

QUEST CURRICULUM

The CCNY
Lifelong
Learning
Community

Spring 2023



SPRING 2023 CALENDAR

Monday

Tuesday

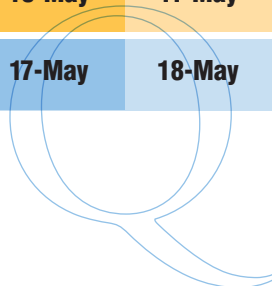
Wednesday

Thursday

A Week	6-Feb	7-Feb	8-Feb	9-Feb
B Week	Lincoln's Birthday	14-Feb	15-Feb	16-Feb
A Week	President's Day	21-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb
B Week	27-Feb	28-Feb	1-Mar	2-Mar
A Week	6-Mar	7-Mar	8-Mar	9-Mar
B Week	13-Mar	14-Mar	15-Mar	16-Mar
A Week	20-Mar	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar
B Week	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar

Spring Break

A Week	10-Apr	11-Apr	12-Apr	13-Apr
B Week	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	20-Apr
A Week	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr
B Week	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May
A Week	8-May	9-May	10-May	11-May
B Week	15-May	16-May	17-May	18-May



A Week

SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Rock & Roots Albums	Foreign Affairs	Qeaster's Choice	Aging
	The Invisible Man	Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Shakespeare	Science Clubhouse

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Acting Workshop II	Folk Music	Classic Movies	Water
	Comedy Central	Science & Scientists	Upheaval in American Values	Contemporary Short Stories
	Elizabeth Gaskell	Creative Writing Workshop		

B Week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Classical Music	Artists and Their Works	Fascinating Non-Fiction	NYC Neighborhoods
	A Week in Paris	Symposium	Toni Morrison	Contemporary Poetry

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Great Plays	History of Germany	Distinguished Guest Lecture Series	Explorations in Philosophy and Literature
	Sixties	Black Women's Voices		Food: Beyond Just Calories
		Modern Opera		Poets' Workshop

COURSES BY CATEGORY

ART & MUSIC

- Classical Music **NEW**
- Folk Music
- Modern Opera
- Rock & Roots Albums

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- Aging
- Black Women's Voices
- Comedy Central
- Distinguished Guest Lecture Series
- Foreign Affairs
- Quester's Choice **NEW**
- Upheaval in American Values **NEW**

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

- A Week in Paris **NEW**
- Artists & Their Works
- Explorations In Philosophy & Literature
- Fascinating Non-Fiction
- History of Germany
- NYC Neighborhoods
- Sixties **NEW**
- Symposium **NEW**

LITERATURE

- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Elizabeth Gaskell **NEW**
- Invisible Man **NEW**
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- Toni Morrison **NEW**

PERFORMING ARTS

- Classic Movies **NEW**
- Great Plays
- Shakespeare

SCIENCE

- Food: Beyond Just Calories **NEW**
- Science & Scientists
- Science Clubhouse **NEW**
- Water

SOMETHING EXTRA

- Adventures in Dining
- Art Talks
- Book Chats **NEW**
- Book Group
- CultureQuest
- Music of the Heart
- Social Events
- Sole Mates
- Theater/Opera Talkback **NEW**

WORKSHOP

- Acting Class
- Creative Writing
- Déjeuner Français
- Lunchtime Spanish **NEW**
- Poets' Workshop

SPRING 2023 COURSES

ACTING WORKSHOP II

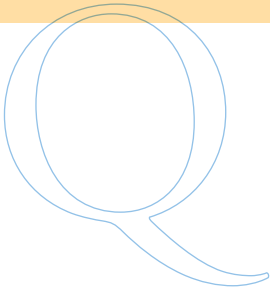
*Coordinators: **Roy Clary,**
Art Spar*

During the Fall Semester, class members engage in theater games, dramatic monologues, and scene study. At the end of the Spring Semester, members put on a production using the tools they have learned. Therefore, the Workshop requires a constant commitment. Fall sign-up is highly recommended if one wants to participate in the Spring production.

AGING

*Coordinators: **Art Spar,**
Bryn Meehan, Larry Shapiro*

The class will study the phenomenon of aging, from lectures on biology to discussion topics related to aging. We will use literary stories, the arts and sciences, and innovative thinking to explore the many aspects of aging. The common thread will be its relevance to our life experience. The format will encourage learning through presentation and discussion.



ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

*Coordinators: **Linda Downs,**
Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss,
Ellen Shapiro*

“Artists and Their Work” is an art history course that explores the lives and work of artists throughout the world. The course prompts discussion of style, meaning, media, and aesthetics as well as philosophical, social, and political issues, including their public reception and the lasting influence of the work under consideration. The Spring semester is *Presenter’s Choice*, where any topic in the visual arts may be presented.

A WEEK IN PARIS **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Laura Lopez,**
Donna Basile, Ellen Rittberg*

The course will offer a sampling of France’s notable contributions to Western culture and civilization. This may include gourmet cuisine, viniculture, perfume distillation, cabaret, haute couture, cinema, iconic monuments or inventions that you never knew were French. Or we may explore the work of a French artist, musician, writer, film maker, scientist, philosopher, or political leader.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES

*Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**,
Barbara Barnes, Susannah Falk Lewis,
Penelope Pi-Sunyer*

This course discusses a wide range of works by Black women: novels, memoirs, essays, poetry, music and art. In the Fall, classes on Ella Fitzgerald, Toni Morrison, Stacey Abrams, Maya Angelou, Sweet Honey on the Rock, and Frances Harper were presented. We look forward to continuing our exploration of major themes in the history and lives of Black women.

CLASSIC MOVIES **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Howard Salik**,
Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold,
Vince Grosso*

Get ready to explore some of the very best movies of all time. Whether you're a highly cine-literate film enthusiast or a casual fan, these are the movies everyone should see at least once, or maybe more. Each presenter will choose from among the top 100 Hollywood and foreign films — dramas, comedies, thrillers, action, horror, sci-fi, and romance. They are all available online and across major streaming platforms. We will consider their artistic merit, how well they've aged, re-watchability, and ask the question, "Could a movie like this be made today?"

CLASSICAL MUSIC **NEW**

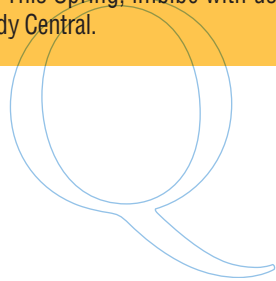
*Coordinators: **Sol Makon**,
Bob Reiss*

Classical music's evolution has been consistently linked to the social and political environment that existed at the time. We will examine different facets of classical music, including the development of different genres and styles, and the composers who systematically embraced the music's potential. Members' presentations will provide the framework for gaining valuable insights into, and further appreciation of, classical music.

COMEDY CENTRAL

*Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**,
Leslie Goldman, Vince Grosso,
Michael Wellner*

We all need a good laugh in these trying times. We guarantee the Comedy Central class will generate giggles, guffaws and giant belly laughs as our presenters cover everything from French farce to classic slapstick. Playwright Sean O'Casey called laughter "wine for the soul." This Spring, imbibe with us at Comedy Central.



SPRING 2023 COURSES

CONTEMPORARY POETRY

*Coordinators: **Martha Drezin**,
Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp*

So many say, “Poetry is just not for me.” It has always gotten a bad rap – called highfalutin and indecipherable. In this class, we believe the opposite. We think poetry is for everyone and encapsulates our experience on earth, opening a window into what it means to be a human. You are invited to tell us in class what that poem means to you, and to discover what that poem means to the person next to you.

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

*Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**,
Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp*

This long-running class-driven discussion course brings together fans of international short stories who share their points of view about the various elements of each story — plot, setting, characters, etc. Each class has two presenters. They each choose a story and, after giving a brief narrative about the author and story background, open the class for discussion.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

*Coordinators: **Helen Safran**,
Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer*

Workshop your own writing in a warm and supportive setting. We welcome all genres, from prose, poetry, to script writing, fiction, even op-eds. You can participate in class writing exercises and discuss writing approaches and styles.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

*Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**,
Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer*

The bimonthly Guest Lecture Series enhances the Quest program experience by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present on varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions on global policy and political science, literature, theater arts, social science, and music.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

ELIZABETH GASKELL **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Arlene Curinga,**
Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane*

An English novelist, biographer, and short-story writer, Elizabeth Gaskell's novels offer a detailed portrait of society, particularly the very poor. For the Spring semester, we will read her novel, "Mary Barton," the story of a working-class family and the friends they meet on holiday. We will discover how those families' lives connect, how one father lapses into a bitter depression, and we'll uncover the causes of that depression and the resulting events.

