

QUEST CURRICULUM

30TH ANNIVERSARY

The CCNY Lifelong Learning Community

Spring 2025



SPRING 2025 CALENDAR

Monday

Tuesday

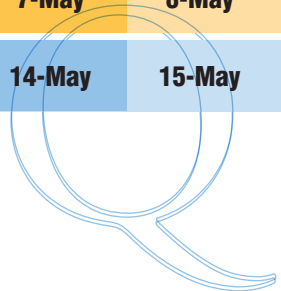
Wednesday

Thursday

A Week	3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb
B Week	10-Feb	11-Feb	Lincoln's Birthday	13-Feb
A Week	President's Day	18-Feb	19-Feb	20-Feb
B Week	24-Feb	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb
A Week	3-Mar	4-Mar	5-Mar	6-Mar
B Week	10-Mar	11-Mar	12-Mar	13-Mar
A Week	17-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar
B Week	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar
A Week	31-Mar	1-Apr	2-Apr	3-Apr
B Week	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr	10-Apr

April 14–17 Quest Closed

A Week	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr
B Week	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May
A Week	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May
B Week	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May



A Week

SPRING 2025 CALENDAR

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Across the Universe	Science Clubhouse	Power: The Glory of It	Contemporary Poetry
	Rock & Roots Albums	Supreme Court	Shakespeare: Coriolanus	Quester's Choice

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Crime & Punishment	Creative Writing Workshop	Cinema Quest: Current & Classic	Contemporary Short Stories
	Explorations in Architecture	Great Expectations	Timeless Literature: The Illiad	Poet's Workshop
		History of New York City		World of Religions

B Week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Give My Regards to Broadway	Artists & Their Work	Science & Scientists	NYC & Its Environs: People, Places, Things
	Wonderful Books Out Loud	New & Classic Essays	Upehaval in American Values	Old Testament as Literature

Lunch

Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Great Plays/Producers & Directors	Film for Thought	Distinguished Guest Lecture Series	Explorations in Philosophy & Literature
	Women Leaders	Oral Interpretation of Poetry		Jazz: Yesterday & Today

COURSES BY CATEGORY

ART & MUSIC

- Artists & Their Work
- Explorations in Architecture **NEW**
- Jazz: Yesterday & Today
- Rock & Roots Albums

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- Distinguished Guest Lectures
- Quester's Choice
- Supreme Court
- Upheaval in American Values
- Women Leaders **NEW**

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

- Explorations In Philosophy & Literature
- History of New York City
- Power: The Glory of It
- New and Classic Essays
- NYC and Its Environs: People, Places, Things

LITERATURE

- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Crime and Punishment **NEW**
- Great Expectations **NEW**
- Old Testament as Literature & In The Arts
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry **NEW**
- Wonderful Books Out Loud
- World of Religions

PERFORMING ARTS

- Cinema Quest: Current and Classics
- Film for Thought
- Give My Regards to Broadway
- Great Directors, Producers, Actors **NEW**
- Great Plays
- Shakespeare: Coriolanus **NEW**

SCIENCE

- Across the Universe **NEW**
- Science & Scientists
- Science Clubhouse

SOMETHING EXTRA

- Book Club
- CultureQuest
- Déjeuner Français
- Lunchtime Spanish
- Noontime Mondays
- SmartPhone Photography **NEW**
- Social Events
- Sole Mates

WORKSHOPS

- Creative Writing Workshop
- Poets' Workshop
- Timeless Writings

SPRING 2025 COURSES

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE REVIVED

*Coordinators: Michael Hamberg,
Marion Schultheis*

This course will dip into many of the latest discoveries and facets of our Universe – from guided tours and biographies of the people behind the science, to the existential questions concerning our very place in the Universe. Although we can't know how the search for the answers to these profound questions will turn out, we can be sure that our cosmic views are going to be up for grand new revisions in the near future. And this is precisely what makes science so exciting.

