

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 3, 2025
This Is an A Week

There are three links (given in red below) 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.

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

Also given are meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If you don't have Zoom installed, you can still enter a class using your browser by clicking on

<https://zoom.us/join>

and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with the passcode.

In addition, you can attend classes on your 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, MARCH 3 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: This Just In!
Presenter: Michael Hamberg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamberg**, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

What have been the big stories of the past year? This class will examine all the latest developments in the ever-changing conditions of the Earth's environment. We look especially at the crisis of our rapidly warming climate. In addition, we will take a look at our continuing exploration of the Solar System, the latest findings about planets around other stars, and the implications for finding a second Earth or at least some bio-signatures of these newly discovered exoplanets. We will also look at new findings about neutron stars, black holes, and gravitational waves. And of course, we will take a look at all the latest from the spectacular James Webb telescope! And we will also review some of the biggest developments in technology impacting human spaceflight. Questions for discussion are always welcomed!

Course: **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**
Album: *Venus and Mars* by Paul McCartney & Wings
Presenter: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

Paul McCartney is arguably the most beloved musical performer alive today. At 82, Paul not only records on a regular basis, but just a few weeks ago he took New York by storm when he staged three surprise "pop-up" concerts at New York's Bowery Ballroom. And then on Sunday night, he closed out a star-studded 50th anniversary tribute to Saturday Night Live, broadcast live on NBC. Quite a week!

However, it was fifty years ago – in May 1975 – that Paul and his post-Beatles band, *Wings*, released "Venus and Mars." The album features a wide range of musical styles: smooth ballads, raunchy rockers, British music hall singalongs, and homages to the music of New Orleans, where the album was recorded. The album's single "Listen to What the Man Said" brought Paul another #1 hit, while the LP topped the charts in both the U.S. and Britain.

Even those unfamiliar with Sir Paul's post-Beatles musical forays should leave Quest's auditorium smiling after this session.

MONDAY, MARCH 3 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: Name That Tune!
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

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

I play 10 songs. I'll first play the introductory verse and then stop. You guess the song. I'll then play a audio or video clip of the rest of the song including posted lyrics for us to sing along. I'll also say a bit about each of these iconic tunes. Come, enjoy, and help make beautiful music together!

MONDAY, MARCH 3 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: ARCHITECTURE: FUNCTION, DESIGN, AND STRUCTURE
Subject: The History of Zoning
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To Be Recorded)
Coordinators: Sol Makon, Victor Brenner
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Susan Diehl, Bob Reiss

Architects will design buildings; engineers will engineer them; and construction crews will piece them together. But the fact is the law is New York's original and ultimate architect. Before plans can be drawn up, before jackhammers can start hammering, it is the legislators, litigators, judges, community representatives, and city planners who will decide how streets and buildings will be configured, the ways they may be used and occupied, when, and by whom. Join us as we listen to the fascinating history of NYC's Zoning Laws.

Course: DOSTOEVSKY'S CRIME & PUNISHMENT
Subject: Book 2
Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Patricia Geehr, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: Felix Pina

Book 2 follows the immediate aftermath of the crime, tracing Raskolnikov's physical and psychological decline until the arrival of his mother and sister in St. Petersburg. Along the way, we meet key figures who shape Raskolnikov's world. Bring your thoughts and questions as we continue our discussion of Crime and Punishment and unravel the complexities of Dostoevsky's world.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE
Subject: Mushrooms
Facilitator: Marion Schultheis
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg, Pete Weis

For millennia, mushrooms have been consumed and used in traditional medicine in cultures around the world. But in the last few years, mushroom-based products suddenly seem to be popping up everywhere. Products from bottled tinctures to chocolate bars and powdered coffee alternatives promise everything from mental clarity and anti-aging to immune support and tumor suppression. For those who wish to do some reading before class, an article will be circulated through *QuestBusiness*

As always, we look forward to a lively and wide-ranging discussion of this and whatever topics pop up!

