

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT:

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY PRIOR TO PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

We welcome your interest in applying to the UNCF/Mellon International Faculty Seminar!

The 2012 Mellon Faculty Seminar in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil

Race, Rights and Rebellion

Facilitator: Dr. Keisha-Khan Y. Perry,
Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, Brown University

How are black struggles for cultural recognition linked to dismantling everyday and institutional forms of gendered and class-based racism and gaining access to vital material resources? Why and how do black women, who comprise the vast majority of poor workers, lead social movements? These are just two of the questions about black Brazilian culture and politics we will attempt to answer in this seminar. Through this exploration, we will come to understand how black Brazilian scholarship, cultural production and social activism have come to be simultaneously grounded in nationalist thought, African diasporic consciousness, racial identification, and grassroots politics.

The seminar will take place in Salvador, the capital city of Brazil's northeastern state of Bahia. The black population constitutes the majority of the urban population, one of the largest in the world second only to Lagos, Nigeria. Despite this impressive black presence, blacks represent just a small minority in government, higher education, and the city's elite. Since slavery times, blacks have always been engaged in arduous struggles over the use, control and ownership of urban space. This seminar will focus on past and present-day organized struggles, social protests, uprisings and rebellions as they intersect with race, culture and rights. From anti-slavery revolts to struggles for land rights, affirmative action and religious tolerance, this seminar will emphasize how peoples of African descent in Bahia, and in Brazil at large, have employed notions of citizenship rights and societal resources grounded in cultural difference. Moreover, transforming how Brazilian society views blacks culturally, socially, and intellectually represents a significant aspect of black social movements' claims to citizenship rights such as land, health care, housing, education, religious freedom and a clean environment.

To this end, the seminar will give much attention to black Bahian scholarship and political leadership, as well as gendered activism, particularly black women's participation in social movement organizations. Not only will this illuminate the ways in which they are social movement actors in neighborhood struggles for land and housing rights, against police abuse and brutality, etc., but it also provides a deeper understanding of how black women's cultural and political work has historically improved the social conditions of black communities collectively. A central goal of our work will, in part, involve bringing black voices, especially that of black women, to the forefront of academic debates and discourses on black activism in Bahia, as well as to explore the theoretical relationship between race, gender, class, culture, power and politics. As such, seminar readings and discussions will draw upon an interdisciplinary array of critical scholarship in anthropology, history, feminist thought, critical race theory, music and literature. Guest lecturers will include key feminist scholars, Bahian scholars, social justice advocates, artists, and religious leaders. Ultimately, an examination of the cultural and political agency of black Brazilian people will expand our knowledge of the global struggle for liberation and citizenship, as well as properly locate Bahian history and culture within the context of diasporic struggle for rights.

MELLON FACULTY SEMINAR DATE: JULY 5-15, 2012

ELIGIBILITY

The Mellon Faculty Seminars were conceived as enrichment opportunities for faculty who teach at the member colleges and universities of the United Negro College Fund. The Selection Committee invites applications from tenure-track and tenured faculty trained or teaching in Mellon disciplines and fields. The Mellon Faculty Seminars will be composed of both junior and senior scholars who hold faculty appointments at UNCF institutions and junior and senior faculty scholars from Salvador, Bahia.

Faculty projects may contribute to scholarly knowledge in a discipline or field, or to the general public's understanding of scholarship in the academy. The work of recipients should result in publication, exhibition, curricular reform or some other concrete product. Like the Faculty Seminars, projects must be based in Mellon supported fields and disciplines. These fields and disciplines are: Anthropology, Area Studies, Art History, Classics, Computer Science, Demography, Earth Science, Ecology, English, Ethnomusicology, Foreign Languages, Geology, History, Literature, Mathematics, Musicology, Philosophy, Physics, Political Theory, Religion, Sociology, Women's Studies and other fields that employ historical and philosophical methods.

THE AWARD

The award covers the expenses associated with participation in the Mellon Faculty Seminar. The award includes the following for each seminar participant:

- One round trip ticket from Atlanta, GA to Salvador, Bahia
- A private room and board during the period of the faculty seminar
- \$500.00 for a book allowance in order to purchase required reading materials for the seminar
- \$500.00 for a book allowance for course development and research

If selected, faculty members are required to participate in all activities associated with the Mellon Faculty Seminar, including excursions to historical sites.

In order to stimulate the dissemination and interrogation of themes and questions central to the Mellon Faculty Seminars, upon their return, seminar participants are required to present their Mellon supported research in colloquia and conferences.

TRAVEL TO BRAZIL

This program is not suitable for persons who have had recent surgeries or who have chronic medical conditions that impair their motor abilities. In addition, the terrain in Salvador is not friendly to persons with mobility challenges. All citizens of the United States and certain other countries traveling to Brazil are required to have a valid passport and a visa. There are currently no required immunizations for entry into Brazil. Applicants should be advised that the physical, cultural and linguistic environment of Brazil may be challenging. Partners, spouses, children and others may **not** accompany seminar participants during the seminar. Seminar participants may arrange for partners, spouses, children and others to travel to join them during the final days of the Seminar and at their own expense. Seminar participants must consult with the UNCF/Mellon Programs office **prior** to making arrangements for others to join them in Brazil.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be typed and must consist of the original and **four photocopies** of the following materials.

- ❖ A completed application form
- ❖ A one-page abstract that summarizes the project's purpose, goals and objectives
- ❖ A one-page detailed description of the project that contains mention of the importance of the project to the applicant's disciplinary field of inquiry as well as the impact of the project upon pedagogy
- ❖ A full discussion of how the applicant's proposed project is related to the theme and content of the seminar (2 pages maximum)
- ❖ A curriculum vitae
- ❖ Two letters of recommendation
- ❖ A letter from the Provost **or** Dean of Faculty confirming the applicant's status as a tenure track or tenured member of the faculty
- ❖ A copy of the applicant's passport

Applications are reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee of specialists and scholars. Abstracts and project descriptions should be written with the composition of the Selection Committee in mind.

DEADLINE

The deadline for the 2012 Mellon Faculty Seminar applications is **January 13, 2012**. Applications are considered once each year. Applications must be postmarked no later than the deadline. Applications sent by e-mail and fax will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified by February 24, 2012. For information applicants may contact Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence at cspence@spelman.edu.

Mail full application materials **unbound** by the postmark deadline to:

**Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, Director
UNCF/Mellon Programs
350 Spelman Lane
Box 333
Atlanta, GA 30314**

NO APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED BY FAX OR EMAIL

For further information, please contact our programs office at 404.270.5685 or 404.270.5686. Additional information and copies of this application are also available on our website: www.uncfmellon.org

APPLICATION

DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2012 (POSTMARKED)

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: _____

Applicant's Position/Title: _____

Area(s) of Specialization: _____

UNCF Institution: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Business phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Check One: Male Female Date of Birth: _____

Citizenship: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____

Title of Applicant's Project: _____

REFERENCES

Please provide the names and complete addresses, including postal codes, of the two persons who will be writing letters of recommendation.

1) Name of Referee: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

2) Name of Referee: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____