CHARLES DICKENS' GREAT EXPECTATIONS NEW

*Coordinators: Sandy Kessler,
Lynnell Garabedian*

Great Expectations is Charles Dickens' beloved novel of a humble orphan boy who rises to the ranks of high society through the patronage of an unknown benefactor. Although a well-known story to many, there is still much to explore and discuss about the author's brilliant depiction of characters, his literary techniques, and universal themes of love, ambition, class conflict, self-knowledge, and personal integrity. *Great Expectations* is Dickens' second-to-last completed novel and considered to be one of his very finest.

ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK

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

Artist and Their Works alternates a specific theme in the Fall semester to an open call for any topic on art during the spring semester. This spring, topics will range from the art of Siena in the 1500's to contemporary art.

CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC

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

Cinema Quest is a course designed for people who love watching, discussing, and analyzing movies. The course is perfect for those who want to give a 30-minute presentation. In this course, presenters select notable current releases from domestic, indie, or international cinema and talk about the films, their casts, directors, storylines, scripts, and more. Coordinators will provide each presenter with four PowerPoint slides and links to the movies to be discussed. Questers will receive information about how to watch the movies in advance.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

CONTEMPORARY POETRY

*Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**,
Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard,
Frieda Lipp*

We will explore important and well-regarded modern poets, their poems and their place in the literary continuum/historical context. Prior reading is not required.

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.

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.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES

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

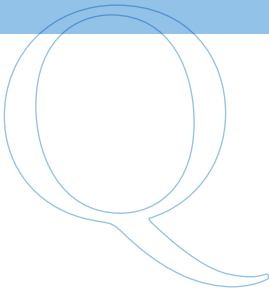
This bimonthly Guest Lecture Series enhances the Quest program experience by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present on varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions on global policy and political science, literature, theater arts, social science, and music.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

DOSTOEVSKY'S CRIME AND PUNISHMENT **NEW**

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Patricia Geehr, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer

In this study group, we shall plunge headlong into the dark, labyrinthine corridors of the human soul, as laid bare by Fyodor Dostoevsky in *Crime and Punishment*. Here, the mind of Raskolnikov—torn between grandeur and despair—beckons us to witness the torment of a man who dares to test the limits of morality. Through careful examination of the text, we will question, as Raskolnikov does, the very nature of justice, and whether it is possible to escape the consequences of one's deeds. This course is not merely a reading—it is a descent, a confrontation with the abyss within us all. Join us as we collectively shed some light on this dark descent.



EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE **NEW**

Coordinators: Sol Makon, Victor Brenner

How much do we appreciate or even acknowledge buildings—those that we pass by daily, or even live in? Can we comprehend all the stages that went into a building's construction? Architecture represents the history, culture, and values of a society. It shapes human behavior and promotes social interaction. Among its functions, building design creates a living space. We will explore various subjects in the fields of architecture and design, including architectural styles (Brutalism), architects (Frank Lloyd Wright) and building structures (iconic buildings in New York City).

EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE

Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Bob Belfort

Some of our sessions focus on how philosophy addresses current controversial issues. Some of our sessions focus on writing by classic or contemporary authors addressing questions of perennial concern. All of our sessions feature lively discussions of readings selected for stimulating ideas and insights into social relations and human nature.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

FILM FOR THOUGHT

*Coordinators: **Steve Allen**,
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 DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS **NEW**

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

This course will take an in-depth look at some of the most influential talents of the stage and screen. Class members will be encouraged to provide insights and share personal memories. This course will alternate with the Great Plays course.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY

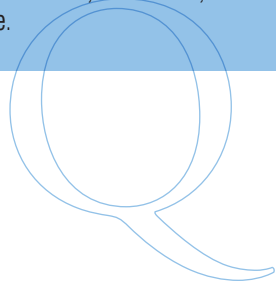
*Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**,
Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon*

An American phenomenon, the Broadway Musical has been such a part of our lives that you probably remember the first musical you saw. During the run of our presentations, you will not only have a chance to reminisce but will discover aspects of this unique theater genre that will make it even more enjoyable and entertaining. Your favorite songs? Your favorite entertainers? Favorite shows? Composers? Whatever—you've got to be in the room where it happens!

