

## TEACHER as SCHOLARS

### Teacher Comments 2009-10

#### Acton Boxborough Regional Schools

Awesome course! Will use a significant amount of this information in my classroom. Professor Dowling was excellent in his skill in reaching scientist and nonscientist alike with this difficult material. One of the BEST professional development opportunities for me in a looooong time! Thank you!

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

Great experience, would come again - very helpful with providing a new paradigm through which to view and teach history.

Thank You! Wish I could sit in on a class or two with Prof. Ferguson- see the idea in action so to speak

-Would have liked time to process discussion for solutions/ideas with other teachers.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

It was a great course with a dynamic and relevant teacher. The pacing of the class tried to be inclusive for all participants. The perspective of the high school teachers made me rethink my presentation of solving systems in Algebra I, and Kim was the initiator of this thinking process. I immediately went to my classroom after the 1st session and told them that matrices are relevant, and actually used in many applications.

*Middle School Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Linear Algebra is Everywhere!*

Very informative - good overview of Asian Art in 3 days. I came in with very little knowledge and these 3 days have helped give me a bit of a framework for gathering information for learning on my own. I liked being able to see the artwork first hand in the galleries, the connections made between cultures and the breadth of seeing various forms of art. Thank you Mimi

*Visual Arts Administrator*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

Excellent class- Richard Grossman was an amazing expert and explained things in a way that I, as a novice, could really understand. I was a bit uncomfortable putting together a presentation because I am nowhere near expert or knowledgeable in this field.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

Entertaining and informative, Graeme Bird gave us a great deal to think about, and to literally work with during these two sessions. An enjoyable respite from a busy teaching schedule...but plenty of fuel to use once back in the classroom.

Very nicely organized.

Thank you!

*Secondary Teacher, World Language*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

Very informative and interesting seminar. I would be interested in exploring more in the area of emotional functioning related to the brain, specifically with mental illness.

*Secondary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

Really enjoyed the class; learned a lot about what I read in the paper. Biology is not my background but I found myself able to follow--Kelly was clear and explained things well. I would recommend this course to other science teachers that I work with.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Science and the Media: The Fact Behind the Fiction*

I took this course to step out of my comfort course of knowledge and learn about interesting and related topics. What a stimulating treat it has been! From the first moment, Professor Stang created a comfortable environment, reassuring me that no background knowledge is ok! And an environment coupled with fascinating texts, generated thought provoking discussion and has left me wanting to learn ever more about the lost gospels.

Text choices were fine! Thomas was more accessible and with knowledge of canonical gospel, I was able to compare Thomas with them. Judas went over my head a bit when I read it on my own, but Professor Stang explained those confusing/bizarre parts as well. I'd keep Judas as one of the texts- it provides very different information, views on a variety of topics (ex. creationism) and the character of Judas is intriguing to people and referred to often in public culture. I wish the course were one more day with another text. I'm bummed it's over. I would take another course with Charlie, any topic, Professor Stang.

Recognizing that budget cuts are coming, I hope my district continues with TAS next year. It's reassuring that teachers are students sometimes, to keep us current, challenge our minds, enable us to connect with other teachers, learn context to bring back to our classrooms, and to give us an example of solid teaching which Professor Stang did. I thought about my teaching a lot when I was in the classroom and out and how I can improve.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

Really enjoyed this class!! Graeme is a delight and I really felt in tune with look at etymology. Made a ton of connections that I will take with and pass on to my students. A nice combination of straight word dissection (so fun!) and seeing their literary counterparts in action. Also, Graeme is great fit for this program--his approach is very intellectual but not too... a nice fit, in other words, for the wide variety of teachers and levels of K-12, as seen here.

Thank you!

*Secondary Teacher, World Language*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

What an incredible experience. Very intellectually stimulating and challenging, but in a friendly collegial atmosphere. Graeme's style was a mixture of expertise and humor and he tried to draw on the knowledge of those in the course. He is open to interesting digressions that inspired me as a linguist and educator.

Thank you!

*Middle School, English Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

Energizing to be with a group of passionate educators who are also passionate learner; exploring a topic that can grow our “brains and hearts” and remind us once again why we love to learn and teach

Expanded my understanding, thinking, and questions on Islam

- in its many variations and manifestations
- civil vs. religious laws in various countries and cultures
- gender roles within the religion - the shifting realities and challenges
- concept of Jihad in its various “religious” manifestations
- challenged me to continue to read/ reflect on Islam and current issues that are impacted by religious commitment/ fervor

I have participated in TAS several times and have NEVER been disappointed. It is a gift to be able to choose a topic of personal interest, read, reflect, discuss, learn, and expand brain and heart on such a complex and important wide-ranging global topic

Maura Henry, our instructor,

- Offered manageable and fascinating readings
- Clearly knowledgeable and current on topic(s)
- Conveyed intellectual and personal passion on topic
- Encouraged comments and questions
- Effectively facilitated lively discussions
- Modeled joy of teaching

Thank you, Henry, and TAS folks for these opportunities. They let us take a breath, experience the joy (and sometimes the frustration/ challenge!) of learning, and always remind me of how lucky I am to be a passionate educator.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Women in Modern Muslim Women*

### Arlington Schools

Nothing is offered to me as a teacher that is as comprehensive and interesting and relevant as TAS. I've participated in three and all three have directly influenced my teaching. It's excellent to be in a classroom with other teachers. It reminds me of excellent teaching and I'm able to go back to my classroom inspired. I don't know that this room was the best room for a film class. The TV was pretty small and no way to dim the lights. The sound in the room was also pretty 'live' and it was difficult to understand the films. Julie Levinson was exceptionally well organized and informed.

*Secondary Performing Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

Great mixing of history and literary analysis. A powerful way of learning history. Important to spend time with adults, exchange of ideas. Especially interesting discussions on role of language and how it relates to identity.

*Grade 5 Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

Roseanna Warren conducts the seminar with authority and generosity. She guides us into and through and out of poems while worlds open up and we are transformed in the process. Lucid, astute, she gives us the tools and the platform to become richer readers.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

Very interesting, in depth seminar. A lot to take back to the classroom. A pleasure to be out of the classroom for such a great educational experience.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

What a wonderful seminar! Margery knows so much about the history, politics and culture of Spain. The readings were excellent and informative. I particularly enjoyed the Giles Tremlett book. Thank you for offering this course. As a teacher, it's so nice to have the opportunity to take a professional development

courses that pertinent to the subject I teach.

*Middle School Teacher*

*From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

### Bedford Schools

This is my second TAS workshop with Mimi- she is wonderful! So knowledgeable and a great storyteller. She makes connections between the art, the history and the culture and the religions. I look forward to taking another workshop with Mimi, and March is a great time in the school year to have this.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

This class was wonderful in every way. I came with no preconceptions and barely had time to do the assignment, but so much has grown from that. The group was so inspiring and Susan's comments and directions were very helpful. I feel like I have a lot of ideas to continue with in my own art, and a number of good projects to do with my classes.

As a teacher, I never have time for my own art so this was a real treat. I'm sure my newfound inspiration will influence my classes. Thank you, TAS.

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Making Art in Hard Times*

I have taken 4 TAS courses in the past. They gave me valuable material that I have used directly in my classes. Of the courses that I have had at TAS, Professor Ruane's presentation was the best. I will be applying her ideas in my teaching. Please have Professor Ruane back next year to teach Abstract Algebra

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Linear Algebra is Everywhere*

I enjoyed both classes tremendously. The sessions were refreshing!

I particularly loved leaving each class with a greater love for poetry and analysis. While I am not ready to write myself, I have a greater appreciation of different works and poets.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

The Amazing Brain was a great class in understanding the development of the brain and how it functions in children's physical, emotional and personality development and growth.

*Secondary Visual Arts*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed my TAS course "Women in the

Modern Muslim World." Maura is incredibly knowledgeable and engaging. The readings that she provided were thought provoking and relevant. I came to this class with little knowledge on the subject and now feel as though I now have a good foundation. I appreciated the bibliography that she provided as well. This course exceeded my expectations and I look forward to participating in Harvard TAS in the future.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

I enjoyed the seminar very much. John was terrific today so I wish he had been here last Friday. Zoe was terrific both days. There is a lot in the book we didn't get to cover that I have been enjoying reading. And I bit I can use in my lit classes. So, thanks.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

This was a wonderful opportunity to be a student and learn about what makes human beings tick. This is a renewal opportunity and, hard as it is to take a day off from school, I feel refreshed and renewed when I return to work.

*SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

Wonderful two day experience! Julie was an incredibly knowledgeable presenter. Her selection of films and clips brought out stimulating discussions and gave me the opportunity to learn a great deal about an area I find interesting but have little exposure to in the past. I appreciate her ability to allow me to look at film in a new way.

*Middle School Secondary Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

I found this class to be very thoughtful and provoking. Had I read these books on my own, I don't think I would have one tenth of the understanding I do now. I'm generally dealing with middle school curriculum. It is not often that I feel this intellectually stimulated by this level of thought. Charles Stang is very well versed in this subject matter but also presented an open mindedness to new ideas and interpretations. He answered each question respectfully and was an excellent discussion facilitator. I felt that the Gospel of Thomas lent itself to more discussion than Judas. It might be nice to spread the class out over more than 2 weeks to offer more reading time and discuss Judas and Mary on the same day. Thank you for a truly enlightening opportunity.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospel*

Richard is a delight! Knowledgeable and a pleasure to spend two days with. The program is excellent. It gave me a chance to both refresh myself in areas that I hadn't explored in the recent past but also add a lot to my knowledge.

