Civil Rights and Educational Equity in the U.S.

June 2–August 8, 2014
Professor David Cunningham

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
This hands-on, community-engaged JBS program will allow students to build on and extend Brandeis’ distinguished history of involvement with the Civil Rights Movement and related educational equity campaigns. Students will spend time in both Massachusetts and Mississippi, working in conjunction with the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University to engage in a national conversation assessing the state of school desegregation. In partnership with related grassroots campaigns, students will divide their time between classroom-based work and field research tied to specific school districts in both states. Working with each other and with local people, participants will have the unique opportunity to apply social scientific frameworks to produce original knowledge about social movements, education policy, municipal politics, and the reproduction of racial inequity. In turn, these research products will contribute to a broader educational justice movement.

CURRICULUM
SOC 156aj Social Change in American Communities
SOC 97bj Group Readings and Research
SOC 104aj Sociology of Education

ABOUT JBS
JBS takes two methods of study — classroom training and experiential learning — and joins them in a unique curriculum that enables you to engage fully in a topic you are passionate about.

JBS ALLOWS YOU TO:
› earn 12 credits
› build close relationships with faculty and peers
› engage with the community
› open avenues for internships
› expand your network
› acquire skills for your future
› fulfill many university requirements

APPLICATION DEADLINE
March 1, 2014: Priority Deadline
March 15, 2014: Final Deadline
Applications are reviewed on a rolling admissions basis until the closing deadline.

Limited financial aid is available.

“Being able to work directly in the community using the skills I learned in the classroom, was personally fulfilling. Having the ability to meet and speak to many of the men and women who participated in the civil rights movement was one of the greatest benefits gained from this experience.”

2011 Civil Rights JBS Student
JBS Advantages

Students in JBS will experience learning in a different way. The programs connect select faculty and students to explore academic and real world topics in innovative and engaging ways. Through inspired teaching, students engage their learning in small programs that focus on unique topics. This immersive approach will help students broaden their academic knowledge while also honing practical skills applicable to their post-college careers.

JBS ADVANTAGES INCLUDE:

SMALL CLASS SIZES
Participants in this program will build a strong network of professors and peers. With the benefit of small class sizes, learning will become a collaborative process, as professors are able to engage students on a more personal level, and students and their peers share their own ideas and experiences.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE
Through field-based research, community-engaged learning, and internships the program helps prepare students for life after college. Students not only see firsthand what it might be like to work in their field of interest, they also are able to forge relationships with professionals in that field.

INCREASED INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
The competition for a summer internship can be intense, and it may be difficult to land your first choice. So why not expand your options by completing an internship during the school year? With the credits you earn during the JBS summer program, you’ll be able to take some time during the fall or spring semester to work or to complete an internship.

FULFILLMENT OF ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS/ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY
As a participant in JBS, you’ll find that you can easily meet some general requirements while also engaging in this unique academic experience. And, by fulfilling your requirements now, you’ll have time for electives or internships later.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES
Much like grad school, JBS is focused in a particular subject area. As such, the program can give you a glimpse into whether the topic you are engaged in is something you would like to pursue further in graduate studies. In addition, the experience gained through the program could help you stand out as a candidate for grad school.

HELPS FULFILL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT
For Brandeis students: A JBS semester also counts toward the Brandeis University residency requirement of seven full-time semesters at Brandeis in order to graduate with a Brandeis degree.

“This learning environment is much more conducive to gaining fuller, more rooted knowledge, as it enables students to make personal connections with the course material.”

JBS Summer 2010 student

A Justice Brandeis Semester (JBS) is an engaging, immersive academic program in which small groups of students explore a thematic topic through inquiry-based courses linked to real-world experiential opportunities.

JBS field-based research, creative work, community-engaged learning, or internships allow students to:

> gain real-world experience through experiential learning.
> build close relationships with professors and small groups of students.
> acquire skills that will make them stand apart from their peers after college.