FASCINATING NON-FICTION

*Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**
Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward*

At each session, the presenter will tell you about a book you always wanted to read or about a book you never heard of but will be glad you now have. Selections range from transit maps to Mt. Everest expeditions, American politics, Western women's diaries, young Ernest Hemingway, black migration, the sinking of the Lusitania, Frank Sinatra, American restaurants, the evolution of mankind. Every semester, an eclectic array of fascinating non-fiction awaits its audience.

EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE

*Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro,**
Steve Allen, Jane Lubin*

Beginning this Spring, we are combining the courses "Great Conversations" and "Explorations in Philosophy" into a single course. For each session, we will read an essay, classic short story, or excerpt from a play. Each reading is selected for the stimulating ideas that it presents and its insights into social relations and human nature. We expect to continue the tradition of both courses, promoting lively and enlightening discussions.

FOLK MUSIC

*Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried,**
Ellen Gottfried*

To look at folk music in the USA through the songs of folk singers, each presentation will focus on one or two singers. We will also study the history of folk music in the USA, the origins of the music presented, and listen to the folk songs. Singing along will be encouraged.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

FOOD: BEYOND JUST CALORIES **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine,**
David Bartash, Marion Schultheis*

We all eat it. But how we grow it, process it, cook it, or consume it raw are significant definers of who we are as a society. Show us a country and how it treats the idea of eating, and we can start to understand what makes it unique. So come with us on a journey to explore this complicated, but tasty subject.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried,**
Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried,
Glenn Johnston*

Through innumerable topics and themes, we will investigate and discuss the issues that affect both a specific population and the global population. Each presenter will select an issue of importance, present the history of the issue, and facilitate the discussion.

GREAT PLAYS

*Coordinators: **Roy Clary,**
Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp*

Important American and European plays are presented. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright followed by a “staged reading” of the play. The audience is encouraged to share their insights.

HISTORY OF GERMANY

*Coordinators: **Caroline Thompson,**
Steve Allen, Linda Downs*

The German people have a long and complex history that has had a profound impact on all of Europe and on the world. This three-term course examines this political, religious, and cultural history from the time of The Holy Roman Empire in 800 CE up to the current day. In this third and final term, we will focus on the forces and players that led to the German instigation of two world wars, the Weimar republic, Hitler’s rise to power, and Germany’s role in post-World War II Europe.



SPRING 2023 COURSES

INVISIBLE MAN BY RALPH ELLISON NEW

*Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian,**
Sandy Kessler,*

This semester we will consider Ralph Ellison's novel "The Invisible Man" (1952), which deals with the problems of race relations and Black identity in the United States. The unnamed African-American protagonist of the book is "invisible" because people tend to view him in terms of their own stereotypes rather than who he really is. Some critics consider it a masterpiece, while others fault it for focusing more on the psychology of the protagonist than on the evils of American racism. We will consider this, and other controversies related to the book as we read and discuss it together.

MODERN OPERA: THE 20TH & 21ST CENTURIES

*Coordinators: **Steve Koenig,**
Victor Brener, Frieda Lipp*

Opera has developed along many paths and styles over the last two centuries. In each session, we will view an opera and discuss that opera's libretto, staging, orchestration, singing, and historical context. Composers might include Richard Strauss, Alban Berg, Benjamin Britten, Kurt Weill, Leoš Janáček, and some you've never heard of. We'll include electronic, jazz, multimedia, and conceptual opera.

NYC NEIGHBORHOODS

*Coordinators: **Paul Golomb,**
Bob Reiss*

New York City is a tapestry. It is a 400-year development entailing subsequent waves of immigration and architectural styles. We will focus in each session on a definitive neighborhood, describing its history, architectural and topographic features, significant landmarks, course of development and its contribution to the City as a whole. Where possible, walking tours will be scheduled.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

*Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote,**
Peter Dichter, Mary Ann Donnelly,
Sheryl Harawitz*

Reading aloud introduces us to the voice of poetry: its rhyme, meter, syntax, imagery. In OIP, we continue this human oral tradition by bringing poetry alive as participants introduce poets, read aloud poems they have selected, and lead discussions about the structure, culture and historical context in which the selected poems are written. We also discuss our personal interpretation of the poem in a fun and creative environment.

POETS' WORKSHOP

*Coordinators: **Judith Winn,**
Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran*

This workshop provides an opportunity to express your thoughts through the creative act of writing poems. You do not need prior experience in this medium. Participants share their writing with other members of the class and through constructive comments, develop their personal writing styles. Opportunities will be provided to discuss the meaning of the poems from the perspective of the authors and the readers.

