject: Adam and Eve (as represented by visual artists)
Presenter: Susan Altman
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter, Jamie Sykes
Tech Support: **Ilene Winkler**

This class will look at how the story of Adam and Eve is interpreted by Jewish, Muslim and Christian artists. We will cover lesser-known Medieval works, famous Renaissance works and modern and even postmodern images. Also included will be a few paintings of Lilit (Adam's first wife in folk lore) and Adam and Eve's sons, Cain and Abel.

THURSDAY, NOV 14 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **WORLD OF RELIGION**
Subject: Islam
Presenter: Ann Goerdt
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Islam, the third of the Abrahamic religions: what do we know about it and its relation to Judaism and Christianity? How did it start and spread so widely that it became the second largest religion in the world? This presentation will provide background information to address these questions and will then focus on the major beliefs and practices of Muslims, the practitioners of Islam.

According to the Public Religion Research Institute, only three in ten Americans say they interact daily or occasionally with a Muslim, and more than two-thirds say seldom or never. So, when we hear about Muslim terrorists or the banning of Muslims, who or what comes to mind? Osama Bin Laden? ISIS? the Taliban? This presentation will not avoid these problematic individuals and groups but will try to show them in the larger context of the many peaceful Muslim societies in the world.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. The Jewbird (Art Spar)
2. Ruthy and Edie (Gloria Peropat)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. **The Jewbird by Bernard Malamud -- Presented by Art Spar**

In the 1950s and 60s, Bernard Malamud was considered part of the triad of defining Jewish-American writers, along with Bellow and Roth. His short stories follow a tradition of Yiddish literature combining folksy realism with supernatural folk tales. In "The Jewbird" the protagonist is a crow named Schwartz. Fleeing persecution by antisemitic birds, Schwartz tries to find a home with a New York City Jewish family. The story has been interpreted as an allegory about Jewish self-hatred.

2. **Ruthy and Edie by Grace Paley -- Presented by Gloria Peropat**

Grace Paley, renowned short story writer, poet and activist, is best known for stories of everyday New Yorkers. Ruthy and Edie are two young friends who live in the Bronx and are the focus of this story.

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.

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

Course: **ACTING WORKSHOP II- (Note Room Change)**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Dena Kerren
Tech Support: None Assigned

Class members will begin to work on their yearend monologues.

CULTUREQUEST

**The Elizabeth Catlett Tour at the Brooklyn Museum
on November 15th is Sold Out**

CULTUREQUEST

Grand Central Station Holiday Tour

Friday, November 22, 2024, 11 AM - 12:30 PM
In-Person Tour
with Bowery Boys Guide Beth Goffe

Immediately recognizable as a masterpiece of beaux-arts design, Grand Central Terminal is one of the most iconic buildings in New York City. Beyond its stunning beauty, the train station was also the height of innovation when it opened in 1913.

On this tour, you will hear about the people who were responsible for its design and creation as well as those who saved it from destruction. You'll discover fascinating secrets, some of which are hidden in plain sight yet unnoticed by the millions that walk by every year. You will:

- Uncover the location where the birth of TV news took place
- See remnants of an earlier version of the facility
- Find out the origin of the famed red-carpet tradition
- Learn about the secret facility that powers the trains throughout the terminal
- See this stunning landmark dressed up in its holiday finest!
- Learn how we chose Beth, a star guide with the Bowery Boys

WHEN: Friday, November 22, 2024, 11 AM - 12:30 PM
COST: \$20 per person, limit 20 persons...there will be a waitlist
TO RESERVE: Send an email to Madeleine Brecher madbrech@gmail.com. Then put your check made out to Quest for \$20 in an envelope marked CultureQuest and place it in our CQ mailbox.
LUNCH: Lunch will be on your own. We will send some suggestions.

Important note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on "future waitlist" only when they sign up to attend future Culture Quest events. Thank you for your *understanding*.