

**University of Pennsylvania, School of Design**  
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PennDesign is home to graduate programs in City & Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, Historic Preservation, Architecture, and Fine Arts. It offers a creative and technology-rich environment for research, teaching, and learning.



The Mapping Du Bois project is now in its seventh year. Directed by Assistant Professor of City & Regional Planning, Amy Hillier, the project aims to engage high school students and the broader public in a dialog about race using W.E.B. Du Bois's 1899 classic book, *The Philadelphia Negro*, as its springboard. Du Bois came to

Philadelphia in 1896 – 1897 to study the problems that blacks living in Center City between Spruce and South Streets—the heart of the black community—faced. To date, our team—which has included nine Haverford students—has created an online interactive mapping system of the area Du Bois surveyed using 1900 US Census data and geographic information system (GIS) technology. During the spring of 2010, we released our 20-minute documentary, “A Legacy of Courage: W.E.B. Du Bois and *The Philadelphia Negro*.” During the spring of 2012, we will test out the newest version of our board game, “The Ward: Race and Class in Philadelphia’s Seventh Ward” and our five-day high school curriculum.

During the summer of 2012, our team will focus on completing and revising our five-day high school curriculum. Those lessons include:

**Lesson 1:** documentary followed by discussion about relevance of Du Bois’ research today

**Lesson 2:** 10-minute Google Earth video biography of Du Bois; students analyze primary source documents relating to politics, health, education, arts & media, social environment, physical environment, work & industry, or sports & leisure.

**Lesson 3:** Role-play of door-to-door survey. One or more students play the role of Du Bois and prepare an interview schedule. The rest of the class become Seventh Ward residents and review 1900 manuscript census data in preparation for their interviews with Du Bois. The desks/chairs become individual row houses.

**Lesson 4:** Board game based on 7th ward map, intended to give students the experience of living in the 7th ward.

**Lesson 5:** Intended to reinforce the ongoing importance of Du Bois' work and issues of race, students read and act out, then create their own, dialogs between people of different races/ethnicities. Quotes from *The Philadelphia Negro* are also used to help students make connections to contemporary social issues.

Several high school classes will be testing our draft curriculum this spring, so we will be able to revise the lessons based on their feedback. Lessons 1, 3 and 5 are well-developed so we will focus our attention on lessons 2 and 4.

## **Necessary Skills**

The key ingredient for a successful experience on this project really is curiosity and initiative. This project has been greatly enriched by the creative suggestions of the wide range of team members. Experience with archival research and ability to work with others are also very helpful. Video editing and/or graphic skills are not expected but would be a plus. Students interested in urban and African American history who have a strong commitment to social justice will probably get the most out of this experience. Working on this project will give an intern an opportunity to develop their archival research and writing skills as well as experience developing curriculum.

## **Special Challenges**

Students working on the Mapping Du Bois project will not be in a typical agency or institutional environment. The School of Design is a quiet place in the summer, and while the project director is committed to providing regular supervision, the student intern will need to be able to structure their time and work independently. The on-going nature of the project could also be a challenge. While we hope to complete specific parts of this project this summer, our work will be a small part of a much larger effort. Hopefully a student intern will be able to focus on the trees but still see the forest.

## **Special Rewards**

The flexibility and relaxed atmosphere of this internship might be particularly welcome to an intern. Being at the University of Pennsylvania provides numerous opportunities for attending lectures and events, and being in the city means that there is a near infinite number of new places to visit. Student interns are expected to explore the city—including archives and historical sites—as part of their work. The Mapping Du Bois project has also been a fun project for most of us who have worked on it, and students have developed a sense of ownership to the larger project.

## **Work Environment**

The student intern will work in the project office, a fairly large room with four computer work stations and a conference table, in the School of Design. While previous students have worked a regular work week (9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday), a student intern would be welcome to develop their own schedule (including weekends or evenings) since much of the work will be done independently. Students should expect to travel throughout the city for research and to visit sites and museums. Amy Hillier, the project director, will provide supervision.