

QuestCurriculum

Spring
Semester
2009



A WEEK SPRING 2009

MONDAY

10:30am-12noon

**CHAUCER AND
THE CANTERBURY TALES**

Rm.19

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Rm.22

TUESDAY

SUPREME COURT

Rm.22

ACTING WORKSHOP

Auditorium

GREAT PERFORMERS

Rm.19

WEDNESDAY

GREAT PLAYS

Auditorium

**HISTORY OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Rm.19

THURSDAY

CONTEMPORARY OPERA

Rm.22

THE FDR YEARS

Rm.19

LUNCH

LUNCH

LUNCH

LUNCH

1:00pm-2:30pm

**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS TODAY**

Rm.22

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH

Rm.19

LIFE DRAWING

Rm.27

COMPUTER WORKSHOP

Rm.25 (Office)

**IRISH THEATER
AND ITS THEMES**

Rm.27

**IMAGES OF WOMEN
IN LITERATURE**

Rm.22

ART WORKSHOP

Rm.22

SHAKESPEARE

Rm.27

PROUST

Rm.22

GREAT DECISIONS

Rm.19

B WEEK SPRING 2009

MONDAY

10:30am-12noon

**CONTEMPORARY
SHORT STORIES**

Rm.22

**NOTORIOUS
CRIMINAL TRIALS**

Rm.19

TUESDAY

**ARTISTS AND
THEIR WORK**

Auditorium

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Rm.19

WEDNESDAY

ACTING WORKSHOP

Auditorium

BUSINESS & SOCIETY

Rm.22

THURSDAY

POINT OF VIEW

Rm.19

GRAND OPERA

Rm.22

LUNCH

LUNCH

LUNCH

LUNCH

1:00pm-2:30pm

**MAJOR
MODERN DRAMATISTS**

Rm.22

**UNDERSTANDING
CONTEMPORARY POETRY**

Rm.19

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Rm.19

THE UNIVERSE

Rm.22

RESERVED FOR:

- Guest Speakers
 - Special Events
 - General Membership Meetings
- Auditorium

**NEW YORK STORY:
"THE NEIGHBORHOODS"**

Rm.22

POETS' WORKSHOP
(Starts @12:30 pm)

Rm.27

QUEST SCHEDULE SPRING 2009

<i>Week Starting</i>	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Feb. 2, 2009	A	A	A	A
Feb. 9, 2009	B	B	B	B
Feb. 16, 2009	Presidents Day (No Classes)		A	A
Feb. 23, 2009	B	B	B	B
Mar. 2, 2009	A	A	A	A
Mar. 9, 2009	B	B	B	B
Mar. 16, 2009	A	A	A	A
Mar. 23, 2009	B	B	B	B
Mar. 30, 2009	A	A	A	A
Apr. 6, 2009	B	B	Spring Break	Spring Break
Apr. 13, 2009	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Apr. 20, 2009	A	A	A	A
Apr. 27, 2009	B	B	B	B
May 4, 2009	A	A	A	A
May 11, 2009	B	B	B	B

- Meetings & Special Events on Wednesday afternoons @ 1pm – B week
- Annual Luncheon – Friday May 15, 2009
- Summer Session begins Tuesday June 2, 2009
- Office telephone: 212-925-6625 Ext.229

THURSDAY

A

B

A

B

A

B

A

B

A

Spring Break

Spring Break

A

B

A

B

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ACTING WORKSHOPS, A & B

Coordinators: Panny King, Marilyn Rosen

This spring, we offer two identical advanced classes, one in A week, one in B week; you may choose the one that best fits your schedule. In both we will prepare for our annual end-of-term plays, utilizing acting skills developed in the fall term. Therefore, this semester's classes are necessarily limited to members who have previously participated in the Acting Workshop. Next fall, beginners' classes will again be available.

ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

Coordinators: Sandy Gordon, Isidore Schwartzman

Art is the visual language of culture and society, and artists are their scribes. Using lectures and slides, we explore art history, examining the life and times of the artists as well as their works. During this spring semester, we will invite presenters to choose as their subject an artist of their preference, discussing the artist, the period and the works.