QUESTER'S CHOICE **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried,**
Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian*

What's your personal passion? Chances are you will find it in Quester's Choice, a new course featuring a broad variety of subjects. Each class will be led by a member willing to do both the deep dive and then share their knowledge with us. So, join us as we journey through the endless array of topics and themes in Quester's Choice.

ROCK & ROOTS ALBUMS

*Coordinators: **Steve Koenig,**
Wayne Cotter*

Explore the roots and branches of Rock: rock, reggae, soul, blues, punk, folk, new wave, country, and metal. Each session will focus on one album by a band or solo artist and be enriched by related tracks.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

*Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Marion Schultheis, Judy Weis*

Advances in science uncover wonders that transform our lives and deepen our understanding of humanity, life, and the world around us. Science literacy is the key that opens doors to the extraordinary beauty of our natural world. This course will explore various pathways of scientific inquiry, their impacts and limits, and highlight some of the men and women responsible for groundbreaking research. Presenters will strive to communicate in a way that we all can understand.

SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Steve Allen**
Marion Schultheis*

This discussion group will be a place where new developments in science can be explored and where members can bring questions about any scientific issue and all can participate in finding answers. Our scope will be broad — not just the physical and life sciences, but also psychology and cognitive science, medicine, social sciences, and any field of study which relies upon evidence. Ethical, political, and social issues related to science will be discussed.

SHAKESPEARE: **TAMING OF THE SHREW**

*Coordinators: **Roy Clary**,
Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer*

The class will read aloud and discuss the 'Taming of the Shrew.' Despite the fact that attitudes toward women and gender roles have changed considerably since the play was written in the mid-1590s, it remains one of the author's most popular comedies. A key reason for its continuing popularity is the relationship between Petruchio and Katherina. The play asks if they are engaged in a never-ending battle of the sexes, or will they find mutual respect and love for each other? The Folger Library Edition is the preferred text.

SIXTIES **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Richard Byrd**,
Paul Golomb, Diane Reynolds*

The 1960s were a time of metamorphosis in U.S. history. The citizenry's perception changed; African-Americans looked beyond the narrow corridor of Civil Rights. Women and Gays refused to allow themselves to be marginalized any longer. The Vietnam War questioned the entire Military Industrial Complex. There were changes in the arts, music, film, theatre, etc. People questioned inherent dangers in the air we breathed, the water we drank, and the food we ingested. Overall, the 1960s were the time when people questioned their place in the world, and desired and demanded a better world.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

SYMPOSIUM NEW

*Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz,
Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer*

Each day, we have between 50,000 and 70,000 thoughts, many of which drive our daily routines and needs. But there are those moments when a seemingly random thought sparks an idea that fuels the synapses and becomes a link in a chain of ideas that ignites significant change. In this course, we will uncover the genesis and stages of social, philosophical, industrial and cultural ideas that changed the world.

TONI MORRISON: THE LEGEND NEW

*Coordinators: Donna Ramer,
Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg*

What makes a legend? For Toni Morrison, it's prolific writing and lecturing with grace and equanimity to educate us about racial issues and civil rights. Through her essays and short stories, we'll debunk the myths about her and discuss her impact on the global community and, more importantly, each of us as an individual.

UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES NEW

*Coordinators: Michael Wellner,
Maureen Berman, Howard Salik*

America is at a crossroads as different visions of what the United States should stand for at home and abroad directly compete in the national dialogue. Even basic principles upon which American society was founded — the peaceful transformation of power, freedom of speech, separation of church and state — are being questioned, and, in some cases, outright rejected by segments of society. Beyond the sharp divisions, often expressed most clearly in our Red and Blue States division, our class discussions will focus on momentous social issues likely to have a major impact on the nation's future.

WATER

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

Water is something we interact with every day. We wash in it, cook with it, put our waste into it, swim in it. When it freezes, we skate, ski or sled on it. "Bad weather" usually involves it. Too little and there's a drought, too much and there's a flood. Our bodies are mostly made of it. Lots of plants and animals live in it. Life in water is very different from on land. It also features in art, music and literature. Although this class is mostly science, we will include some art or music or literature each semester.

SPRING 2023 COURSES

SOMETHING EXTRA

CULTUREQUEST

Madeleine Brecher

The popular 'CultureQuest' program offers tours of art galleries and current museum exhibitions as well as other enriching experiences throughout the New York area. The events take place every month on selected Fridays. There are several in-person or virtual programs offered to Quest members each Fall and Spring semester. The in-person events are followed by a relaxing lunch to enjoy good food and conversation.

