

# QUEST CURRICULUM

The CCNY  
Lifelong  
Learning  
Community

Spring 2024



# SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

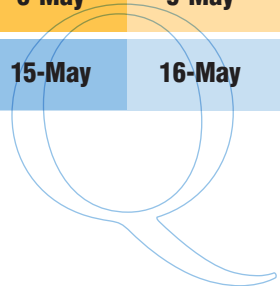
Thursday

<b>A Week</b>	<b>5-Feb</b>	<b>6-Feb</b>	<b>7-Feb</b>	<b>8-Feb</b>
<b>B Week</b>	<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	<b>13-Feb</b>	<b>14-Feb</b>	<b>15-Feb</b>
<b>A Week</b>	<b>President's Day</b>	<b>20-Feb</b>	<b>21-Feb</b>	<b>22-Feb</b>
<b>B Week</b>	<b>26-Feb</b>	<b>27-Feb</b>	<b>28-Feb</b>	<b>29-Feb</b>
<b>A Week</b>	<b>4-Mar</b>	<b>5-Mar</b>	<b>6-Mar</b>	<b>7-Mar</b>
<b>B Week</b>	<b>11-Mar</b>	<b>12-Mar</b>	<b>13-Mar</b>	<b>14-Mar</b>
<b>A Week</b>	<b>18-Mar</b>	<b>19-Mar</b>	<b>20-Mar</b>	<b>21-Mar</b>
<b>B Week</b>	<b>25-Mar</b>	<b>26-Mar</b>	<b>27-Mar</b>	<b>28-Mar</b>
<b>A Week</b>	<b>1-Apr</b>	<b>2-Apr</b>	<b>3-Apr</b>	<b>4-Apr</b>
<b>B Week</b>	<b>8-Apr</b>	<b>9-Apr</b>	<b>10-Apr</b>	<b>11-Apr</b>
<b>A Week</b>	<b>15-Apr</b>	<b>16-Apr</b>	<b>17-Apr</b>	<b>18-Apr</b>

## Spring Break

<b>B Week</b>	<b>Zoom Only</b>	<b>Zoom Only</b>	<b>1-May</b>	<b>2-May</b>
<b>A Week</b>	<b>6-May</b>	<b>7-May</b>	<b>8-May</b>	<b>9-May</b>
<b>B Week</b>	<b>13-May</b>	<b>14-May</b>	<b>15-May</b>	<b>16-May</b>

Cover Photo: Questers on a field trip to The Noguchi Museum in Queens.



# A Week

## SPRING 2024 SCHEDULE

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<b>Morning 10:30 – 12:00</b>	Rock & Roots Albums	Foreign Affairs	Quester's Choice	Science & Scientists
	All the King's Men	New & Classic Essays	Shakespeare: Cymbeline	Contemporary Poetry

### Lunch

<b>Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30</b>	Artificial Intelligence	Folk Music & Mellow Rock	Cinema Quest: Current & Classic	Water
	Daisy Miller & Washington Square	Across the Universe	Women Spies	Contemporary Short Stories
		Creative Writing Workshop		Acting Workshop II

# B Week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<b>Morning 10:30 – 12:00</b>	Classical Music	Artists and Their Work	Fascinating Non-Fiction	NYC and Its Environ
	Wonderful Books Out Loud		Upheaval in American Values	Young Beethoven

### Lunch

<b>Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30</b>	Great Plays	Harlem Renaissance	Distinguished Guest Lecture Series	Explorations in Philosophy & Literature
	Science Clubhouse	Film for Thought		Construction: Beyond Bricks & Mortar
				Poets' Workshop

# COURSES BY CATEGORY

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## **ART & MUSIC**

- Artists & Their Work
- Classical Music
- Folk Music & Mellow Rock
- Rock & Roots Albums
- Young Beethoven **NEW**

## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

- Distinguished Guest Lectures
- Foreign Affairs
- Quester's Choice
- Upheaval in American Values

## **HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY**

- Construction: Beyond Bricks & Mortar
- Explorations In Philosophy & Literature
- Fascinating Non-Fiction
- Harlem Renaissance
- New and Classic Essays **NEW**
- NYC and Its Environs: People, Places, Things
- Women Spies **NEW**

## **LITERATURE**

- All the King's Men **NEW**
- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Daisy Miller & Washington Square **NEW**
- Wonderful Books Out Loud

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

- Cinema Quest: Current and Classics
- Film for Thought
- Great Plays
- Shakespeare: Cymbeline