Course: SUPREME COURT
Subject: The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution
Presenter: Babette Ceccotti
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

The Second Amendment reads, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The text has confounded legal and historical scholars alike. In 2008, the Supreme Court ruled

that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to own a firearm that is unconnected with militia service, even though a "militia" interpretation had long been presumed by the courts. This decision, *D.C. v Heller*, and the Court's more recent Second Amendment rulings, have shed far more heat than light on the polemic between gun rights and gun regulation advocates. We will look at these developments and where the Court might be headed next.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

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

On va passer la colère ! Nous allons partager en conversation les petites choses embêtantes et les situations qui nous énervent—surtout à New York. On se sentira beaucoup mieux après cette catharsis !

We are going to vent in class today! We will share all the small annoyances and situations which bother us, especially in New York. We will feel so much better after this catharsis!

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CHARLES DICKENS' GREAT EXPECTATIONS**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

After reviewing Chapter 21 from the previous reading, we will begin discussing Chapters 22-30. Herbert Pocket becomes an important person in Pip's life. What do we learn about him and what he knows about Miss Havisham's history? Pip goes to Herbert's dysfunctional home to study under his father, Matthew. Enjoy the humor with which Dickens describes the family life. Wemmick, Mr. Jaggers clerk, befriends Pip and invites him to his home. How is Pip surprised by the difference in Wemmick's personality in his home? Biddy writes to Pip to say Joe is coming to London and will visit him. How does Pip feel about this? What is so sad about the visit? What are the many strong, confusing, and irrational feelings that Pip experiences when he sees Estella after several years?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Imaginative Writing
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

Last time we used the Octopus structure to develop a writing piece. This time we will use a different structure to expand our imaginations and build on a piece of writing we will work on together. This is another fun way to experiment with different techniques.

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: *This weather is making me feel...*

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: The Big Oyster
Presenters: Ilene Winkler
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

Long before New York became the Big Apple, the city was often called the Big Oyster. It is estimated that billions of oysters, half the world's supply, once inhabited New York Harbor. Oysters were a main source of food for the poor, and the oyster industry generated jobs and income for "tongers" who harvested the oysters and tavern owners — both primarily African Americans — and wealth for white ship owners and exporters. But by 1927 all the New York area oysters beds were closed, victims of overharvesting and pollution. In recent years an effort called the Billion Oyster Project has been attempting to reintroduce oysters to the harbor, not for food but to help clean up our polluted waterways. We will take a "deep dive" into this fascinating history.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

What is play? Why is it important? What is your play personality?

Come prepared for some play and learning as we explore the definition of play. Bring your thoughts on how we can all play more. Wear play shoes as we'll be moving around.

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

The class will read and discuss the play beginning with Act I, sc. 2. We will pay particular attention to:

- Volumnia, the domineering mother of Coriolanus, who so rejoiced at war and battles that she pushed her son into bloodshed at an early age.
- The metaphor of the butterfly (noting that the butterfly can be compared to psyche, the soul) and the impact of the butterfly on Coriolanus.
- Compare the hunger of the people and the “hunger” of Coriolanus.
- Different kinds of theater stages ranging from proscenium to in-the-round and how each has a different impact.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **Book Club**
Book : Remarkably Bright Creatures
Author: Shelby Van Pelt
Presenter: Joan Vreeland
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

It's a safe bet that this is the first novel you will have read that has an octopus as one of its main characters. But the unlikely friendship that develops between the octopus and

the elderly woman who cleans the aquarium where he lives each night, makes for an utterly original, funny and wise story of love, grief and family lost and found.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. Blazing Saddles (David Judlowitz)
2. The Order (Vince Grosso)
3. The Room Next Door (Madeline Brecher)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Gather 'Round, Film Fans! The Moment Has Arrived! Today, We Reveal Our Oscar Contest Winners and Bestow Glorious Prizes Upon Them!

Today's Films: Another Triple Feature Extravaganza Includes a Comedy You Won't Want To Miss!

Join David Judlowitz as he discusses the hilarious events in **Blazing Saddles** (Rotten Tomatoes: 89/91). It's a laugh-out-loud funny, uncouth, humorously racist spoof of Westerns that marked a high point in Mel Brooks' storied career and the iconic **bean** scene around the campfire, which became a trailblazer for vulgarity in cinema.

Vince Grosso reviews **The Order** (Rotten Tomatoes: 89/91), a film that follows an FBI agent (Jude Law) as he investigates a string of violent bank robberies across the Pacific Northwest believed to be perpetuated by a domestic white supremacist terrorist group, and a pursuit leading him deep into their world.