I loved the ability to explore an area of interest I our homework. Richard presented to us, teased out imagination, then allowed us to read and do a presentation in that area.

*Reading Specialist*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

This class was very deep- sometimes too intellectual for me, lots of reading but great book. Really enjoyed our book discussion. Would use more video excerpts maybe. Teacher was great. Room in Hillel was FREEZING. Overall good class but I wouldn't recommend it to a teacher friend. It was my third choice. I am trying to connect my teaching to this subject and wish we had talked more about that in this class maybe. I feel the more I learn about this topic the more confused I am! But, some great discussions.

*Health Educator*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

### Belmont Hill School

Jeff's TAS course was very eye opening and informative. For someone like myself who teaches a class in French cinema, I now have a lot more in the way of ideas, activities, suggestions, etc. that I can bring back to my own classroom.

Congrats to Jeff for recharging my own interest in the Nouvelle vague and other genres born out of this movement.

Merci beau coup!

*Secondary Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

Brilliant man, wonderful seminar. Especially enjoyed practical applications to working with children. Very comprehensive.

Thank you!!

*Secondary Guidance Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

This was a VERY interesting course. The lab time added to the class (hands on experience is always beneficial) The material was explained very well and in a way that a non-biology student could understand. Your book was very interesting and helpful to the understanding of the seminar. I hope to have the opportunity to take another TAS seminar. John is a WONDERFUL teacher and just a brilliant man.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

As we have a history class in which we study Iraq (with a section devoted to Islam), it was important for me to get some more information on the role of women in Islam. It more than met my expectations. Maura had an encyclopedic knowledge of the topic and was very enthusiastic about sharing this information. Maura did a great job of balancing a lot of information in a relatively short period of time. She was receptive to questions and discussions related to the subject matter

As with my first TAS program last year, this was an enjoyable and educational experience. The teacher was great; additionally, the attendees brought some great life experiences and knowledge to each day

*High School Librarian*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### Belmont Schools

Fantastic math professor- of most interest to me was watching Ann teach combinatorics rather than the actual problems. Gave us time to make mistakes and learn.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

Very enjoyable and informative seminar- a great break from the day-to-day grind of teaching. Also- excellent selection of readings. My only suggestion would be incorporating more concrete tips for teaching this material and incorporating it into the curriculum. (the lesser known works that aren't part of the curriculum "canon".) But, all in all, I really enjoyed this opportunity to engage with other educators on a higher intellectual level.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

Lovely! I already knew much of this material, as I had taught it already this year, but John provided me with a lot of anecdotes and new methods for teaching the material. Teachers as Scholars has been a fabulous experience, a break from being one in charge, opportunity to be a student, and momentary re-immersion in scientific academia, which is refreshing. Thank you so much for this opportunity. John--if you ever have a desire to talk to some brilliant high school students I run a lecture series at Belmont High School.

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I found the class at times very useful and at other times a bit frustrating. As much as I enjoy spirited discussion and debate, I was hoping for a little more usage of the resources I could use effectively in my class. The book is interesting and

enjoyable but I could've enjoyed a little more discussion on how to use this literature effectively with my students in 8th grade. I don't think any lesson plans are needed but just more discussion on the application of these valuable resources. I enjoyed hearing from Ms. Trodd and Mr. Stauffer very much. They did a great job of steering discussion back to the literature integrating their own expertise. I will use the book at some point in my class. It has a lot of sources that are well organized.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*  
*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

### Beverly Public Schools

This intellectually stimulating experience is so refreshing, so energizing. The discussion of such thought provoking issues inspires critical thinking that is not commonly an aspect of our daily lives. We think critically, but the ensuing discussion in class facilitated by such an adept instructor, Julia Levinson, was a wonderful mental exercise. I would recommend TAS seminar, seminars led by Ms. Levinson with great enthusiasm. A third day would be fantastic. Maybe teachers would be willing to pick up some of the tab?

*Secondary English Teacher*  
*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

The content of the course was challenging and very interesting. It was nice to be in a course that demanded my complete attention and that made me want to learn more about the subject. I LOVED the lab opportunities and that gave me ideas of what to bring to my own classroom.

*Middle School Science Teacher*  
*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

One again a wonderful experience (except for the commute!) I always find things to bring back to the classroom. A valuable way to renew one's energy toward literature and teaching. The best professional development program I have experienced.

*Secondary English Teacher*  
*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

I really enjoyed this seminar and hope that I can sometime take a full course of French or European cinematography. Thank you very much!

*Secondary World Language Teacher*  
*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

I found the course to be fascinating. I will now look at Boston differently. Bob opened my eyes. Good slide shows and excellent tour of the city.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Boston's Changing Urban Vision: Urban Design and Architecture in the 21st Century*

This has been an absolutely wonderful introduction to the beautiful music of Northern India. Professor Senders did a great job making us feel confident as "raga" musicians. This class has provided me with a new set of musical ideas that I can now incorporate in my classroom that will be of tremendous benefit to my music students.

The TAS program is such a great way to expand our knowledge in a short time period. I know that if I tried learning this style of music on my own that I would be overwhelmed. Thank you to Professor Senders, Henry Bolter and of the wonderful administrators who allow us to attend this wonderful program.

*Performing Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

### Bishop Feehan

Once again a great course. The subject was appropriate and very informative. I would keep both books because it opens the door to a world that we know so little about.

Great educational experience and Professor Stang did an outstanding job leading the seminar.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

An excellent program and class. I learned a great deal about Asian ideas and thoughts in Art. The teacher was extremely knowledgeable and had a sincere enthusiasm for subject.

Thank You!

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

Very interesting class. The instructor was very well prepared and accommodating. I learned a great amount on the perception of Romans in the world through art and building. Extremely interesting and informative. I had a great time.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

This seminar was excellent!! Very informative, interesting, challenging and

exciting. Dr. Dowling provides wonderful examples, stories, experiments and labs. The journey through the brain--how brain phenomena can be linked with brain regions.

Fabulous opportunity to learn so much about the brain--neurons, how nerves fire, memory, consciousness, areas of brain, retina and visual sensory perception. So much was explored and so much uncovered. Dr. Dowling has raised my consciousness about the brain. Can't wait to share some of this information with my students.

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

This was such a valuable course. I have learned so much about contemporary Spanish culture and history that I can bring back to the classroom. Margery Resnick is an invaluable resource and I would encourage anyone to take a TAS course with her.

Thanks for everything!

*World Language Teacher*

*From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

### *Bishop Stang*

This seminar has been one of the most intellectually stimulating and challenging opportunities I have ever experienced. Rosanna has brought a depth of knowledge and expertise that was truly appreciated.

Thanks!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

I enjoyed the 2nd class better than the first. I would rather read more poems than spend hours on just one. I thought Rosanna was not only incredibly knowledgeable about poetry but also a wonderful teacher...always such thoughtful responses to each student's comments. This was altogether a wonderful experience.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

### *Brookline Schools*

This seminar with Michael has been, as Michael would say, "astonishing". As with other TAS seminars I have done, it is the best professional development I can imagine. In this case the seminar has rejuvenated me as a writer and as a teacher of creative writing. The seminar has caused me to rethink much of the way I teach fiction writing and it has completely renewed my confidence and

excitement about the endeavor.

The assignments (the 3 250 wd. stories) have been challenging -sometimes terrifying-and rewarding. Michael has a terrific way of laying out ideas as backdrop to everything we do that day--looking at our own work, looking at published stories, talking about teaching. The ideas he has foregrounded shed light on what we do that day in class.

I can't tell you how the seminar has lifted my spirits to have these 3 days to do this work. It is intellectually rigorous, yet completely refreshing and rejuvenating. The seminars allow me to go back to my school feeling smarter, happier, and more purposeful. What a gift!

*Secondary English Administrator/Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story*

This was a great class! Peter was interesting and engaging. I loved thinking about how culture influences our thought process, and characteristics of genius. I would definitely recommend this course to others. I loved the books as well, as they enriched what we discussed in class.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

Rosanna Warren is an amazing teacher who leads her students to discover even deeper meaning in each line of poetry. I tried to model her techniques with 5th graders reading Emily Dickinson with great success.

I loved the way she read, the insights she gave us and her methods of teaching. She is brilliant and so able to present the poems and poets in memorable ways. TAS has always lived up to its promise of lifting the soul and igniting in me the passion to learn, and than as a result, the passion to teach.

Bravo!!

*Middle School Librarian*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

Super comprehensive! Informational, culturally enhancing class.

*Elementary Special Education Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

I have really looked forward and planned around these 2 sessions and have been QUITE PLEASED in every way--enjoying Theo's knowledge and leadership, and the variety of different teachers and voices in the room (particularly because the topics brings out social/adolescent issues as we have counselors, social workers, as well as the usual literary suspects).

Thanks!! It has been great!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

If anyone, from any background, has the opportunity to take a TAS seminar- and a seminar with the brilliant and dazzling Rosanna Warren, then he/she will be transformed eternally. Rosanna has a way of turning a poem into a multi-dimensional work worth living in and exploring for eternity- really.