## **SCIENCE**

- Across the Universe
- Artificial Intelligence: A Brave New World? **NEW**
- Science & Scientists
- Science Clubhouse
- Water

## **SOMETHING EXTRA**

- Adventures in Dining
- Book Chats
- Book Club
- CultureQuest
- Déjeuner Français
- Lunchtime Spanish
- Music of the Heart
- Noontime Mondays **NEW**
- Social Events
- Sole Mates

## **WORKSHOP**

- Acting Workshop II
- Creative Writing
- Poets' Workshop

# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

*Coordinators: Michael Hamburg,  
Vicki Cross*

This voyage is perfect for anyone who has ever wondered what the universe is, where it came from, and where it is heading. Beginning with the most current developments, we will commence right here on Earth, soar through the Solar System, touch the stars and continue on to the furthest reaches of the observable universe. Prior knowledge or any technical expertise is not required.

## ACTING WORKSHOP II

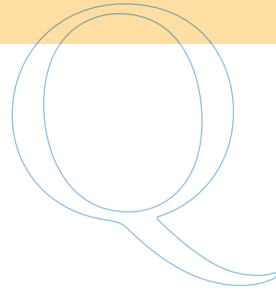
*Coordinators: Roy Clary,  
Art Spar*

At the end of the Spring Semester, class members put on a production using the tools on which they have focused during the Fall Semester. As a result, class time will be spent on rehearsing for the Spring production. Fundamentals of acting will continue to be stressed.

## ALL THE KING'S MEN **NEW**

*Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian,  
Sandy Kessler*

Robert Penn Warren's "All the King's Men" is one of American literature's greatest political novels. This work describes the dramatic rise to power of Willie Stark, a one-time radical attorney who becomes a corrupt state governor and Jack Burden, the narrator, who loses his ideals, his career, and the love of his life by working as the governor's most trusted aide. We will highlight the themes that are most relevant to American political life today. These include the dangers that populism, demagoguery, tribalism, corruption, and the lust for power now pose to our constitutional system of government.



# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

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

During the spring semester Artists and Their Works is open to “Presenter’s Choice,” subjects that spark the individual interests of each speaker. The work of artists from Oceania, Austria, Britain, France and the United States will be explored.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD? **NEW**

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

Whether we fear or embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI), one thing is certain: AI is here to stay. In this course we’ll explore the origins of AI, its impact on our daily lives, and the implications for our future.

## CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC

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

Join lovers of current releases and classic movies as the films, their casts, directors, story lines, scripts and more are discussed and critiqued. Presenters will either choose from the top 100 Hollywood and foreign classic films or noteworthy current releases. Links to films to be presented at our next class are sent to Questers days in advance so those attending the class or Zooming can participate in the review, sharing and comparing their opinions with fellow Questers and those reviewing.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

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

Historically, social, political, and economic changes have had a dramatic effect on the evolution of classical music. We will explore classical music’s steady transformation through time by examining classical music’s diverse genres, styles, instruments, composers, compositions, etc. as they have materialized.

# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS & MORTAR**

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

Construction is back for a second semester! Once again your fellow Questers will stretch their minds to include varying projects that put things together in a coherent manner. They may be beneath your feet, all around you or simply in your mind. So join our presenters as they expand their creativity and discover what construction means to them.

## **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**

*Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg,**  
Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly,  
Freida Lipp*

We will explore different poetic forms and such schools of poetry as The New York School, The Language Poets and Cave Canem among others. Poems from the late 20th century through to today will be selected and discussed.

## **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**

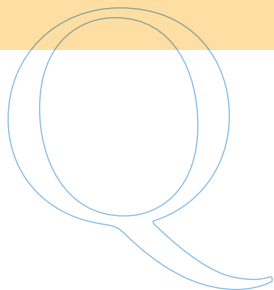
*Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson,**  
Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp*

This long-standing class discusses short stories from all over the world. At each class, two members volunteer to choose and present a story, copies of which are made available to everyone. The presenters give a brief background about the author and of the story, and then open the class to discussion.

## **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

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

Each class begins with a ten-minute writing warm-up inspired by a prompt, such as ice cream, a favorite teacher, a memorable photograph. Other in-class writing might be related to the specific topic of the day: dialogue, openings, the senses, vivid description, or character development. All genres — science fiction, romance, mystery, memoir, comedy — are welcomed.





# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## **DAISY MILLER & WASHINGTON SQUARE** **NEW**

*Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane*

Henry James was a 19th century American writer and a major figure in the history of the novel and a master craftsman in the development of his recurring themes. These include the relationship between innocence and experience and in his view the difference between the “uncultured Americans & the highly cultured Europeans.” We will start with his novella “Daisy Miller”— then proceed to the novel “Washington Square.”

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 run the gamut from the imaginable to the unimaginable. Every semester, an eclectic array of fascinating non-fiction awaits its audience. No advance reading is required.



# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## FILM FOR THOUGHT

*Coordinators: **Jane Lubin,**  
Ellen Waldman*

In this course we will see the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, and film excerpts. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively 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.

## FOLK MUSIC & MELLOW ROCK

*Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried,**  
Michael Wellner*

Each class will be devoted to one or two Folk/Rock artists or groups. We will learn about the artists and listen and/or sing along with them. Artists include Billy Joel, Rod Stewart, Carly Simon, Sonny and Cher, The Weavers, Peter, Paul & Mary, The Kingston Trio, and The Mamas and The Papas.

## HARLEM RENAISSANCE

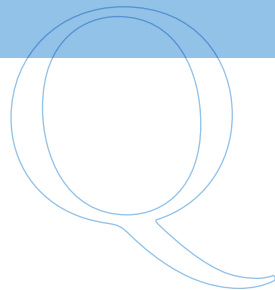
*Coordinators: **Richard Byrd,**  
Stuart Parker, Ilene Winkler*

The Harlem Renaissance was a period of great change in America, the African-American community in particular. The presentations will show the impact the era had on the artistic, social and political terrain. The course will highlight iconic figures, such as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Duke Ellington, as well as activists such as Marcus Garvey and Mary McCloud Bethune.

## 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.



# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Steve Allen**,  
Martha Drezin, Ellie Schaffer,  
Larry Shapiro*

Each week the course coordinators will pick an essay designed to provoke new perspectives, to ask us to question assumptions, and to encourage thoughtful discussion. Topics will range widely and will be drawn from publications such as *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Review of Books*, as well as some on-line only sources. Participants will be encouraged to read the essays prior to the discussion, but verbal summaries will allow meaningful participation without preparation.

## NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

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

New York City is a tapestry. It is a 400-year development of immigration, architecture and technology. Starting as a trading post on the tip of Manhattan, today it is a region that reaches beyond the city lines. The course explores neighborhoods and infrastructure, their history and their relationship to the city as a whole.

## POETS' WORKSHOP

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

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

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

What's your personal passion? Chances are you will find it in Quester's Choice, a course featuring a broad variety of subjects. Each class will be led by a member willing to do 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.

# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## ROCK & ROOTS ALBUMS

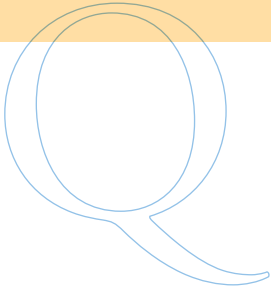
*Coordinators: Steve Koenig,  
Wayne Cotter*

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.

## SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS

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

This course covers a wide range of scientific topics — and the stories of the women and men who have, in the past or presently, engaged in the pursuit of knowledge about the world in which we live. No prior acquaintance with the subject of any is required. An active interest will do.



## SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE

*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: CYMBELINE

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

Written in 1609, Cymbeline is among the last of Shakespeare's works. Its genre is perhaps best summed up by Polonius's description in Hamlet: "tragical-comical-historical-pastoral." It operates in the magical realm of romance with themes of reconciliation, restoration, and forgiveness. It is crammed with incidents and characters, and includes such theatrical effects as the entry of Jupiter upon an eagle, hurling a thunderbolt. All in all, a strange and wonderful play. The Folger Library Edition is the preferred text.

# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES

*Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks*

Each week's class will focus on one (or more) different important social and political issues, including the all-important 2024 election, that have a major impact on the state of our country, and its future. Discussion topics will include the US Constitution, the Supreme Court, changes in news reporting and the media in general, the impact of mobile phones on our children, social and income inequality, our immigration problem, free speech rights, the "woke" culture, our international relations, and, of course, politics.

## 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, and swim in it. When it freezes, we skate, ski or sled on it. Too little water, there is a drought; too much, flood. Our bodies are mostly made up of it. Although this class started as principally science, it is interdisciplinary, and will include the arts, literature, law and history.