Madeline Brecher will explore the underlying themes behind Pedro Almodóvar's **The Room Next Door** (Rotten Tomatoes: 81/81). The film focuses on the honest and direct portrayal of a person (Tilda Swinson) confronting the end of life with the support of a lifelong friend (Julianne Moore).

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**
Subject: Paris, Helen, and a Duel for the Ages
Speaker: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

In Book 3 of The Iliad, we are introduced to the Trojan royal family: the noble Hector, the less-than-valiant Paris, and Helen, the woman at the center of it all. In a final attempt to end the war, a duel is arranged between Paris, the Trojan prince, and Menelaus, Helen's rightful husband. However, fate and the gods have other plans. Join us as the saga unfolds.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 @ 2:45 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather in the lobby of 25 Broadway at 2:45 p.m.
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann**

And we're off on another walk along the Hudson River with Marian & Andrea - ending at a "rest" spot for refreshments, food, socialization. Up to you how far you walk and lots of help with transportation options. No signups, no commitments - fresh air and community.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Bring Your Favorite Poem by a Famous Poet
Presenters: Karen Millard and Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Many people have a favorite poem written by a well-known poet. Sometimes it changes because we change or new forms and new schools of poetry emerge that we enjoy and embrace, or we discover a poem that quite simply grabs us and won't let go. For this session, we'll parse those favorite poems we all bring to class. For those who have a working printer and want to make copies for the class, please do. Without getting overly technical, we'll analyze why each poem worked as well as it did and what we glean from it. We'll look under the hood, so to speak. So, bring your favorite poem (past or present) and share your pleasure.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Introduction to Stock Options
Presenters: Konstantin Dolgitsler
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

Stock options are among the most flexible investment choices. Whether you're hedging, seeking income, or speculating, you can put options to work for your portfolio. Depending on the contract, options can protect or enhance the portfolios of many different kinds of investors in rising, falling, and neutral markets. For many investors, options are useful as tools of risk management, acting as a way to protect your portfolio against a drop in stock prices.

The presentation will explore basic terminology, history of stock options, pros and cons of using options, and discuss simple strategies involving stock options.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 @ 12:20 – 12:45 PM

Course: **CHAIR MEDITATION**
Facilitator: Ken Sasmor
Room: 22
Format: In-Person Only

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation **every** Thursday afternoon. The mediation takes place in chairs and is an oasis in the middle of day from the cares of the world.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. The Paper Artist (Karen Millard)
2. Between the Shadow and the Soul (Arlynn Greenbaum)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. - The Paper Artist by E. K. Ota. Presented by Karen Millard

For years, the 2024 O. Henry Prize Story winner, E. K. Ota, harbored an image of an old man living in Kyoto meeting a young girl whose appearance alters and deepens his life

while soothing and healing the loneliness and grief that haunts them both. When she finally sat down to write, "The Paper Artist," she fleshed out a story that can break our hearts, give us hope- and introduce the element of surprise so often associated with the genre. E. K. Ota was born in Southern California and earned her MFA from Emerson College. Currently she lives in Japan with her daughter where she is working on her premier short story collection.

2. - Between the Shadow and the Soul by Lauren Groff. Presented by Arlynn Greenbaum

Lauren Groff is the author of five highly acclaimed novels and two short story collections. They include "*Fates and Furies*," "*Florida*," and "*Matrix*." She has won numerous awards and is a three-time National Book Award finalist. We will discuss her story "*Between the Shadow and the Soul*" about marriages, affairs and disappointments.

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: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

Write a poem using the cue word "missing" 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.

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

Have you ever been so into something you were doing – dancing, writing, cooking, playing tennis, swimming, reading, you name it – that you forgot you existed? That is an experience of the Tao. Join us as, after an introduction to Taoism, we discuss short pages from the *Tao Te Ching*, written in the 4th century BCE, the seminal writing of Taoism, that read like poems.

In the second half of the class, we will break up into small groups to discuss poems from the book, chosen randomly.

In case you are joining by Zoom, the book will be emailed to you the day before. If you attend in person, you will not need it, as pages from the book will be distributed in class.

CULTUREQUEST

Metropolitan Opera House Backstage Tour

Friday, March 14

Sold Out