She changed my limited and seemingly well developed understanding of poetry into a humble appreciation for the architecture of the craft- and the highly complex world of syntax. Brava! Brava! Brava! Rosanna is a generous professor- she gives and honors without assuming command- she listens and weaves student's thoughts into her own - pure brilliance.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

### Brooks Schools

What I enjoyed most about TAS was the conversations, debates, etc. with my colleagues. The content was very interesting, but I was already familiar with most of the science behind the techniques discussed. Kelly was a GREAT leader of discussion, posing thought provoking questions about the topics and relating the science at a perfect level for the overall needs of the class. I would absolutely recommend TAS and will participate again as soon as I can. I would like to recommend Brian Palm as a TAS instructor. He doesn't really have any time but he would be terrific!

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Science and the Media: The Fact Behind the Fiction*

I thought this course was excellent. The instructor did an extraordinary job of pulling together a huge amount of material- on an unwieldy topic- and moves it all together in a way that was thought provoking and compelling. Like all really good learning experiences, this class and the teacher offered lots of information, asked and sought to answer lots of questions, and (best of all) left real questions still lingering. I enjoyed the experience tremendously and very much appreciated Beth's expertise in the subject and leadership of the class.

*Administrator*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

Two great novels were chosen, but Professor's Sen expertise and energy made the course--just terrific. Nice balance of some historical background/context, discussion and direct analysis of the texts. The result was that the reading and discussion was both accessible, valuable, and enjoyable.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this excellent 3-day workshop that

exceeded my expectations. In all honesty, I wish it were a 2-hour per week semester long course as I feel we only touched the surface of the potential material and topics in this broad subject. I very much enjoyed the workshop, gained personal knowledge and a new sense of interest in the topic of Muslim women. Maura did a wonderful job of disseminating information, sharing her thoughts, knowledge and perspective, and most importantly guiding the engagement of the class. This experience was worth every minute of missed school time!

Again, thank you!

*Computer Science Administrator*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### Buckingham, Browne & Nichols

Love this program, absolutely amazing. The fact that I can take a bunch of different courses and there is no pressure, so I can concentrate on learning and applying this to my class.

*Middle School Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

Stimulating discussion- thoughtful and helpful listening and comments- intellectually provocative.

*Guidance Counselor*

*Seminar: Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

Wonderful class! Very informative, superb teacher, relaxed atmosphere, friendly, patient, extremely kind and able to make us feel in the right place. A wonderful experience

Many, many thanks.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I had an extremely positive experience with Teacher as Scholars. It was a wonderful chance to read books and engage in conversations outside my school curriculum.

*Kindergarten Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

The workshop was great! I learned things about children's literature that I never knew. I have a renewed love of children's literature. I have always loved to read and this course reminded me how wonderful it is to read a great book.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

Thanks, Great overview. Sparked and renewed my interest in children's literature.

Very Knowledgeable instructor.

*Elementary Librarian*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

Marcia assigned extremely though-provoking reading material that I intend to borrow from as I contextualize for my AP students and attempt to lead discussions as rich and rewarding as the ones enjoyed by our adult TAS group. This two-day seminar has renewed my interest in the novel and rejuvenated my course design for the spring.

Thank you!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

An extraordinary crash course in neuroscience that touched on so many issues in personal experience, learning, memory, and consciousness. How generous Professor Dowling was with his time, his expertise, and the resources of his lab. Exhausting but GREAT! One suggestion from a non-scientist maybe a little less chemistry and more descriptive of different brain functions.

Thank you so much!

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

## Burlington Schools

TAS is a wonderful organization--it is a fantastic opportunity for professionals to come together and discuss common topics of interest. The sharing of thoughts and ideas is essential to teaching. Marcia Folsom was incredibly knowledgeable and had interesting and lively discussions--has inspired me to read more Austen.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

Let me begin by saying that I could sit and listen to Mimi Braverman all day long!! I have attended several TAS sessions in the past few years, with my favorites being conducted at the MFA. My experiences are ones that I always incorporate into my Art History unit in my classroom! I have held a priceless bronze- exciting- and experienced "colorful" histories behind the history of so may wonderful pieces. I have attended Primary Source seminars and they pale in comparison. I think! Bravo!

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

I really enjoyed his class! I found the chosen texts to be engaging and very relevant to my department curriculum goals for curriculum revisions. As a teacher constantly searching for ways to make literature relevant to my students and ways to allow them access to some of the concepts in this material, I found the class perfectly suited to my own professional development goals. Additionally the format of the class that promoted collaboration and open discussion has provided me with a number of practical ideas for my classroom. I'm really grateful for this experience and look forward to making use of the texts, ideas, discussion topics and "provocations." Thanks you for a wonderful learning collaboration.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

A marvelous, stimulating couple of days! It enabled me to view two well-known texts in an altogether different way, and reminded me of the critical importance of slowing down and savoring prose--skills I try to impart to my high school students. I loved being a student again. Reminds me of why I fell in love with literature in the 1st place! Thank you Theo and TAS!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

The program on "The Amazing Brain" has been wonderful. It increased considerably my knowledge of how the brain works, but mostly has pointed out areas that I would continue learning.

How this program helps my practice? When I work with students with disabilities the more we understand how the brain works, the better interventions strategies we can generate. Intervention is not a black and white matter. The more knowledge we bring the better our ideas for help.

*Occupational Therapist*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

A great course that has allowed me to think about writing in a new way. It is a fantastic break from my day job and has energized me.

*Social Studies Administrator*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

I greatly enjoyed the class, I came hoping to learn things to include in my class and I did. I am not much of a talker which is a problem on my side, but I learned quite a lot from all of the intelligent comments made by the other seminar participants. In the future, I would be interested in discussing modern protest literature and modern protest movements. I find it interesting to think about the challenge modern protesters face because we seem so desensitized to "shock value". Overall it was great.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

I have been fortunate to take several TAS seminars; Backstage at the Huntington Theatre, the Boston Ballet, Shakespeare dance with Susan Dibble so I eagerly looked forward to this class.

The advance reading and listening materials were excellent and engaging. However, I was disappointed in the presentation used in the course. There was mainly lecture and limited listening to audio files. Most of the music was vocal--we did spend an inordinate amount of time "echo singing" to the instructor. We had to request that he cover some instrumental music material and also request him to show us some instruments. He brought 1 in for the 2nd class. Also his handouts were extremely dated...some dated 1979. The idea of Indian music is much needed in today's culture but current videos and/or a live performance element would greatly enhance the curriculum. All the material covered was vocal/classical style and other genres were greatly missed by being omitted.

*Performing Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

### Carver Schools

The opportunity to explore new avenues of thinking regarding *Pride and Prejudice* has been very exciting. Spending time with professionals exploring literature was a most enjoyable way to spend 2 Fridays. Marcia Folsom--fabulous!!

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

Fantastic class! I would love to take one of Peter's courses at BU. I have been taking a lot of classes, but it was a breath of fresh air to have a professor teach a class that is their expertise. I learned a lot- I really liked the connection between anatomy/biology, physics and chemistry. I am able to bring these ideas back to my students and really gets me thinking. I highly recommend this course to be 4 days. It was difficult to cover all material in 3 days.

Thank you, Peter!!

*Secondary Science Administrator*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

Since I use books when I counsel children it was important to me that I find more resources and learn to evaluate the books that are out there so I'll use bibliography more effectively.

Eden has helped me reach both goals as have the other members of this workshop.

*Elementary Guidance Counselor*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

My experience in this seminar/course has been incredibly worthwhile for my professional development. I have thoroughly enjoyed this course as an eye opening experience! It has challenged my abilities insofar as making me question my understanding of the brain/mind and the philosophical constructs of the mind. I particularly liked the combination of philosophy with science. I wish there was more emphasis/time dedicated to autism/psychological diagnoses/disabilities. Perhaps another day for the seminar would enable more time on this.

*Secondary Guidance Counselor*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

### Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall

This course has been one of the finest intellectual experiences I've had this year. Having the privilege to work as a student for two days helped me realize innovative ways to teach challenging material. The material we read was engaging and discussions were sharp, inclusive and informative. The instructors, John and Zoe, successfully balanced the dual tasks of academic inquiry and practical applications. The varied strengths and interests of my colleagues added a great deal to my time these past two Fridays. My only note for improvement would be to spend less time hammering out the definition of the genre especially because its boundaries are so fluid and to devote more time to framing the subject for teenage minds. Only minor.

A huge thank you for a fantastic time!!!!

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

Really fantastic program. This completely prepared me to teach this book. Marcia was great. It is inspiring to hear from someone with both expertise and passion. I will recommend this to any and all of my peers at CHCH.

*Secondary Teacher, English*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

### Charles River School

I really loved these seminars with Maura. I only wish that we could have had more time (a 4th?) to explore this fascinating and timely subject. The books and articles were all great. Maura balanced the seminar well with PowerPoint lecture, lots of discussion, current articles, and documentary films. She is a dynamic teacher and clearly passionate about the subject. I always have high expectations for TAS seminars, but this time I felt as if they were exceeded.

I also appreciated the breakfast treats, juice, and coffee/tea/water.

I can't wait to take another TAS seminar!

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### Chelmsford High School

Richard is extremely knowledgeable in his subject matter and wonderful to listen to. I enjoyed his class very much and would like to hear more of his lectures.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

This course was wonderful! Sharmila is a great teacher and the topic was fully covered. The experience of taking a class with other educators coming from different backgrounds has been great.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

### The Commonwealth School

10 hours of pure pleasure!! Excellent presentation--beginning with the live performance of a raga with the group learning to sing and even to compose one! A great, great introduction to the music. I hope Warren will return with this course for others and with variations, for myself.

