



TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION

TASS

TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION SOPHOMORE SEMINARS

June 24–August 4, 2012

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Bloomington, Indiana

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor, Michigan



tass.tellurideassociation.org

A FREE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES

TASS

What Do TASSers* Do?

At each TASS, eighteen students live together in a residence hall at the host school and participate in a three-hour seminar that meets each weekday morning with two college teachers. The faculty members ask students to read carefully, consider controversial ideas from many perspectives, and express their ideas clearly in writing and discussion. In the afternoon and evening, TASSers complete reading, writing, and oral-presentation assignments with assistance from college-age tutors, watch films related to their seminar topic, and attend guest lectures.

But your summer won't be all work! Outside the classroom, students attend cultural events including plays, concerts, and dances; hone their public-speaking skills; explore the host institution; and forge lifelong friendships with other bright, highly motivated students.

**TASS students, that is!*

What Is TASS?

This summer, thirty-six bright, motivated high school sophomores will participate in one of two challenging six-week college-level seminars on different topics. Telluride Association works with university faculty members to create courses designed to inspire young people to pursue their interests in the histories and cultural experiences of people of African descent and other topics that address diversity in society. Because we believe that students should have the opportunity to pursue their ideals, we pay all of the costs for tuition, housing, and dining, as well as travel expenses when needed.

“TASS was an indescribable experience. I love words, but I just can't find the right combination of letters to describe how much I love my TASSMates, how I could literally see the connections my seminar made to the world around me, and how I found new parts of myself in the walks around Indiana University.”

—Chinyere Amanze, 2011 TASS student



TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION

Since 1911, Telluride Association has been committed to fostering the ideals of self-government, public service, and intellectual development by providing scholarships to young people to attend its innovative programs.

The Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar (TASS) has been a project of Telluride Association since 1993. Other programs include the Telluride Association Summer Programs (TASP), a six-week summer program for high school juniors, and a residential scholarship program for full-time students at Cornell University and the University of Michigan.

The 2012 programs are made possible in part by the bequest of Frank Monaghan in honor of Elmer M. “Johnny” Johnson and George Lincoln Burr. Johnny Johnson joined Telluride Association in 1915 and later served as chancellor of Telluride Association from 1930 to 1960. George Burr was a Cornell librarian from 1890 to 1922 and variously a Cornell professor of ancient, medieval, and modern history. He lived at Telluride House as a faculty fellow from 1915 to 1938.

For more information, visit: www.tellurideassociation.org or write to telluride@tellurideassociation.org



Who Teaches TASS?

Two accomplished university professors lead each seminar. All of our professors are very enthusiastic about the program and the opportunity it gives them to work with talented high school students. Indeed, many rank TASS as one of their most rewarding experiences.

In addition to the professors, there will be two Tutors at each location—college students, many of whom attended TASS themselves. The Tutors live with the students, working with them on their critical reading and writing skills and helping them create a tightly knit intellectual and social community in which the students aid each other in their academic work.

What Will I Get Out of TASS?

At the TASS you will sharpen the skills you'll need to compete in a college-level environment. You will improve your reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking, and computer skills as you explore your interests in and out of the seminar. No grades are assigned by the program, and no college credits are given.

So Who Pays for All This?

We do, with the support of the institutions that host the programs. For you, the participant, the program is completely free. Additionally, students with financial need can receive help with travel costs to and from the program. We can also offer stipends of up to \$500 to replace summer work earnings for students who would otherwise be unable to attend a summer program.

TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION SOPHOMORE SEMINARS

Don't Believe the Hype: Facing Cultural Misinformation about African Americans with Historical and Legal Truths

Mass Incarceration: Race, Punishment, and Contemporary Urban America

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

A. B. Assensoh, PhD, Department of African-American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

Yvette Marie Alex-Assensoh, PhD, JD, Office for Women's Affairs, Indiana University

Myths about African Americans are everywhere. From seemingly favorable portrayals of "natural sporting ability" to assumptions about "black criminality," these myths are firmly rooted in social, historical, political, and racial contexts that date to before America's founding. In this course we will examine these roots and their present-day manifestations as a way to deconstruct the myths, half-truths, and falsehoods that continue to affect African American experiences. Resistance through understanding will be our goal, and we will employ methods from legal studies, history, and politics, to get there.

By exploring the past and present of stereotypes, we will investigate the ways such stereotypes attained their current cultural prominence and status as "truth." We will also understand how contemporary culture reinforces these myths in the legal and political systems and

Indiana University is in the small city of Bloomington, about an hour's drive south of Indianapolis. During the summer, the residence halls, dining halls, and libraries are used by TASSers and other summer program students. Opportunities for recreation and enrichment range from bowling and quiet study at the Memorial Union to concerts at cultural facilities, pickup games at campus athletic facilities, and exhibits at the Black Culture Center.