BOOK CLUB

Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

The Quest Book Club reads a cross-section of novels by both new and more established authors, from this country and abroad, across a range of genres. The books chosen are not necessarily what you yourself might ordinarily pick up — think of it as a chance to discover something you didn't know you liked!

LUNCHTIME SPANISH NEW

Ellen Rittberg, Donna Basile

¿Quieres hacer algo nuevo? ¿Por qué no vienes a hablar español con otros Questers durante el almuerzo? Si hablas algo de español, únete a nosotros para conversar sobre temas elegidos por nuestros participantes, quienes presentarán mini-lecciones y dirigirán debates sobre temas de interés personal y general. Buena idea, ¿no? ¡Hasta pronto!

SOCIAL EVENTS

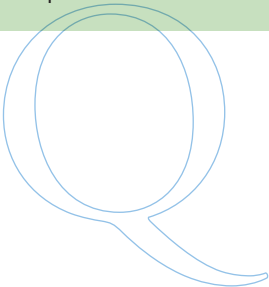
Lois Cardillo, Marcia Friedland

The Social Committee creates gatherings at 25 Broadway several times a year to facilitate Questers, both old and new getting to know one another outside the classroom setting, in a casual atmosphere.

BOOK CHATS NEW

Kathy Cook

Not Your Typical Book Group! We don't all read the same book, so let's share our great book suggestions and talk about them. Once a month, Kathy will lead us in a lunch-time discussion — a great opportunity for readers who are seeking new authors or simply enjoy talking about books.



SPRING 2023 COURSES

SOMETHING EXTRA

SOLE MATES

Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine

The coordinators will lead you on a walk along the Hudson on Thursday every fortnight. We assemble at the 7th floor elevator at 2:45 pm and it's up to you how far you walk. No signups, no commitments, just serendipity, community, fun and a healthy heart.

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Frank Montaturo

Step out of your familiar neighborhood and explore the extraordinary gastronomical options available elsewhere in our city. The emphasis on Queens, the menu is pre-selected, the price is moderate and all-inclusive except for drinks and dessert.

THEATER/OPERA TALKBACK NEW

Yona Rogosin, Andrea Irvine

This monthly noontime class will meet in an informal, relaxing environment. We'll discuss and share reviews of plays or operas that we've seen recently and in the past, our upcoming tickets and what we'd like to see. We invite you to give a mini review to start the discussion or just join in. Questers are known for being enthusiastic lovers of the stage.

DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS

Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Quel beau rêve – parler français à d'autres Questers pendant le déjeuner ! Si vous parlez un peu français, rejoignez-nous pour des conversations sur des sujets choisis par nos participants, qui présenteront des mini-leçons et animeront des discussions sur des thèmes d'intérêt personnel et général. Bonne idée, n'est-ce pas ? À bientôt !

MUSIC OF THE HEART

Frank Montaturo

Members are invited to submit a piece of music that "speaks to your heart." Class will have two presenters. Each presenter will speak of the personal emotional significance of the piece and then we will listen together. There will be time for a brief discussion.

ART TALKS

Andrea Irvine, Sheryl Harawitz

This noontime class, which meets one day a month, offers short presentations on art that encourage lively discussion in an informal, relaxing environment.

QUEST CURRICULUM

Founded in 1995 by a small group of active retirees, Quest is an all-volunteer, peer-learning center for anyone in the Tri-state area who is retired or semi-retired.

Members benefit by

- Learning & developing new interests
- Meeting new people & developing new relationships
- Social activities, on-site and off
- Travel
- Exchanging ideas

Below are a few of the 40+ courses, workshops and activities we offer each semester. And we're always seeking new programs so let us know your passion and we'll work with you to bring it to life.

We also have a Distinguished Lecture Series, *QReview*: our annual literary and art magazine, and monthly *QNews*. And to keep members in the know, there are weekly listings of classes and two email communities.

No matter how you choose to participate, you will find that Quest provides a rewarding experience to enrich your intellectual and social lives.

- Acting
- Contemporary Issues
- Discussion Groups
- Book Club
- Friday Events
- Languages
- Literature & Poetry
- Museum Tours
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Poetry
- Politics
- Science
- Sole Mates Walking
- Special Events
- Travel
- Writing Workshops: Poetry & Prose

For more information and to schedule a visit to sample our classes, contact us at:

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education

The City College
of New York

Bowling Green Campus, 25 Broadway, 7th floor, New York, NY 10004

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