Thanks so much!!

*World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

### Concord Academy

What a great workshop. Such a joy for 2 days in my favorite subject with a group of curious teachers. Many thanks.

*Secondary Computer Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

Too short!!! Now I will go home and watch these films again--and again.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

Thank you for a wonderful class I wish we had had more time—

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

## Concord Carlisle Regional High School

My evaluation of the seminar? Fantastic! Theo is an amazing professor. I have read and discussed *Catcher in the Rye* many times in the past as a student, but none of those experiences came close to this one. I finally feel like I REALLY get Holden. I also really liked the way Theo was able to communicate his analysis of the book while still allowing us to discuss the book and go in various directions.

As a teacher myself I know that this is not easy. In sum, both the material itself and his method of teaching us had a significant impact on my own teaching. I am so glad I was able to squeeze into the course! Thanks for a wonderful experience.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

I have loved every TAS seminar I have attended but Michael's seminar has definitely been one of the best. I wish we could continue for several more weeks. Michael's advice about writing is clear and practical and leavened with humor. The assignments he gave us challenged us but were also manageable and realistic given the time constraints and professional responsibilities we all have. I enjoyed being gently pushed beyond my comfort zone. The discussions in class were stimulating. Michael is an astute critic and supportive coach. I have learned not only about writing but also about skillful teaching and respect for learners.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

This was a terrific seminar! I learned so much about both some contemporary poets but also methodology about teaching poetry in the classroom. This was my first TAS experience and I simply can't wait to come back. I feel so rejuvenated for my own teaching and my own students- to empower them with a thirst for learning that I had quenched here!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

This was an excellent and thought provoking seminar. Julie did a terrific job - combining well-chosen film with interesting analysis and background in the documentary medium. I have attended a number of TAS seminars and this one was one of the best. As a teacher of history, it is remarkable (maybe it shouldn't be) to realize how much the study of a topic outside of my field can revitalize my academic interests. The themes of reflexivity, point of view, and the problematic nature of "reality" are all issues that carry over to the study of history. Thank you for providing a seminar that is intellectually challenging, re-invigorating, and a

change of pace. It is this kind of professional development that makes TAS the best currently available to educators in Massachusetts.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

I have really enjoyed this course! The reading was interesting, as were the other people in the course and the professor. I learned lots of interesting information and I am finding ways I can integrate baseball into my American history course. Great stuff--I wouldn't change a thing.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: America and The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

This seminar was a wonderful experience - intellectually nourishing and a nice reminder of why I teach literature. It was also a rewarding glimpse into the role of the student (studying challenging material) that I will carry with me back to my classroom.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

This has been such an intellectually stimulating and fascinating seminar about language in action. I learned a wide range of concepts, including the relationship of the way we pronounce words to the evolution of their spelling, and the difference between inherited and borrowed words in the languages we teach. Graeme was so well informed, humorous, flexible yet organized in his presentations of such complex material. I loved the way he encouraged us to ask questions, try out challenging passages and share our own anecdotes about the love of language. Thank you so much!

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

Excellent Experience!! PLEASE keep this course as one of the offerings from TAS. I have enjoyed all of the several classes in which I have participated through TAS.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

### Concord Public Schools

A great course. Material was well presented and the background information helped explain the text. Well prepared presentation that encouraged good conversation. I really learned a lot. I would recommend both the course and the teacher, Charles Stang to TAS.

TAS is a wonderful way to energize teachers and foster a love for learning. It gives teacher the opportunity to be students and feel life "on the other side of the desk." I will bring my experience as a "student" back to school.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

Miriam is one of the most interesting, intelligent and engaging people I've ever met. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the MFA with her. Her scope of knowledge and the connections she made within Asian art enhanced my understanding of the Asian curriculum I teach my 7th graders. I would take 100 more courses with Miriam. What a treat this has been!

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

This has been the highlight of my school year. I can't believe how generous Michael is in the time he has devoted to helping us with our writing. It is a safe and professional forum for taking risks with your writing. Excellent critiquing by my classmates. Excellent instruction by Michael. What a treat to have such a prestigious instructor. I highly recommend this class.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

## **Dana Hall School**

Great course! Thank you. Texts great choices. Can you add a third day (Gospel of Mary or another one?)? Charles is a wonderful teacher- engaging and interesting and has a gift for listening to and responding to and extending ideas of his students. I will recommend this course to my colleagues: I hope Charles will keep teaching it.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

Was a good opportunity to discuss some of the philosophical aspects of history. Also good to be able to discuss pedagogy and how topics discussed were relevant to our own teaching.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

Fabulous course, attended by knowledgeable people. Teacher was excellent in managing discussion- impressed, too, by her recall of individual backgrounds in making connection to some films as they were screened.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

The seminar is all I hoped it would be. I particularly appreciated Prof. Ferguson's interest in how we, as teachers below the college level, engage our students and in his mission to "popularize" history- carry on!

Dana Hall School

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

I thought the course was very thought provoking, the instructor was extremely knowledgeable. I enjoyed the materials: the book, the videos, and the banjo playing. The topic of multiculturalism seems to be an endless topic and I thought Beth did a great job of presenting multiple perspectives and highlighting the importance that diversity is beyond/deeper/more complex than just black or white. I also really appreciated (at the same time) the instructor's expertise on race.

*Middle School World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

I think this was a great course, but more topic specific than I anticipated. Kelly was great, very enthusiastic. The topics were very interesting but difficult to relate to a middle school curriculum. Overall, this was a good thought-provoking course.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Science and the Media: The Fact Behind the Fiction*

Extraordinary information and thoughtful. Directly related to classroom application and thoroughly enjoyable. Prof Stang has a remarkable?? For leading and directing and promoting discussion - always a challenge when the groups background and interests are eclectic and unpredictable. I would only have wished for a third session for the Gospel of Mary

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

--I would love to have a class in Spanish Cinema.

--Margery is an amazing professor, very clear, intellectual and very knowledgeable

--I am glad to have the opportunity to be with my colleagues from different places and public schools and private schools

*World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

This was the best TAS I have attended yet. I looked forward to attending each class with Maura. She is an excellent teacher! Effective does not nearly describe how wonderful she is at leading and inspiring conversation. Also, she has kindly

shared all PowerPoints and sent an amazing bibliography to all of us.  
This class was wonderful!

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### Dedham Country Day School

I came to Jane Austen as a reader after college. I have read and reread her books. I loved the chance to explore her books and really practice the fact of going back to the text, listening and sharing my ideas. I ask my students to do this all the time, but don't do it myself as a student. After the first day I went back to my 5th graders and told them I had spent 5 hours talking about the first half of a book. And the time flew by. When I give up being a 5th grade teacher I am going to become a Jane Austen scholar.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

Rosanna Warren gave us many new ways of looking at poems. I was exposed to four new poets I had never read before. I think I will read more poetry as a result of taking this inspiring class.

*Middle School Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

### Dover Sherborn Schools

I love TAS! It is such a treat, especially with Marcia Folsom. I have enjoyed several classes with her doing close reading of Jane Austen. I have also liked previous classes at the MFA and the Gardner Museum.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

This was an excellent course although I think 3 sessions would have been optimal. Julie was engaging, committed, interested in the ideas of participants, very knowledgeable about her subject. She helped us to view critically a great variety of documentary films. It might have been a good idea to have participants view films before the first class. As regards TAS and its future, if money becomes a problem, you might ask participants to pay a small amount of the cost of the course. Thanks, Henry, for providing us with truly stimulating and worthwhile experiences and for treating us like thinking adults.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

A good seminar makes you leave wondering. This class did that. I learned that there is no real definition for "documentary." Viewing films and allowing time to discuss techniques in making the films was essential. I enjoyed "The Thin Blue Line" and seeing excerpts of "Triumph of the Will." My plan is to watch more documentaries- representations or presumptions of authenticity. It'll be fun. Julie Levinson was prepared. Each day she was energized to discuss documentaries, and has opened my eyes to this film genre. Excellent course. I highly recommend this class, and encourage people to study something they've never studied before. I am now a fan of documentaries. Watch "Betty Tells Her Story.'

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

I enrolled in this class for several reasons: I like Indian food and music, my teenage daughter will be traveling to North India this summer, my next door neighbors are Indian and I enjoyed the films Born Into Brothels and Slumdog Millionaire.

When I read the TAS course description, I knew right away that I would enjoy it...and I was so right. The best thing about this class was the instructor, Warren Senders. He introduced us to an overwhelmingly huge topic in such a way that it made sense. Even though I am not a musician, I was able to participate, understand, and engage with the music. This class gave me a new appreciation of Indian music/culture. Any music lover would love this class. I did!!

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

## Hingham High School

Great, fun conference. I really wish there could be more, obviously. Was this relevant to my teaching? No...but that's a good thing. Sometimes it is nice to just learn about something different. Professor Gittleman was excellent, by the way.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: America and The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

Class was outstanding. Richard was a wealth of information. The best part was the ability and proximity of the artifacts that we viewed and discussed.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

Rosanna was very good at facilitating discussion - the ebb and flow of negotiating the different comments and perspectives. The scholarly in-depth conversation was refreshing, edifying and inspiring. This level of discussion and

exploration of literature reminds me why I wanted to teach literature.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

Mimi is very knowledgeable and energetic. She has inspired me to incorporate art into my teaching. I particularly enjoyed the Asian painting and pottery discussions. I wish we had a chance to introduce ourselves and find out what and where other participants teach. There was not much of an opportunity for that. I hope to plan a field trip for my students with Mimi doing the gallery talk/guide.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

### Lexington Public Schools

This was a FANTASTIC course! I learned many, many details that I can share with my students!