ART WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Helen Neilson, Donna Rubens

Draw an apple, or some flowers, or a hat. Design a collage. Working from a still life you bring to class, or one set up for the group, participants will use charcoal, pastel, pencil, pen - or scissors and glue- to create original art work. The course is for all levels of expertise, from novice to professional. Storage is available for equipment.

BUSINESS AND SOCIETY IN THE AGE OF FINANCIAL ANXIETY

Coordinators: Stuart Dunn, Al Gordon

We will examine the current business and financial situation, emphasizing 1.) the underlying instability; 2.) the roles of Wall St., the banks and the government in both precipitating and attempting to correct the problem; and 3.) discussing available actions individuals can take to minimize their personal risk.

CHAUCER AND THE CANTERBURY TALES

Coordinators: Sharon Krutzel, Myra Nissen

To escape the Black Plague, which was decimating London, the poet Geoffrey Chaucer led a group of pilgrims to Canterbury to visit the shrine of the archbishop, Thomas a Becket. Through a series of lectures, we will learn of the close friendship of Becket and King Henry II which culminated in Becket's murder. We will read at home, to discuss in class, the tales the travelers told to amuse themselves on their journey, which reveal what life was like in 14th - century England.

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COMPUTER WORKSHOP

Instructor: Sharon Krutzel

This is not a course in the usual sense, but a series of one-on-one tutorials. Each session will be divided into three 30-minute intervals; sessions will alternate between PC and Mac users. Questers should email or phone Sharon as to what, specifically, they want to learn and to what time slot. Sharon will use her own laptop; or, if they have one, Questers may bring their own.

CONTEMPORARY OPERA

Coordinators: Joan Briller, Steven Koenig

We watch excerpts from DVDs and feature lively discussions about the text, music, staging and media. We compare productions and correlate historical and cultural events. This semester may include *Glass's on the Beach*, Meredith Monk's *Ellis Island*, Knussen/Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, Berlioz's *Wozzeck*, Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, and Maw's *S Choice*.

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

(formerly Short Stories of Today)

Coordinators: Eleanor Chernick, Eileen Mund

At every session, two class members each introduce a story we've all read. Background on the authors, elements of the stories (character, plot, point of view, etc.) are then discussed. Our basic text is *Best American Short Stories 2008*, edited by Salman Rushdie, which we use at every other session. At alternate sessions, we will use contemporary stories from writers around the world.

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH

Coordinators: Charles Carter, Yvonne Kress

Members read, translate and discuss written material in French involving phrases and expressions used in various situations. We also read French newspaper articles, poems, and members are encouraged to write, in French, about their travel and other personal experiences.

FDR AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Coordinators: Russell Good, Irving Schiffman

In a series of lectures, we will present an overview of Roosevelt years: the economy Roosevelt inherited and how he dealt with it; his clashes with other members of his party, Congress and the Supreme Court; the run-up to World War II; the war years; and the controversy of the third and fourth terms.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

Coordinators: Al Gubar, Steve Koenig

This music-cum-lecture course will cover: 1.) the works of these two men separately and later as a team; 2.) their major successes, along with the background and mode of production of each one; 3.) excerpts of the music on CDs and/or videos. We may also include comparisons with contemporaneous works produced in Europe and the U.S.

GRAND OPERA

Coordinators: Charles Carter, Frieda Lipp

This class is for the person who wants to appreciate and understand opera. At each session we show a video of an opera, together with a brief history of the work and its composer. Members then share their reactions to the presentation.

GREAT DECISIONS: 2009

Coordinators: Al Gubar, Bob Hartmann

This course is based on a booklet produced by the Foreign Policy Association dealing with issues that are likely to arise in 2009. Each class session will be devoted to a specific topic—such as Cuba After Castro, Afghanistan and Pakistan, or The U.S. and Rising Powers—and led by a class member. The emphasis will be on class participation in examining and discussing each topic in depth.

