

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 10, 2025
This Is a B 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 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: From Broadway to Cabaret
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

In this talk, we'll take a look at how songs from Broadway musicals create material for cabaret performers (and, more broadly, performers in song recitals). We hope to demonstrate that the musicals' focus on songs driven by specific characters and plots enriches cabaret. We'll also see how cabaret can give new life to Broadway songs (and Broadway shows) that might otherwise be forgotten. The performances we present as evidence should entertain as well as enlighten.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Billy Budd*, Sections 10-15
Plus: Introduction to Herman Melville's Poetry
Facilitator: Ruth Ward
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

We will read aloud and discuss Sections 10-15. In addition, Ruth will introduce us to the poetry of Herman Melville.

The novella *Billy Budd* weighs the innate rights of the individual against the need for social order by exposing a clash between innocence and evil. Like his prose, Melville's poetry was shaped by personal tragedies, such as the assassination of President Lincoln in 1865 and the suicide of his own son Malcolm two years later. Through a study of several of his poems we'll feel the tremendous compassion Melville experienced for idealistic men in harsh environments.

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

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Lunchtime Trivia
Presenters: Maureen Berman, Arlynn Greenbaum
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Join us for a fast-paced, fun 40 minutes of lunchtime trivia. From history to geography to science and pop culture, you can expect a wide variety of questions that will test your knowledge. And you may even learn a new fact or two.

Participants will be divided into teams of two. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. Bring your lunch.

MONDAY, MARCH 10 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS**
Subject: Frank Capra -- Populist Films Pitting the Individual Against Political Machines
Presenter: Tracey Lee
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators **Wayne Cotter**, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support **Wayne Cotter**

"Mankind needs dramatizations of the truth that man is essentially good ... that compassion for others, friend or foe is the noblest of all virtues. Films must be made to say these things, to counteract the violence and meanness, to buy time to demobilize the hatreds."

-- Frank Capra

This was legendary director Frank Capra's philosophy of filmmaking.

In this session, we will present an overview of Frank Capra's body of work as well as his most enduring films reflecting the struggle by the individual for political and social justice. Capra, who began in Hollywood's silent era, directed many memorable and award-winning classics during the 1930s and '40s. We'll also discuss Capra's role during the communist witch hunts of the 1950s. A focus on some key clips from his most famous films will enliven our discussion.

Course: **WOMEN LEADERS**
Subject: Alice Paul
Presenter: Judy Weis

Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Laura Lopez**, Joan Vreeland
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Alice Paul was a leading suffragist in the early 20th century, whose radical activism had lasting impact. In 1913, she and her National Women's Party organized a historic march for suffrage in NYC, as well as silent protests in front of the White House against the unsupportive President Wilson. Alice and her colleagues were jailed and force-fed after a hunger strike. After winning the right to vote, most suffragists retired. But Alice campaigned for decades for the Equal Rights Amendment, which has still to become law. Alice is the lead character in the Emmy-winning musical "Suffs," which is touring the U.S. after a successful Broadway run.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Indian Works on Paper
Presenter: Lynnel Garabedian
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro

During the nearly three centuries of the Mughal Empire in India, artists created exquisite miniature paintings on ordinary sized sheets of paper. Influenced at first by refined techniques of Persian works brought by the conquering Mughals, Indian artists soon developed their own independence and originality. They depicted court life and rulers, scenes of nature, and religious and mythological stories. The resulting beautiful, sophisticated art works were greatly admired, prized, and supported by emperors and court rulers and grace museums all over the world.

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Martha Drezin, Larry Shapiro

1. "America Needs to Radically Rethink What It Means to be Old" by Jonathan Rauch from the January 2025 edition of *The Atlantic* magazine

With medical intervention, we now receive about a decade worth of additional time in what is frequently a long and satisfying prosocial period of life. This essay considers reframing societal notions of “old age” or “senior citizenry” into a more dynamic concept: that of “late adulthood.”

2. "How Progressives Froze the American Dream" by Yoni Appelbaum from the March 2025 edition of *The Atlantic* magazine

The idea that people should be able to choose their own communities — instead of being stuck where they are born — is a distinctly American innovation. But over the past 50 years, this engine of American opportunity has stopped working. What explains this change and what can be done to reverse the recent trend?

These essays will be distributed in advance of the class through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Richard Elrauch, Ruth Ward

Conversamos en español sobre sujetos que provocan reflexión y intercambio de ideas. Todos son bienvenidos, no importa el nivel de competencia. Quisiera escuchar solamente?—está bien! VENGA!

We converse in Spanish about subjects that provoke reflection and exchange of ideas. All are welcome, whatever the competency level. You'd like to listen only? That's O.K. COME!

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: FILM FOR THOUGHT
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Lois Klein, Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Pete Weis

We continue with the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, and comedies selected for their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY
Subject: Poetic Titles
Class Leader: Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter

Where do those authors get the titles for their books? Some come from the Bible (John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*). Many come from Shakespeare, (Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*).