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

This was so enriching, worthwhile...an important class for anyone of any discipline to participate in. It is so nice as a teacher to participate in a LEARNING environment.

*Middle School Teacher, SPED*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

Sol Gittleman ran a great workshop on baseball. It would be impossible to cover the whole span of baseball history, but Sol has spent time addressing how highlights of baseball history can be used in our curriculum. The one complaint I have was that on our original course listing said we would earn PDPs (which I need), yet we were told this morning that we would not be earning PDPs.

Regardless, a great experience.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: America and The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

It was great to have a high level discussion of literature--and especially about a culture that is both old and changing. I have many students from India so it was helpful to get a peek into the land where they come from. I really appreciate that Sharmila will be giving us a reading list so that we can continue our exploration (and that we were given an appropriate lunch both times!)

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

I don't think I was quite prepared for the level of scientific knowledge I would need to understand "brain chemistry"--Still, I was able to come away with a clear understanding of the major concepts. I think what helped me most was Professor Dowling's diagrams and the anecdotes he shared that pertained to the ideas. It took until the second session for me to realize that many of the diagrams were in your book, so I began to make notes in the book as you explained things. I was hoping to find out more about brain functioning as it applies to the students I work with --ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, etc. but I guess that gets out of the realm of neurobiology.

TAS: Keep it up. Having the opportunity to get out of the classroom and learn with others who share an interest is a great opportunity to "grow" our brains. It took me 3 years to get to this seminar but it was worth the wait.

*Secondary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I enjoyed shifting gears from counseling teenagers to discussing literature with focused adults. I realized as I walked out of our first session, that it has been too long since I had felt energized by a course/class discussion. I treasured this in grad school yet most professional development days offer dull instruction directed at teachers--not counselors. I think it is important for educators (actually all people) to feel motivated by novels--the characters, the themes...and to listen to opinions that stem from the readings. While "Problem Children" relates to my role as a counselor the discussions really fueled me as a professional learner. It was great to become excited about reading and especially fun to be in Harvard Square within the lively atmosphere of Harvard University.

*Secondary Guidance Counselor*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

I very much enjoyed this class, especially due to the instructor's overall knowledge of Spanish history. It would help other classes to have the questions (to *Back Room*) ahead of time. The films were great. I look forward to taking another course. How about a Spanish film class?

*Middle School World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

The professor is outstanding! She is so knowledgeable. I thoroughly enjoyed the books and course content. I look forward to taking another TAS course very soon.

*Middle School World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

Graeme's knowledge and enthusiasm and patience have been wonderful! It has been very rewarding to have classmates from surrounding districts as

enthusiastic as I. Refreshing to be a student for a time. I loved it!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

This course was fantastic. It provided so much "food for thought on the history of words and how to begin to unravel the " mystery" of where current words began. Graeme Bird was obviously a teacher passionate about his topic, entertaining and enlightening.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

This course is/was excellent! It has at the same time sparked and satisfied my deep interest in the subject. THANK YOU.

Graeme Bird's knowledge base is marvelously strong, and his teaching style so responsive and interest provoking. Unfortunately the time flew by and the course is over! I would love to do more.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

### **Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School**

This was a great seminar. Despite having taken classes on Boston's history before, this one was much more informative and interesting. Here are a few small suggestions to make it even better:

--I would love to have more time for the walking tour (or maybe have a walking tour during each session) While the slide shows were interesting, for me there is no substitute for actually getting out seeing stuff.

--As a history teacher, I would have liked more historical background information on why the city was changing (i.e. causation). What economic, social, and political forces were driving the physical changes in the city?

--As you already seem to be aware of, more time for us to ask questions would also be good!

Thank you very much--this was a great experience, and it's hard to imagine a more knowledgeable tour guide!

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Boston's Changing Urban Vision: Urban Design and Architecture in the 21st Century*

### **Marblehead Schools**

This has been a wonderful experience for me--inspiring teaching, subject matter, and conversations among class members--enriching and exciting. These two

days have been like a "Spa Day" for my brain. I am so grateful and appreciative of having had this experience.

*Elementary Librarian*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

Wonderful class, fast paced and well developed. As a teacher it is nice to feel appreciated and be able to pursue your own interests. You can always share with students your experience and show excitement as learners. It is not possible to capture that in words. This class was particularly valuable to special ed and I enjoyed it immensely. John was also a great teacher who clearly is very well educated but also can teach others. This is a very valuable combination.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I definitely sharpened my selection skills for choosing the best books available" Eden Edwards was very prepared. She is extremely knowledgeable about the subject. A true professional!

It was a great gift to be part of this professional development!

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction In Children's Literature*

There are several aspects of this seminar that made it a valuable professional development experience. I'll share the two most important to me:

First is the instructor. Marcia Folsom is so knowledgeable that she teaches with an ease that everyone feel like a true participant regardless of their experience with the subject matter. Second is the great teaching ideas that are shared. I always find that I walk away from these seminars (this is my 3rd) with fresh ideas to use when teaching reading to my students.

*Elementary Librarian*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

I thoroughly enjoyed this seminar and am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate. It was wonderful to share experiences with colleagues across the state. I really enjoyed hearing about the visual system, the complexities and the performance. The labs were wonderful--I am going back to my school and starting an aquarium with zebra fish!

Thank you Henry and John.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

## Masconomet Regional Schools

Kim Ruane is an enthusiastic and inspiring instructor. Although the content was beyond the content I teach, I truly enjoyed and gained much from the course. This is my 2nd TAS seminar and both have been the best professional development I have attended.

*Middle School Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Linear Algebra is Everywhere!*

I found the program extremely enlightening. This is my first year doing TAS. I learned a great deal in the short period we had. I look forward to applying to TAS in the future. Thank you!

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

Robert Kroin did an excellent job. He was very knowledgeable. I received more information on architecture and the city structure than I thought possible. His attention to detail was very refreshing.

*Secondary Tech/Voc Ed Teacher*

*Seminar: Boston's Changing Urban Vision: Urban Design and Architecture in the 21st Century*

I thought this was an extremely informative and useful seminar. The content was deeper than what I am used to as a high school teacher. I am taking a lot away from this course such as new material, teaching ideas, and a number of other new contacts. I really appreciated Margery's anecdotes about her own experiences in Spain and the effort that she made to have us make connections with our own personal experiences as well as what we are doing in the classroom.

*Secondary Teacher, World Language*

*From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

I thought the class was VERY informative and did a great job of getting us to understand and environment that can be conducive to both LEARNING and FUN. They don't have to be mutually exclusive.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Games and Society*

Dr. McLaughlin was very well organized and prepared to teach this seminar. My science background resulted in me being very prepared for the content. So I was able to focus on new ways to teach issues in science from Kelly and all those attending. TAS sessions are a great way for teachers to expand their content and teaching strategies. I also find this professional development activity to be one of

the best offered in Eastern Massachusetts. I have enjoyed TAS because it has allowed me to collaborate and communicate with other educators in a positive learning environment where sharing ideas is encouraged. I look forward to re-examining my curriculum after attending this session. Thank you!

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Science and the Media: The Fact Behind the Fiction*

### **Medfield Public Schools**

This was fascinating information presented by Charles Stang in an informal discussion environment. 12 students-teachers- participated with a variety of background and interest. The interaction among the group and presenter was intriguing and thought provoking. Charles is very knowledgeable, a good listener and facilitator.

It was wonderful to be part of a great discussion among intelligent people, with no pressure to later present. At one point I pictured myself as one of my students hearing - learning- complicated information but having a few light bulb moments of understanding.

All around a very good experience.

Gospel of Judas should be included in class- I would also find the Gospel of Mary interesting that was chopped from class in switch from three day to two-day seminar.

*Middle School Reading Specialist*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

This was a wonderful experience that better acquainted teachers with the MFA collection as well as providing pertinent information for teaching. Mimi Braverman was an extremely engaging and knowledgeable art historian who offered a wealth of information on a variety of topics. I very much enjoyed and valued the seminar on Asian art and would love to attend another seminar conducted by Ms. Braverman. I would be further interested in learning more about the MFA's American art collection and renaissance collection specifically.

Overall, I feel that the TAS program provided the opportunity for authentic professional development that was personally rewarding. Thank you for the experience.

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

I found this to be intellectually stimulating. The focus on school related issues is beneficial.

*Secondary Tech/Voc Teacher*

*Seminar: The Living Bill of Rights*

Intellectually stimulating. Julie guided discussions, enhanced my critical thinking skills. Very valuable view of everyday TV "documentaries" - how to evaluate "truth" and realize how we tend to believe what we see. Met many interesting people, overall, a great experience.

*Middle School SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

I thought the course was phenomenal and everything I had hoped. I intend on using large portions of the course and books when I teach world literature again. I really appreciate all the articles Maura gave us as well as her PowerPoint and bibliography. My English department shares a great deal--now I have lots to bring back to them. Thank you for putting such a wonderful thing together, and thanks to Maura, too.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### **Milton Academy**

The readings were varied and thought provoking. It was helpful to get an historical perspective as well as multiple viewpoints on this subject. It was helpful to have the instructor pick out the salient points for discussion. I found it rich to be in discussion with teachers from all over.

Good course!