GREAT PERFORMERS

Coordinators: Hobart Rauch, Jerry Wiesenber

The class will see and hear selections from the treasure trove of entertainment and cultural offerings of our time—ranging from Pavarotti to Sinatra, from Baryshnikov to Fred Astaire—recognizing their contributions to our culture and its arts.

GREAT PLAYS

Coordinators: Beverly Francus, Helen Neilson

This course presents leading European and American works. Each session begins with a brief biography of the author, followed by a reading performance of the play in an edited form. There are class discussions of the theme of the play and its relevance to our lives.

IMAGES OF WOMEN IN LITERATURE

Coordinators: Carole Abrahams, Barbara Spector Karr, Marcella Montaruli

We explore, through a collection of monologues, the lives of American women and the many stages through which they pass. Background information on the subject will be

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researched and the chosen monologue will be read aloud. Each class will end with a discussion of current issues relating to women's lives. **Text:** *The Best Women's Stage Monologues of 1992*, Jocelyn A. Beard, ed.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TODAY

Coordinators: Leonard Glass, Hobart Rauch

The course examines world affairs as they develop. It analyzes economic and political issues and addresses the conflicts that divide developing nations from great powers. Discussion focuses on the role of the United States, but extends to relations among the other countries of the world. The sources used include newspapers, magazines, appropriate broadcasts and relevant current books.

IRISH THEATER AND ITS THEMES

Coordinators: Marc Deitch, Carolyn McGuire, Myra Nissen

The Irish Theater produced major playwrights throughout the 20th century and continues to develop them today. The class will study the works of such outstanding figures as O'Casey, Synge, McDonagh and others. The themes of their plays will be analyzed for their reflection of social history in Ireland, including the "troubles", the Celtic Tiger, family problems and social change, as well as the influence of myths.

LIFE DRAWING

Coordinators: Carole Abrahams, Gertrude Itzkoff, Barbara Spector Karr

In sessions of this course, which alternate a live model with instructional videos, students practice drawing the human form. Participants provide their own drawing materials and pad which can be stored at QUEST. Pens, pencils, charcoal and conte crayons are suitable media. Each class member pays a model fee of approximately \$35 per semester. *Recommended Reading:*

Betty Edwards, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, Robert Kaupelis, *Learning to Draw*, Kimon Nicolaides, *The Natural Way to Draw*.

MAJOR MODERN DRAMATISTS

Coordinators: Marc Deitch, Franz Friedrich, Shirley Myers

Viewing drama as part of the literature of each period, we will continue to read plays from the "Theatre of the Absurd"—for example, Samuel Beckett, Tom Stoppard and others. The class will also consider the influence of a playwright's life on his works, as well as the possible influence of other writers. This semester will start with Beckett's enigmatic *Waiting for Godot*.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Coordinators: Eleanor Chernick, Isadore Schwartzman

Who were the strong characters, men and women, who shaped their world and ours? We will examine the lives and accomplishments of the outstanding, and sometimes unexpected, personalities who made a difference to society. They range from John Locke to Eleanor Roosevelt, whose ideas and actions had lasting influence and include such go-getters as Alexander the Great and Napoleon.

NEW YORK STORY: THE NEIGHBORHOODS

Coordinators: Al Gubar, Bob Hartmann, Helen McMahon

This semester, in addition to our studies of various New York neighborhoods, we will also discuss the effects on New York of the development of Central Park, the subway network, the water system and other facilities of our city. We encourage class discussion following the informational presentations.

NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL TRIALS

Coordinators: Barbara Blakemore, Bob Hartmann

We will study in detail, from court transcripts when available, some of the most important trials in history, ranging in time and place from 399 BC Greece (Socrates) to 20th-century America (Sacco and Vanzetti). We examine each trial in its political, social and legal contexts, to determine the effect these factors might have had on the verdict and on its consequences.

POETS' WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Joan Bonagura, Barbara Spector Karr, Helen Neilson

The focus is on your poems in a supportive environment where you'll receive detailed feedback. You are encouraged to experiment, to explore language and address all aspects of the craft to develop your own distinctive style and voice.