## WOMEN SPIES **NEW**

*Coordinators: Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg*

The stories of hundreds of courageous women spies have been long hidden from reports of battles and war. Before and during World War II, both Allied and Axis powers trained and sent women to the war fronts in occupied territories, to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance. Initially distrusted by male colleagues, they developed wide and effective networks of spies. Employment of women as spies, of course, reaches back in history. Fascinating books, movies and TV, both fiction and nonfiction, have captivated us with stories about individual women and organizations. Who were these women? How did they operate?

# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD

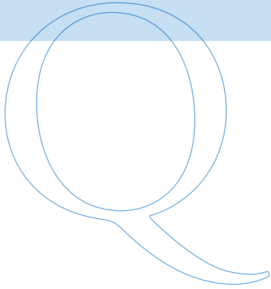
*Coordinators:* **Harriet Finkelstein,**  
**Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward**

*O Pioneers!* was Willa Cather's first great novel, and to many it remains her unchallenged masterpiece. No other work of fiction so faithfully conveys both the sharp physical realities and the mythic sweep of the transformation of the American frontier — and the transformation of the people who settled it. Participants in this class will have the pleasure of reading out loud and discussing the text. All are most welcome — to read out loud, to question, to comment, or to just listen and enjoy.

## YOUNG BEETHOVEN **NEW**

*Coordinators:* **Arlene Hajinlian,**  
**Larry Shapiro**

Beethoven became a composer of the highest possible ambition and began sketches for some of his greatest music while in his teens. In our course, the first of three semesters covering Beethoven's life, we'll listen to music and discuss his beginnings, the role of family and birthplace and history, his health, his humor, his love-hate relationship with humanity, and other topics essential to appreciating Beethoven's incomparable genius.



# SPRING 2024 COURSES

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## SOMETHING EXTRA

### **BOOK CLUB**

*Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland*

The Quest Book Club reads a wide 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! We meet each month in-person on the second Wednesday, from 12:10–12:55 pm.

### **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.

### **ADVENTURES IN DINING**

*Frank Montaturo*

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

### **BOOK CHATS**

*Kathy Cook*

This is definitely NOT Your Typical Book Group. There are no assigned books. It's a low-key and informal discussion of books you have read, enjoyed and suggest that others read. Participants provide short descriptions of books, Kathy will write them up and later send that list to the Community. This is a great event for readers who are looking for new authors or genres or simply like to talk and hear about books. Casual and Fun. Readers of any and all genres welcome.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

*Gale Spitalink*

Gale and her team will bring Questers some fun events this Spring — look out for Valentine's Day and maybe a green-themed party in March! All events take place at 25 Broadway.

# SPRING 2024 COURSES

## SOMETHING EXTRA

### **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.

### **NOONTIME MONDAYS NEW**

*Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine*

Every Monday from 12:10 to 12:50 we will bring you something different — a true ‘smorgasbord’ of fascinating and fun events — you bring your lunch and together we will explore and enjoy.

### **SOLE MATES**

*Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine*

We’re back with are third year of this popular walk. Every fortnight we’ll meet 2:45pm by elevators on 7th floor and head out to stroll along the Hudson — finishing at a cafe for a glass wine, bite to eat or just to enjoy each others company. No sign-ups, no commitments, everyone welcome — details always in NWAQ.

### **DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS**

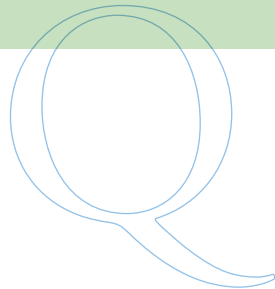
*Ruth Ward, Donna Basile*

A-week, Tuesday, noon–12:45 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 !

### **LUNCHTIME SPANISH**

*Ellen Rittberg, Richard Elrauch*

¿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!





# 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
- Exchanging ideas
- Meeting new people & forming new relationships
- Social activities

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 bring it to life.

- Contemporary Issues
- Literature & Poetry
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Science
- Acting
- Languages
- Music & Art
- Writing Workshops
- Discussion Groups
- Book Club
- Adventures in Dining
- Museum Tours
- Travel
- Special Events
- Social Activities
- Sole Mates Walking
- Distinguished Guest Lectures

And we keep members in the know through our monthly newsletter, *QNews*; NWAQ, weekly listings of classes; and two email communities. We also publish *QReview*, our annual literary and arts magazine that features the prose, poetry and art of our members.

A recent survey found that 96 percent of our newest members joined because they found the courses exceeded or met their expectations, and they appreciated the flexibility of being able to attend individual classes.

So no matter how you choose to participate, you will find Quest will provide a rewarding experience to enrich your life, intellectually and socially.

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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