*Elementary Librarian*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

I loved the choice of films. They were great examples of Julie's small lectures, discussion. Compelling films. She is so thoroughly knowledgeable about film and history. I left the class with a long list of films to see and some to use in class or pass on to other colleagues. I wish Julie would offer a "night" class for a semester at a teacher friendly price. Thank you for a great seminar.

Suggestions: If you're going to show a full length film, then stop part way thru to discuss so we can watch the next section with more knowledge or if you don't want to do this, maybe ask us to see Blue Line before or in between the 2 seminars. This way, we could see more films or excerpts in class.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

## Milton Public Schools

Great experience- learn how children's books are done - meeting an editor, gave me insight into the editing process - Eden is a wonderful presenter and knowledgeable about children's literature!

Meeting other educators to exchange ideas is a treat - I felt fortunate to be able to participate this year. I heard so many wonderful things about TAS series. It is well organized and in a wonderful set up.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

As always this seminar has been inspirational, fascinating, stimulating and enriching. (I could go on and on.) I loved it. I am retiring from teaching in June and will miss these seminars very much! They have informed my teaching and my life as an artist in so many ways, Susan is an immensely talented teacher, a warm and extremely interesting person. A+ in all ways.

*Middle School Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Making Art in Hard Times*

This workshop was a terrific experience for me--both personally and as an educator. Michael has a wealth of information, and put lots of work in as a teacher. I loved the challenge of the assignments, and despite the all too brief duration of three weeks, grew as a writer. The things I've learned have already sparked meaningful conversations with my students who have been labeled reluctant readers and writers. I had a fabulous experience, and thank TAS for providing the opportunity.

*Middle School SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story*

I am so happy that I got chosen to take part in TAS. This opportunity is unique in that it gives us a chance to interact with teachers in other school districts and share ideas. Eden Edwards was a wonderful presenter. She really gave me a better understanding of the publishing process as well as narrowing down the vast choice of children's books to use in my classroom. I would highly recommend this course to other teachers. It was engaging, inspiring and a wonderful way to spend a day outside of my classroom

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

Dr. Bergethon is an inspiring teacher. He is a "fount of knowledge" about the evolution of the mind and many other subjects. I thoroughly enjoyed the class and I am happy I had the opportunity to take this class. I hope he continues

presenting for TAS.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

This seminar was an excellent experience. It was very helpful to me to view books that I teach in the classroom from the various points of view of other adults--specifically teachers! Theo was an extremely approachable and personable man who showed an extreme depth of knowledge about the topic at hand. Overall this was an extremely enjoyable and beneficial experience.

*Secondary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

Great class. Very informative, especially for developing Reader's Workshop lessons.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

Very interesting and engaging course. Excellent connections with virtually all subject areas (not only American history). This is my first experience with TAS and (hopefully) won't be my last. It was far more beneficial for me (and my students) that I hoped.

*Middle School Physical Education Teacher*

*Seminar: America And The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

I appreciate having this opportunity to really look at children's literature and to talk with colleagues. In this workshop, I learned about publishing children's books, what to look for in books and got great tips for new books.

*Elementary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

I enjoyed receiving the class texts and reading them. Eden brought quite a bit of knowledge to the class and I found the information fascinating.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

This was an informative and enjoyable course. Prof. Bergethon was able to take dense, complex material and make it accessible to his audience. He was more than willing to answer any and all questions. While the intent of the course was

not to teach about teaching, I learned much that will influence my classroom teaching.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

I greatly enjoyed taking this course. I definitely left with more questions than answers, but to me, this signifies success. Reading primary sources allowed for rich analysis and I know I'll revisit the texts in the future. The main "take away" point for me was conceptualizing "multiculturalist education" as the focus on multiple perspectives, teaching students that there is always more than 1 story. I also enjoyed learning from other educators how they approach multiculturalism, although the instructor did the majority of the talking.

I hope the TAS program continues as it is an invaluable resource for teachers to expand their thinking.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

The lost Gospels was stimulating and beneficial to my teaching and personal growth as an active teacher and educator. Mr. Stang's approach allowed questions about the context of early Christianity to be answered while keeping us on task with the material at hand. In addition to the class's approach supporting of my creative energy reminiscent of graduate school, it provided me with a small framework for gnosticism that will be beneficial to my teaching of British and American romantic literature and to discussions that arise in class about orthodox Christianity. Views about heaven and Hell and the afterlife: and blind acceptance of tradition when texts exist with alternate views about traditional readings. If the course could be stretched to 3 days, I think the inclusion of the secret book of John would round out the picture since it was alluded to so much. As always, a great class with a competent and invested instructor.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

Opened my mind to the advantages of and understanding of video games educationally. GREAT COURSE!

*Middle School SPED teacher*

*Seminar: Games and Society*

The wealth of information that Professor Folsom shares with her students is astounding. Careful thought is given to readings and assignments and illustrates the principles of excellent instruction. Teachers need PD like this to recharge their thinking and teaching. Being reflective and thinking about the power of literature helps in being careful and cautious; but also precise when it comes to

language. Worthwhile in every way. A true learning/teaching moment that should not be missed!

*Elementary Guidance*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

I really enjoyed the class on multiculturalism, not only from a professional perspective but also from a personal one as well. I think we were given a lot of helpful and valuable resources that were great to discuss in the class, but will also be great to take back to my own classroom.

*Middle School Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

I thoroughly enjoyed this class! This is my first time at Teachers as Scholars and I was impressed with the quality of information. Our instructor, Warren, was wonderful. He took a genuine interest in our learning and both answered our questions and shaped his instruction to our interests. He is clearly very knowledgeable about music from India. He spoke at a level that challenged us to think while at the same time he made the information accessible. I feel that I learned both how to enjoy Indian music myself and to help my students begin to understand it. Thanks for a great experience!

*Middle School Performing Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

### Meadowbrook School

Baseball is the only sport invented by God and Sol is a true disciple. What I loved most is how Sol merged baseball narratives with American historical trends.

*Elementary English Teacher*

*Seminar: America And The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

I had an absolutely enriching experience on each day of this course. On a practical level, it reminded and informed me of the biological basis for several human behaviors and I found this so useful to know- because it integrates into what I do on a daily basis and gives me a fresh view of my students, myself and the world of education. The teaching in this class-phenomenal! I learned so much pedagogy strategy from Dr. B. Thank You!

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

Eden does a marvelous job sharing the world of children's literature. Her background in publishing is invaluable. Sitting in a TAS seminar is such a great

experience. I learn from my peers and the teachers as well!! Such a wealth of enthusiasm and knowledge. I'm eager to delve into some new literature.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

Great! Kelly was fun, enthusiastic, REALLY knowledgeable. Maybe a few more connections to do specifically in the classroom. I need to think hard of how to bring some of what we discussed into the Middle School classroom. Kelly was wonderful though. Really informative.

*Middle School Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Science and the Media: The Fact Behind the Fiction*

## Needham

John, thank you so much for your generosity in giving us your lifetime of learning. I am planning a senior elective course on the mind. I am hoping to create a co-curricular course, combining neuro-science and literature. This is the essential link that I have needed!! Thanks.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I have been fortunate enough to have participated in a number of Teachers as Scholars workshops over the years and have been consistently enthralled by my experience with every erudite scholar whose workshop I attended. I deliberately choose topics of great interest personally and professionally, and topics about which I do not have deep knowledge and understanding. At the same time, I select topics I know have a place in our middle school curriculum so I can share the benefit of my experience with my faculty. I do this by sharing resources I receive and the content and knowledge I gain through each seminar. I also encourage teachers to enroll themselves so they can have the firsthand experience I do. There is little that adequately replaces the primary experience of being in the workshops.

The course exceeded my expectations in that Maura did a "crash course" (which did not feel rushed or diminished by the limited time we had) in the development of Islam as a religion, and substantial background on Mohammed. She also focused extensively on the historical, sociological and political underpinnings of her topic, which deepened and enriched our understanding of modern women in the Muslim world. I found myself in the Harvard bookstore up the street each lunchtime combing the shelves for books on the themes of the seminars.

I was so sorry when the course ended - would have loved a semester long experience. Need I say more! Not only did Maura teach all day but remained in her seat during lunch, continuing dialogue about the topics at hand with those present in the room. I appreciated the mix of PowerPoint presentations, video,

readings, and discussion. Maura is passionate about her topic and blends her scholarship with related personal life experiences with religion, ethnicity and gender throughout in a way that made complex concepts and issues so accessible and real. She illuminated the complex nature of the role of gender in society, and when this intersects with religion, history and politics, the issues take on meaning and significance in ways that are constantly evolving, and open to so many different perspectives and interpretations.

I am glad to be able to share the many articles she gave us on a range of controversial questions and issues manifesting locally and internationally, relating to the seminar's topic. As Maura knows, I would love to enroll in a Masters or Doctoral Program on this topic. She further inspired me to pursue this course!

*Administrator, Social Studies*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

I have tried to get into The Evolution of the Brain for a few years. I will be chewing on the fascinating information that I've learned for the rest of my life and hopefully I will apply it to my teaching and integrate it into the "memes" I now use to evolve.

As always TAS provides for me the best professional development. How? By deepening my own experience with top teachers in their field - learning with other teachers. I grow my own passion for my subject area.

In this time of robotic servitude to "The Standards " Movement- to sit and contemplate the masters with other masters is the best professional development.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

Loved this second seminar with Susan as much as the first. Very inspiring and accepting of our efforts. A real gift to be able to spend 3 days with her. Gave us enough history and info and set us free.

