

**Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar 2021 Call for Proposals**

Telluride Association’s mission is to prepare and inspire promising students to lead and serve through free, transformative educational experiences rooted in critical thinking and democratic community. The Telluride Association is committed to extending opportunities to students regardless of their socioeconomic status, and strives to not reproduce social inequities in access to higher education. As such, Telluride Association and its university partners provide tuition, room, and board for all participating students. A work replacement stipend is also granted to students, if necessary. Among our programs, the Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar (TASS) is a free summer program for a small number of motivated high school sophomores that builds immersive, Black-centered learning communities rooted in critical thinking and democratic community.

The Telluride Association is looking for faculty pairs who will collaboratively design and teach a challenging six-week seminar course for TASS students focused on critical Black and ethnic studies. Through topical exploration of their respective subfields, faculty will introduce students to academic reading and writing. Applicants should have a track record of excellent teaching and either an advanced degree or a history of exemplary cultural work or intellectual production.

The Telluride Association defines critical Black studies as the study of Black life that centers Black people as subject while critically analyzing the cultures and contexts in which black people find themselves, both past and present; we define critical ethnic studies as the critical analysis of history, visual/musical/theatrical art, food ways, travel, politics, literature, philosophy, and more that challenges the limitations placed on—and the omissions committed against—marginalized knowledges.

Recent seminars have concerned citizenship, the Harlem Renaissance, creative arts, and health disparities. While seminars may incorporate occasional lectures, they should be focused on dialogue and exchange. A complete list of recent seminar topics can be found on Telluride Associations website and is linked [here](https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/sophomore-seminar-tass/past-topics-faculty-sophomore/). Successful proposals often employ interdisciplinary approaches and creative pedagogical methods.

Instructors work collaboratively with program staff leaders or “factotums,” who help prep for seminars before the program and aid students with seminar readings and assignments outside of class. Factotums can participate in the seminar as much as faculty would like, but primarily serve as logistical assistance to faculty. Factotums also oversee all non-academic aspects of the program and community, including facilitating and guiding the self-governance of the student participants. They are directly supervised by the TASS committee leadership throughout the summer.

Seminars meet five days a week from 9 am to 12 pm each day and should strive to incorporate student discussion, faculty led activities, student presentations, field trips, and skills workshops. Both members of hired faculty pairs are expected to attend each day of seminar throughout the course of the program.

In the summer of 2021, TASS seminars will run from late June to early August. Each seminar will host 14-16 students and each TASS site (Cornell University and the University of Maryland College Park) will host two seminars to create a 28-32 student community.\* We are looking to hire one faculty pair to teach a seminar at Cornell\*\* and two faculty pairs to teach at the University of Maryland in the summer of 2021.

\*Each faculty pair will work with the same 14-16 students in their seminar throughout the program and are not responsible for student life outside of their seminar and seminar-related field trips.

\*\*One faculty pair had already been hired in 2019 to teach one seminar at Cornell in 2021. Summer 2021 will be the first year that TASS seminars will be hosted at the University of Maryland.

**Program Overview**

The Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar Program (TASS) brings together a small, diverse group of intellectually curious high school sophomores for an intensive six-week residential program with a focus on critical Black and ethnic studies.

During the program, TASS students participate in a college-level seminar, community self- governance, a public speaking program, and a service project guided by graduate and college-age program staff (factotums). As the intellectual cornerstone of the program, the seminar grounds students’ experience of self-government and service in critical, engaged study and inspires conversations that carry over into their everyday life. TASS aims to draw students to this unique intellectual community based on its intrinsic rewards, and as such, participants are not awarded grades or college credit.

Life at TASS extends well beyond academic exploration. One of the program's remarkable features is that the students are responsible for organizing most of their out-of-classroom time through weekly group meetings and through smaller committees. This element of self-governance is an essential part of the TASS experience. Students plan all kinds of activities, including group-wide discussions, field games, community service projects, music and theater events, reading groups, and excursions to state parks and art museums. Participants also share responsibility for keeping their environment clean and safe. Between all of these organized events, TASS students always find time for impromptu discussions, movie going, and pickup sports.

**Compensation and Duties**

Each instructor will receive a stipend of $14,500 for program preparation, six weeks of teaching, a general program review, and substantial written evaluations of all participating students. Out- of-town faculty receive an additional stipend of up to $1,000 to help defray relocation expenses.

**Application Materials Required**

The TASS Committee selects faculty pairs on the basis of their ability to teach a seminar as outlined above, to collaborate effectively with each other and program staff, and to foster a dynamic, inclusive intellectual community.

Please submit all of the following materials to teach.tass@tellurideassociation.org in PDF form:

(1) A cover letter. In your cover letter please indicate any site placement preference you might have.

(2) A 300-500 word course description that includes course goals and objectives.

(3) A draft syllabus with reading list and assignments.

(4) An illustrative five-page sample from a central reading.

(5) A joint teaching statement. In your joint teaching statement please be sure to address the following questions: What are your individual teaching pedagogies and how do they complement each other ? How might/does your collaboration look in a classroom setting? What are your joint teaching goals?

(6) CVs for both instructors.

Kindly note that all applicants must be able to produce a completed Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, in order to be eligible.

**Application Timeline**

Faculty Application materials listed above should be sent via email to teach.tass@tellurideassociation.org in PDF form by **Friday, May 1st, 2020.** Applicants selected for interviews will be notified by Friday, May 11th and interviewed via phone or video conference the weekend of May 16th (these latter dates are tentative).

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.

Please direct any inquiries to the TASS Committee at tass@tellurideassociation.org, or visit [our website](https://www.tellurideassociation.org/) for more information.