The seminar will feature seminal books by Farai Chediya, Darrell Huff, and Kevin D. Brown, among other important scholars. Seminar students will also learn from media-based projects, role-playing activities, and close contact with seminar professors.

in popular media. The seminar will cover myths surrounding affirmative action, racial profiling, black professional athletes, the black vote and black patriotism, segregation and desegregation, diversity within the African-American community, and more. It will take us through the writing and thinking of important black activists and scholars as we understand the myths they faced and those they affected through their activism and advocacy. We will also examine how these myths have shaped communities and how those communities fought or reinforced particular myths at different times and for different reasons.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Ahmad Rahman, PhD, Department of History, University of Michigan, Dearborn

Stephen Ward, PhD, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Which country has the highest incarceration rate in the world? Which country has the greatest racial disparity in its incarceration patterns and practices? In which country has the number of people incarcerated over the past three decades steadily increased, many for nonviolent drug offenses, while crime rates have actually decreased? The answer to each of these questions is the same: the United States. More than two million people are currently in the nation's prisons and jails, and millions more are on probation, tether, and parole. A defining element of this explosion in incarceration is its racial dimension, with African Americans (and especially young black men) facing extraordinary levels of policing, arrests, and imprisonment. These troubling facts reflect the social crisis of mass incarceration. This seminar examines the forces that have created this crisis and the impact it has had on the country and on African American communities in particular.

Among the historical, political, and economic developments that we will examine are the Attica prison revolt and figures such as Angela Davis and George Jackson; the impact of the war on drugs, crack cocaine, mandatory sentencing, and other policies; the rise of privatized prisons; the concept of the prison-industrial complex; racial profiling and other mechanisms of racial disparity in the criminal justice system; the impact of mass incarceration on black men, black women, and the communities from which they come; felon disfranchisement and other challenges for returning citizens; renewed debates over the death penalty; the relationship between Hip Hop, black popular culture, and the criminal justice system; restorative justice; and finally, contemporary activism responding to and seeking to end mass incarceration.

The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, a college town an hour's drive from Detroit, is home to the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, one of the most renowned departments of its kind in the country. With a rich history of promoting diversity, and as many as 700 active student groups, Ann Arbor provides a vibrant setting enriched with cultural events and activities.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

High school sophomores are invited to apply to TASS. African American high school sophomores, high school sophomores from other historical minorities, as well as high school sophomores with an interest in African American studies are especially encouraged to apply. You need not have prior academic experience in this field. You can receive an application by mail, download it from our web site, or apply online at tass.tellurideassociation.org.

The application asks essay questions because we want to learn more about your personal and academic interests and abilities. With a large sample of your best work, we will be able to make our decision based upon who you really are, not on just your grades. Your application must be postmarked by January 6, 2012. Applications submitted online are due a few days later on January 9, 2012.

We encourage you to apply online by going to tass.tellurideassociation.org.

Students who are selected for interviews will need to request a transcript and letter of recommendation immediately following notification from Telluride Association in early March. Further instructions will be given at that time. Applicants selected as finalists are interviewed in March and April. Final admissions decisions are made in early May. Please contact our office if you or your parents have any questions.



APPLY ONLINE!

TASS.TELLURIDEASSOCIATION.ORG

Or send application to:

Administrative Director

Telluride Association
217 West Avenue
Ithaca, NY 14850

Telluride Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability.

Telluride Association occasionally shares applicants' names and addresses with our partner institutions for the purpose of informing them of scholarship and other opportunities.

Applicants who plagiarize all or part of their application will not be considered for admission to the program. Students who plagiarize all or part of their application will have their application returned to them. Telluride Association and its officers may also, at its own discretion, contact the staff of these students' respective schools in order to notify them of any instance of plagiarism.

It is the policy of Telluride Association not to grant any special consideration, positive or negative, to students who apply to summer programs when those students have a parent or sibling who has participated in or been employed by a TA program.

Immediate family members of TASS faculty are ineligible for the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 607.273.5011

E-mail: telluride@tellurideassociation.org



TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION

To apply online go to

tass.tellurideassociation.org



"It would not be hyperbolic to say that the seminar was the most engaging class that I have taken. The lively debates, complex subject matter, and sheer rawness pertaining to reality were all crucial components that made it so amazing."

—2011 TASS student



Some TASSers attend TASP, the Telluride program for high school juniors, in the summer following their TASS. Many also apply for the full room-and-board scholarships at our residential houses at Cornell and the University of Michigan, where they explore the unique educational opportunities Telluride offers while pursuing studies on campus.

Other TASSers go on to attend fine schools like Indiana, Syracuse, Stanford, Spelman, Purdue, and Harvard. Many TASS alumni credit much of their success—both in college and in their professional lives—to the skills they began to develop with us.