*Elementary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Making Art in Hard Times*

## Moses Brown School

Wonderful class on Documentary Film. I learned so much and was exposed to such wonderful films and in-depth discussions of the genre through history and across sub-type. My only thought for improvement would be a room with fewer windows and a larger screen for viewing the films. Thought for future workshop-Media Literacy workshop.

*Secondary Computer Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

What a thrill! I loved this class- both the literature and the graceful, enthusiastic and insightful guide we had in Rosanna Warren! This was my first TAS class and I must now figure out how to get approval for next year. It's a brilliant, inspired and inspiring program. Thank you so much!

Rosanna was a wonderful model for teaching - willing to suggest and eager to listen but never insisting on "answers" Fantastic!

*Secondary School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Some Contemporary Poets*

### **Noble and Greenough School**

Michael Downing's teaching is a model for teachers, while the focus was our writing, I was riveted by his methodology and have already taken more than my share back to my own classroom. Beyond this, Michael has created the most challenging prompts for us as writers-and I have loved the dialogue and the collegiality. He is a great writer, a great teacher, and most personable member of this great group. Last night I began to have that sinking feeling that our Cambridge Fridays were coming to an end. TAS is a rich, inspiring resource and MD, the best instructor I have had.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

As a language teacher, I did not know what I will get from this art studio seminar course, but beyond my teaching career, I discovered a life long pursuit (at least I feel so right now!) Interactions with other teachers were equally very inspiring.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Making Art in Hard Times*

Two passions together, cross-pollinating one another. And just like any study of US History, baseball activities contain many myths, legends that are inaccurate. This was great, Sol knows so much and is so enthusiastic and personable.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: America and The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

What can I say other than this: This is the third time I have been in a TAS class with Michael Downing. The first time I was lucky. The next two times I sought him out. I am a teacher, not a writer but I have thoroughly enjoyed the task, challenges, and rewards of writing fiction with Michael. But if there was a TAS class to go food shopping with Michael or to sit on the banks of the Charles with him and other teachers I would sign up for those classes too. My teaching is better after three days of watching Michael Downing teach.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

I signed up for Linear Algebra because I'd only had a taste of it in college and it was the last bit of math that was fun. I teach physics and thought this would be just a lark--but it turns out that this was REALLY helpful material to use for any teaching--more elegant theory behind some of its important analytical tools I teach my kids. Better still, Kim models enthusiasm for her discipline and excellent teaching mechanics. Wow!

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Linear Algebra is Everywhere!*

This was a fantastic course. It was wonderful to have the slideshow on day one to get the history of Boston and see the changes in the development of the city.

The second day, which toured around Boston, was a great way to see the impact of buildings and public spaces first hand. Bob was a knowledgeable teacher who presented the good and bad of the changes. I would recommend this class to anyone--it was awesome!

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Boston's Changing Urban Vision: Urban Design and Architecture in the 21st Century*

### Phillips Academy

I really appreciated the selection of 2 novels that "spoke" to each other. Sharmila was a font of information, both literary and historical. The historical information was the most useful. I enjoyed the conversation among the "students" but found Sharmila to be the main draw.

*Humanities Administrator*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

A tremendous, intellectually provocative experience so relevant to my pedagogy, so rich in resources for my assignments, particularly the synthesis involved and the synthesis encouraged.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

I am a clinical psychologist, and for 10 years I have engaged in learning neuroscience. John Dowling is without a doubt the best, clearest teacher of this subject that I have ever had. I have tried to learn this material for years, and I have never found the materials as accessible as I have in this class.

A wonderful gift for teachers!

*Secondary History Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

This has been fabulous! I have been interested in Indian lit for a while, and post-colonialism was my graduate focus, this course came at just the right time. I was interested in the Cracking India course no matter what, but then when I found we were focusing on one text (Midnight's Children) I was planning to teach and another by an author I love (Ghosh) I was thrilled. I will use so much of this material for teaching, and its given me great frames (?) and ways of approaching such a big novel. I wrote part of my syllabus here!

Sharmila was fabulous--I wish I could take a whole term's course with her. That said, the only limitation of TAS for me was that I had so much that I wanted to talk about and in perhaps more depth only because I was the only English teacher in the room (and some hadn't finished the text) Of course, hearing other teachers' confusion and comments helped remind me of the non-specialist's eye.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

This course was very helpful for me, I found the materials interesting and Margery covered all the aspects facing modern Spain.

Thank you.

*World Language Teacher*

*From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

Very informative historical context/information. Helpful insights into content of novels. Willingness to answer tangential questions.

Next time: maps! This would have been very helpful.

A very helpful seminar in terms of content and pedagogy. Will/will not teach these two texts, I got some good approaches for teaching Indian fiction that I do teach and, more broadly, for working with readers, texts, and contexts.

Phillips Academy teacher

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

I really enjoyed the course. The reading material we were provided with was rich and varied. They acted as a stimulus on the great conversation we had on race and multiculturalism. I feel that I have acquired a vocabulary that will enable me to deal more competently with multi-cultural challenges. Ms. Beth LaDow was able to guide us through a wealth of material, soliciting different and insightful perspectives from us. I wish TAS would extend beyond 2 days!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

Another great seminar at TAS, the second I have taken on the topic of films. Bias, of course, has me wanting more so if other topics come up for the seminars regarding film, GO FOR IT. I also like the space here at Harvard Hillel although I don't know if it is my difficulty or age but the audio in this space is not that

conducive to understanding. It could be just me. The books of this course were great assets for educators. Thank You. I do not really have concrete ideas regarding future programming but will email you should I think of anything. I know I'll hear from you as I'm on your email list.

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

## Rivers School

Great experience to be a student in the multiculturalism class. The course gave me new perspectives on my main subject- U.S. history- as well as on how and why I do or do not teach certain things. Beth asked about the reading load. I like having all the readings that were assigned to skim through, but I think class time would be better spent if we went more in depth with less of the sources instead of trying to touch on them all- like we do with Zadie Smith's novel.

A lot of knowledgeable and thoughtful peers taking the class- the more discussion that can be had in such a group the better. Maybe let it follow a bit more in random directions.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

Although there were aspects of this seminar which I enjoyed (topic, meeting of other teachers, reading novels, Sharmila's personality), on balance, it was not challenging or informative enough to justify missing two teaching days. The questions/content of questions were not very intense (kind of book club) and, although Sharmila is a great lecturer, I knew much of the historical information--I think I would not feel disappointed at all if this had been an evening or Saturday session. Then no problem with less intense environment but I feel that the threshold of expectation has to be higher if competing with missing work.

Perhaps I feel this was particularly true because I teach AP and have limited teaching days with seniors. This was cool but not "missing work" cool.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

## Roxbury Latin

Ann Trenk is a spectacular instructor; she is enthusiastic, brilliant, and very clear. This seminar will be very useful in either Algebra 2 or Precalculus. I would love to participate in a course focused on the topic of Logarithms.

Roxbury Latin

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

This was enormously useful to hear from a scholar who asks excellent questions and is engaging in a give- and - take with teachers across levels. Time very well spent. Thanks you very much.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

This was a wonderful experience - my first with TAS. It was a special treat to study about the Romans at the MFA- with access to remarkable works in the galleries. Richard Grossman is a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and approachable expert in the field. He brought the topic of Romans in the wider world to life-sharing examples of how Rome saw "others" and how "others" saw the Romans. I learned numerous things that I can incorporate into my classes and will help when I bring classes to the museum.

I would have enjoyed even more time in the galleries and would have liked to have heard more from Richard rather than through participant's reports. It was hard to pull together a worthwhile presentation and really dig into the aspects on the afternoon of the second day. On balance, however I would give the seminar very high marks.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

I had a wonderful experience. Graeme did a great job of ministering to people of greatly varying academic experiences and interests. Everyone in the room, including me, seemed inspired. I have no criticisms, but it might be worth considering running some seminars that had a more focused agenda, e.g. some project where the teachers as scholars can contribute to solving a problem or focus on one task where everyone's expertise can be brought forth.

My seminar was entertaining and informative--but I was always a "mere" student as opposed to a collaborating scholar.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

While essentially clueless overall (very little math background), I found the class engaging, challenging and informative. A lot of the work was over my head but the instructor was excellent at explaining the material. My knowledge of the subject is substantially higher than when I came in and I do feel as though I will be able to apply this knowledge with more study and practice.

Overall I enjoyed the class and the collegiality with the other teachers very much.

Roxbury Latin

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

Great fun to see development of linear algebra ideas from scratch with enthusiasm and a set of simple examples to motivate the development of

important ideas.

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: Linear Algebra is Everywhere*

### Scituate Schools

GREAT EXPERIENCE--let me know when the Spanish film course is in the works.

*Secondary Teacher*

*Seminar: From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

Wonderful seminar, Thanks so much to TAS. So much information in a terrific setting. Will read and reread the handouts, books and authors/topics mentioned in class. Quite good connections to use and work with at school. Will discuss much of this seminar with colleagues and staff that work with all children esp. spec. ed. and ASD children. So much good info.

Please continue these awesome seminars.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

Informative and interesting. Eden does a terrific job bringing her extensive experience in the publishing industry to the "classroom". Well done.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

### St. Sebastian's School

Marvelous! The instructor is such a great person, knows so much, I could have walked, viewed slides and listened to him for hours more. I have lived here for over 40 years and feel I know the city for the first time.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Boston's Changing Urban Vision: Urban Design and Architecture in the 21st Century*

My second opportunity to do "literature" mini-courses at TAS. Besides being required (happily) to read novels during the school year, I have also had the opportunity to do some "thinking outside the box", a wonderful refreshment during the 2nd part of the school year, when things seem to slow down.