POINT OF VIEW-(Current Events)

Coordinators: Russell Good, Barbara Gordon

A selection of newspaper accounts, op-ed pieces, editorials and magazine articles is presented to the class. Two or three of the selections are chosen by the class, to be read aloud. The class members then examine and freely debate the points of view that have been expressed.

PROUST

Coordinators: Marc Deitch, Joe Nathan

We will offer an introduction to Marcel Proust's monumental novel, *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*

(*In Search of Lost Time*), a book universally recognized as a milestone in the study of human consciousness and a revolution in the history of prose writing. This semester, we will read at home and discuss in class *Swann in Love*, helping one another to appreciate this great author and his masterpiece.

SHAKESPEARE

Coordinators: Joe Nathan, Stan Raffles, Marilyn Rosen

This spring, we will read the tragic drama of Hamlet at home and then again, aloud, in class. The reading will be followed by a discussion of the play, its characters, its meaning, structure and style.

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Coordinators: Barbara Blakemore, Shirley Myers

Our language ranges from Olde English to e-malese. In the development of its grammar, it is often a story of rules being broken. Spelling battles have been waged by the likes of Samuel Johnson, Noah Webster and Theodore Roosevelt. It has absorbed words from such unlikely sources as Hindi (shampoo) and Turkish (kiosk). Unparalleled in its growth and spread, English has become a living archive of human experience. Through lectures and discussion we will learn its rich history.

THE SUPREME COURT

Coordinators: Alvin Kabot, David Robinson, Ruth Smith

Recent landmark decisions of the Court will be discussed in depth, as well as important issues that are raised by cases coming before the Court in 2009. Further insights into the Court and its Justices will be gained through topical papers presented in class and through critiques of current books and articles on the subject.

UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Coordinators: Joe Nathan, Eva Shatkin

The class reads selections of recent poetry with a view to understanding what good poetry conveys. Members choose poems from the book for discussion and analysis.
Text: Helen Vendler, The Music of What Happens
Class members bring their own selections and present to the group.

THE UNIVERSE

Coordinators: Franz Friedrich, David Robinson, Burton Saltzberg

This course takes a descriptive tour of the universe beginning with the solar system, to the different types of stars and out to the galaxies. It examines various theories of the birth and eventual end of the universe; the motions, real and apparent, of astronomical bodies; the spectrum of radiation and its effects; the zodiac and constellations; and black holes. It also covers the historical development of astronomy.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Coordinators: Joan Bonagura, Charles Carter, Isidore Schwartzman

Members read aloud short stories, essays and poems they have written, followed by class reactions and suggestions. The critiques are supportive to both seasoned writers and beginners, and are intended to develop and encourage writing skills.

DIRECTIONS

TRANSPORTATION TO QUEST AT 25 BROADWAY, NYC

Subway:

No.1- Rector St. Station: Exit at the south end of the station, Morris St., turn left on Morris to Broadway. Turn right to our 25 Broadway entrance.

Nos.4&5- Bowling Green Station: East exit, cross Broadway to 25; west exit is at south end around the corner from Broadway, go to Broadway turn left.

A- Fulton St. (Broadway Nassau Station) change to downtown Nos. 4 or 5.

E- Lexington Ave. Station: to No.6 downtown, change at 42 St. to 4 or 5 downtown.

J,M,Z- Broad St. Station: Exit south end, walk south to Beaver St. then right to Broadway. (25 is across the street).

R,W- Rector St. Station: Exit Trinity Pl. walk south to Morris St., same as No.1.

Buses:

M1,M6- Stop in front of 25 Broadway.

M9- From east side starting at Union Square; to the Water St. stop east of Broadway. (Bridge Street-The American Indian Museum.)

NYCT Express Buses to the Battery Park Area: (Metrocard fare approx \$5)

X25- Begins opposite Grand Central Terminal.

X90,X92- Upper East Side to Lower Manhattan Financial District.

ALSO- 3 Express buses from Brooklyn, 4 from Queens, 19 from Staten Island.

(For Additional MTA Information 718-330-1256 or www.mta.info)