But a surprising number come from poetry. Why did Thomas Hardy quote *Gray's Elegy (Far from the Madding Crowd)*, or F. Scott Fitzgerald's reference to Keats's *Ode to A Nightingale (Tender Is the Night)*? When John Donne wrote, "Send not to know for whom the bell tolls," did he know that Hemingway would write a novel around it? A title is an important clue to an author's intent. We will read aloud a number of poems that inspired authors and briefly explore why. Do you know why the caged bird sings? Join us.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS
Subject: Royal Incest and Inbreeding
Presenter: Lauren Gee
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Konstantin Dolgitsier

Throughout history, royal families around the world have intermarried as means of consolidating power and wealth. The practice of incest and inbreeding was most flagrant among the Spanish Habsburgs from 1500s-1700. We'll examine genetic factors which resulted in mental instability and gross physical abnormalities that plagued this ruling family. Beginning with dual monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, we will follow the inbred Spanish royal line which included Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor; Philip II (of Armada fame); and the final hideously deformed and sterile Charles II.

Course: **UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: Building Bridges Across Generations: A Presentation by Barry Martin
Presenter: Barry Martin
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

Each generation, young and old, has its own defining values, perspectives, and ways of communicating, which can sometimes lead to misunderstandings. In this interactive session, we'll explore what makes each generation unique and uncover practical strategies for fostering mutual understanding and connection. Whether it's about better understanding younger family members or helping them understand you, you'll gain insights to strengthen relationships and build bridges across generations.

Barry Martin is a brand strategist and consumer behavior expert specializing in audience insights and emotional connections. As head of the Consumer Research & Insight team at Time Inc. — publisher of iconic titles like *People* and *Time* — he leveraged generational insights to shape strategies across entertainment, fashion, news, and finance. Currently, Barry is Co-Founder and Chief Strategist of TELL-IGNITE, a branding firm dedicated to storytelling-driven marketing. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor at NYU, where he teaches a graduate course in Consumer Behavior.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Subject: *All the Beauty in the World*
Speaker: Patrick Bringley
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Patrick Bringley had a prestigious job in the editorial events office at *The New Yorker* magazine. After the tragic loss of his older brother, Tom, he quit his job and decided he needed to find a way to move on to get through his grief.

He became a museum guard for 10 years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His memoir called "*All the Beauty in the World*" shares his experiences among some of the most beautiful and famous works of art. His story takes the reader through the museum's daily life, its hidden gems, his fellow guards and the visitors he meets.

In addition to being a memoirist, Patrick is now a playwright and an actor. His one-man play premiered at the Charleston Literary Festival in South Carolina. He will perform his play at an Off-Broadway theater in New York City.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: NYC & ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS
Subject: NYC Tunnels
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson
Tech Support: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitser

We are a city of islands. Four of our five boroughs are situated on islands. To function as a city, these islands must be interconnected by bridges, tunnels, ferries and even a tram. This talk focuses on our remarkable network of tunnels, their history, engineering challenges, and innovative features. Towards the end of the talk, I will describe a NYC tunnel that I bet no one has heard of (except maybe the people I told in the lunchroom).

Course: OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS
Subject: Art and the Old Testament: A Visual Exploration
Presenter: Jamie Sykes
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

This class, "Art and the Old Testament: A Visual Exploration," will explore how some of the most renowned artists and sculptors have depicted pivotal moments from the Old Testament. With a thoughtful selection of significant Old Testament narratives, we will embark on a visual and thematic journey, comparing two different artistic interpretations of each story. These comparisons will highlight how artists across different historical periods — from the Renaissance to the Modern era — have approached the same subject matter with unique stylistic choices, theological interpretations, and emotional depth. Hopefully, attendees will leave with a richer understanding of how the Old Testament has inspired centuries of visual storytelling.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 @ 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 13 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE
Subject: *Radical Hope* by Jonathan Lear, Revisited
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine, Larry Shapiro

On March 13, let's revisit an essay we discussed in 2017. Jonathan Lear's book *Radical Hope/Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*, is important to my understanding of courage and ethical behavior. It reviews the actions of Plenty Coups, warrior/chief of the Crow Indians, who recognized that their way of life was endangered and made a controversial decision to lead his people onto a reservation, even if it meant an end to everything they valued. In Lear's view, Plenty Coups was not choosing a safe course, but risking safety for something he couldn't predict. Lear draws on Aristotle to understand courage and on Plato and Socrates to understand hope and how it differs from optimism. He argues that Plenty Coups' behavior, which looked like a failure of courage and hope, was actually the opposite. It's not an easy case to make and Lear's essay is worth reading carefully and examining every doubt it raises. I'll distribute the essay via Quest Business, and in class I'll summarize the other parts of the book.

Course: JAZZ: YESTERDAY AND TODAY
Subject: Erroll Garner
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Debbi Honorof, Wayne Cotter
Tech Support: Bob Reiss

Erroll Garner was a jazz pianist and composer known for his swing playing and ballads. The instrumental ballad "Misty," his best-known composition, has become a jazz

standard. He has been dubbed "one of the most distinctive of all pianists" and a "brilliant virtuoso." We will trace his career by showing some celebrated performances and listening to some of his famous recordings.

CULTUREQUEST

Metropolitan Opera House Backstage Tour

Friday, March 14

THIS TOUR IS SOLD OUT

Thanks for your interest!