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. Great Plays will alternate with the Great Directors, Producers, Actors course.



SPRING 2025 COURSES

HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY

Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner

This semester, the history of New York City that you didn't learn in school, will focus on the beginning of the 19th century through the Civil War. We will continue investigating our city's financial entanglements with slavery alongside a growing abolitionist movement. We will also discuss topics as varied as the opening of the Erie Canal, the beginning of public schools, the fascinating life of Eliza Jumel, Irish immigration, and why New York City was once called The Big Oyster.

JAZZ: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Coordinators: Sol Makon, Debbi Honorof

Jazz emerged in the Afro-American communities of New Orleans during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Diverse musical styles evolved, including ragtime, blues, swing, bebop, cool jazz, free jazz, and more. We will explore both past iconic and contemporary jazz composers, musicians, vocalists, dance artists, and more, who contributed to this distinguished musical genre.

NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Martha Drezin, 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.

NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson

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.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS

*Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote,**
Peter Dichter, Jamie Sykes*

The Old Testament is a great religious work but it also contains many great stories that have influenced our literature and fine arts down through the centuries. We will explore these stories as literature as well as how they have been interpreted by visual artists, composers, poets and fiction writers.

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.

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY REVIVED

*Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote,**
Peter Dichter*

The human oral tradition goes back millennia, and it began with poetry. It was a way of communicating and telling stories about the world around us and who we are. In a fun, creative environment, we will continue this tradition as participants read aloud and interpret poetry and study meter, rhyme, alliteration, and other poetic elements that influence a poem's sound and meaning.

POWER: THE GLORY OF IT

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

Power: The word comes from the Latin word for "to be able." This course continues the prior semesters' presentations, which covered a whole range of 'powers': the ability to move things; to move people; to move emotions; to move ships at sea; to move other nations. Join us as we exercise our imaginations to explore the many meanings of power.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

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.

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 is required. An active interest will do.

ROCK & ROOTS ALBUMS

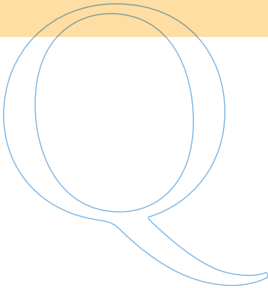
*Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**,
Wayne Cotter*

Explore the roots and branches of 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 CLUBHOUSE

*Coordinators: **Steve Allen**
Jim Brook, 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.



SPRING 2025 COURSES

SHAKESPEARE: CORIOLANUS **NEW**

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

The class will read aloud and discuss the last of Shakespeare's four "Roman" plays and one of his few political plays. Coriolanus is a tragic hero who more than anyone else is responsible for his own downfall. What he might have gained for the better qualities within himself, he threw away by his perpetual anger and willfulness. Written in 1608, its major themes of personal identity, power, and control (and the need for an educated populace) resonate today. (The Folger edition is preferred.)

TIMELESS WRITINGS **NEW**

*Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz,**
Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson,
Andrea Irvine*

What could be more intriguing than sharing the literary works that have endured the test of time, and engaged and inspired people worldwide for over a millennium? What can we — with our 21st Century education, mores, and values — discover between the covers of a book originally etched into a papyrus. For the first semester, we will explore several books of *The Iliad*, by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson.

SUPREME COURT

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

Certainly at no time in our recent history has the Supreme Court been more in the news, nor its members more controversial, nor its decisions more critical to the lives and well-being of all American citizens. In this course we will examine the composition of the Court and its recent (and pending) decisions.

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 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.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

WOMEN LEADERS **NEW**

*Coordinators: Laura Lopez,
Joan Vreeland*

The world is seeing more women leaders than ever before. Some have changed the course of history as prime ministers, presidents or parliamentarians. Others are engaged in science, medicine, economics, education, literature, and journalism. Women leaders include CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, Nobel Prize winners, inventors, church leaders, union leaders, chefs, and Olympic athletes. This course will showcase women leaders, past or present.

WORLD OF RELIGIONS

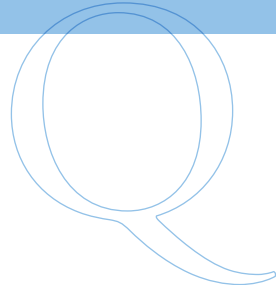
*Coordinators: Ruth Ward,
Bob Gottfried*

This is the second semester of a year-long course intended to serve as a general introduction to the basic religious concerns of humanity and the ways in which religions have developed in Eastern and Western history, giving intellectual, moral, and institutional expression to the meaning of human existence. In the fall semester of 2024 the World of Religions course featured presentations on Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shinto, and Sikhism. The spring 2025 continuation of the course will showcase American Indian religions, Gnostic Christianity, Mormonism, Pantheism, Taoism, and Zoroastrianism.

WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD: BILLY BUDD **NEW**

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

Billy Budd, a young sailor on a British warship, is court-martialed for the murder of his ship-board tormentor. The story is a brilliant study of the tragic clash between social authority and individual freedom, human justice and abstract good. *Billy Budd* has been called the best short novel ever written. In his brilliantly condensed prose, Herman Melville fashioned a legal parable in which reason and intellect prove incapable of preserving innocence in the face of evil. For all those who feel themselves threatened by a hostile and inflexible environment, there is special significance in this haunting story of a handsome sailor who becomes a victim of man's intransigence.



SPRING 2025 COURSES

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 Wednesday of the first A week of the month, from 12:10–12:55 pm.

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!

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.

LUNCHTIME SPANISH

Richard Elrauch, Ellen Rittberg

Our group is composed of people of varied Spanish-speaking abilities, and our aim is to enjoy ourselves and converse in Spanish. In each session, a class member will present a short presentation about some aspect of the Spanish language, Spanish-speaking countries, Spanish culture, Spanish newsmaker or prominent cultural figures, past or present. The rest of the time we will be chatting in Spanish and helping each other as needed.

SPRING 2025 COURSES

SOMETHING EXTRA

MONDAY NOONTIME MEDLEY

Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

Join us every Monday at noon, when we gather to indulge in the simple pleasures of life. Amidst shared meals, we immerse ourselves in a diverse array of artistic expressions — from vibrant paintings to soul-stirring melodies. It's a time to engage in unhurried conversations about literature, exchanging thoughts on cherished books or discovering new favorites. There are no fixed agendas, just the freedom to explore whatever piques our curiosity. Whether it's captivating artwork, a melodic tune, or the pages of a compelling book, we invite you to savor the richness of culture and camaraderie. Details are always in NWAQ.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Gale Spitalnik

The Social Committee brings Questers together for some exciting events such as a Wine & Cheese Party, a Valentines Singalong, a Back to School luncheon, Spring Fling, and more. We look for opportunities to learn more about each other in a social environment. All events take place at 25 Broadway.

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY NEW

Frank Montaturo, Tamara Weinberg

Are you an amateur photographer with a Smartphone full of photos? Would you like to improve your picture-taking skills, and see the images other Quest members are capturing? We hope to inspire each other to upgrade the quality of our Smartphone photography. In each class we will share photos, offer constructive criticism, and suggest interesting exhibits around town. Frank and Tamara will then introduce a theme to focus on for the sharing portion of the next class. Meets lunchtime every fortnight from 12:10 to 12:50 — details always in NWAQ.

SOLE MATES

Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine

And we're back with this popular fortnightly walk. Meet up at 2:45pm by the elevators on 7th floor where Marian and Andrea will lead us on a stroll along the Hudson River — finishing at a 'rest spot' for wine, coffee, bite to eat and to enjoy each other's company. No sign-ups, commitments, everyone welcome — details always in NWAQ.

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 & forming new relationships
- Exchanging ideas
- Social activities

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

Phone 212.925.6625 Ext.229 • **Email** questlifelong@gmail.com • **Web** www.questlifelong.org