Another key joy in these programs is to spend time with teachers who are also enjoying a day off in thoughtful discussion.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Cracking India*

## Thayer Academy

I greatly enjoyed the course...found it informative, thought-provoking, challenging, and fun. I believe I will be able to use much of what we studied in my classes. I thought the professor was great!

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

The presentation and presenter were both excellent, which is what I have come to expect.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

Very valuable for me professionally, Have long wanted to learn more about Gnosticism- this has piqued my interest to the point where I SHALL. Suggestion for this course: There is time to include another gospel-Mary? Suggestion for future: history of the struggle between science and religion - with some really real science and some real religion. Charles is great! Depth of knowledge impressive, good presentation, Genius at wading through student's hazy ramblings and pulling out the meaning; Masterful at another important teacher skill- responding to and reworking a student's totally erroneous assertion until it becomes logical and giving the student credit.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospels*

When I signed up for the seminar about my favorite novel which is not a novel I would teach to my 6th grade students, I was surprised and pleased that what I learned about close textual analysis is something I will absolutely bring to my classroom to the benefit of my students.

*Middle School Teacher, English*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

This seminar was a great help to me and to those with whom I teach an English course that includes several novels set in the Middle East. Maura offered a great deal of information on Islam and how it influences the lives of women throughout the world, and she was generous enough to share her presentations and source lists.

She exceeded my expectations in several ways. We explored the history of the religion and the veil, looked at passages of the Quran, discussed several books and movies that featured Muslim women, and had time to discuss our own perceptions and prejudices. It was a race since there were only three classes, but not a minute was wasted.

Maura did an excellent job of sharing her knowledge of and interest in the material while keeping the conversation open. My only criticism is that in light of

the limited time available, I think she should be more selective about what material she prints to share with her classes. Although there is a wealth of information out there and new developments/stories emerge every day, it is not practical to attempt to expose her students to everything related to Muslim Women. Rather than hand out reams of paper, she could alert us to her favorite on-line resources for current events and limit her distribution to materials that are about the authors of the work being studied or current events from the actual weeks of the course. She would save a lot of trees and foster more meaningful conversation about the few featured articles because most people would have time to read them. Otherwise, an absolute joy. I miss it.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### Wellesley Schools

Stimulating reading and discussion. Wonderful opportunity to bounce ideas off of colleagues from different subject areas. Uncovering of material I may be able to use that addresses our two key questions:

What kind of society do I want to live in?

What kind of citizen do I want to be?

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

Niall Ferguson was excellent. The seminar was thoughtful and gave me some ideas for my own classroom and looking at history in general.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Western Civilization Revisited: A Meta-Narrative for World History*

I found the class to be very interesting and informative. I didn't know much about the brain and how it functions and feel like I have a better appreciation of how it works. John Dowling was an excellent teacher and made things very clear.

TAS is a wonderful program. I so appreciate the opportunity to be a learner. Not only did I learn about a new topic, but I got the chance to take on the role my students do every day--of being out of my element and learning something new. I was able to reflect on what is like for them. Thank you!

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

Excellent, as always. A treat to read and talk with teachers from all disciplines. Theo's talent for infusing into literature his vast knowledge of philosophy, music, and teaching skills inspires me every time.

Many thanks TAS!!

*Secondary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

This class is a fascinating combination of Neuroscience, biology, anatomy and thought. While I could grasp some of the information, I have an even stronger awareness of how much I don't know and the complexity of brain evolution. I look forward to summer when I can actually spend more time chewing on this material and delving further into connections and how I can use them to create more of my own intellectual models and insights.

My only critique would be that a couple of students often hijacked discussion for their own personal agenda which I found quite irritating and tiresome. It diverted instruction from what I was there for. Would it be possible to get a copy of the course power point by email so that I go over parts we were unable to get to.

Thank you.

*Elementary Guidance Counselor*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

Topic was very interesting and John Dowling is very knowledgeable. He created a good atmosphere and was open to questions. The lab parts of the sessions were very good and I learned a lot. I've had good experiences with TAS. Thank you Professor Dowling and TAS

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

This course was excellent. Ann did a beautiful job explaining the concepts. We had plenty of time to work with other classmates on problem sets which was very helpful in reinforcing concepts. I would love to have more TAS classes involving high school math concepts from which to choose.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

Mimi is very knowledgeable and energetic. She has inspired me to incorporate art into my teaching. I particularly enjoyed the Asian painting and pottery discussions. I wish we had a chance to introduce ourselves and find out what and where other participants teach. There was not much of an opportunity for that. I hope to plan a field trip for my students with Mimi doing the gallery talk/guide.

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

An extraordinary experience! Marcia is a gem! I thoroughly enjoyed the 2-day class on *Pride and Prejudice*.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

I found the class beneficial in 2 ways.

1. As course progressed I was forced to and enjoyed formulating/deconstructing

and reconstructing my convictions on multi cultural education.

2. Continued thinking of applications to history curriculum.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

I did like the class but wasn't quite sure of the overall purpose. Was it to examine 1st amendment Supreme Court or Court cases? Or, was it about the challenges found by people engaged in such cases? I think perhaps if any overall purpose is clearer, then people could be more prepared. Also I felt as though if we had a reading to do before coming to class, then conversation could be more easily had AND that then more people would feel on the same level starting out.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: The Living Bill of Rights*

I really enjoyed the book, *On Beauty*, as well as the handouts. There was more reading material than I could get to, but I hope to read more of it later. The best part of the class was the discussions. It was beneficial to hear the experiences of other. What I would have loved were some practical activities to take back to my class.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

## Westford Schools

What a great professional development experience! I was challenged in this course in ways that surprised me. The instructor, Michael Downing, crafted assignments that caused me to think about writing in new ways. As a teacher, it made me reconsider what it is I ask my students to do in the classroom. This course helped me bridge the gap between teacher and student. I would recommend this course wholeheartedly to anyone in examining their own writing process and understanding what it is that makes good fiction.

*Middle School Reading Specialist*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

This has been a wonderful, engaging and inspirational experience. Mimi has brought the works of art to life with her enthusiasm and the richness of her "storytelling" explaining how the museum pieces were acquired, as well as the symbolism and cultural significance of the work. Learning about art through looking at it first hand is an invaluable experience. You can't see the subtleties in a book or in a slide. Being in the presence of a great work of art is necessary to truly appreciate it. Being given background information about the influences and history behind it has been so helpful.

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

Wonderful!!! But left me with so many more questions as it relates to many different areas. Would have loved to have more time to discuss such things as Autism, dyslexia, Alzheimer's, Genius. I would love to have had an extra day to explore these "conditions". So pleased that this was opened up to the K-5 teachers in Westford. Fantastic Opportunity,  
*Elementary Occupational Therapist*  
*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

This program was both informative but also inspiring! I have taught world history for years and to hear Mimi speak about the works of art relating to my subject spurs new excitement in me for the many topics included in my teaching. In fact, I am thinking of teaching a specific course next year as a result of this series. It has been fun and stimulating.  
Thank you Mimi- was great.  
*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*  
*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

Fascinating seminar!! I enjoyed this very, very much. Warren was absolutely a wealth of information. His personal experiences and insights added a great deal of depth to the class. Lots of practical info and ideas I can use in my classes (Grades 3-5) It's great that the vocalizing can be linked to kinesthetics/movement. Cultural protocol and history were valuable parts of the seminar.  
I can't say enough good things!! I hope Warren will be teaching in TAS in the future. I will look for him next year. I'm in!!  
*Performing Arts Teacher*  
*Seminar: The World of Raga*

Course materials selected were excellent to support content. Format of seminar was thought provoking and engaging. Discussions were rich and participants were encouraged to contribute in an academically stimulating environment. Beth LaDow is talented and an effective facilitator for this deep and challenging subject.  
*Assistant Principal*  
*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

I loved having the opportunity to discuss literature with peers, to be both student and teacher at the same time. I come away not only inspired by the literature, but also armed with several new, exciting ideas to bring into my classroom. Thank you to TAS and Westford Public Schools for this opportunity.  
*Secondary English Teacher*  
*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

Warren was obviously a knowledgeable, experienced and accomplished musician with a wealth of pertinent illustrative stories. The choices of reading material were excellent. I particularly loved listening to the accompanying CD while I read the book.

I think learning outside my field makes me a more interesting, well-rounded teacher. Though this class was outside my field I can bring the experience and knowledge acquired back to my class through stories, music, literature along with an overall increased familiarity with another culture.

*Middle School Performing Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

### Weston Public Schools

This seminar on combinatorics was fantastic. I really needed a refresher and this completely served the purpose. The group was small and Ann was incredible. The information was presented in a logical manner and perfect for adapting into high school curriculum. Thanks for the awaiting opportunity.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

This is my 2nd TAS experience. Both have been fabulous! 1st was Peter Nasrecki (sp?) at Harvard; 2nd with Sol Gittleman on baseball.

*Kindergarten Teacher*

*Seminar: America and The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

Great opportunity to learn about a topic that is important but is not directly related to my classroom. I am so grateful to learn from Nancy and Sarah, 2 people who I would not have access to normally. Great opportunity for me to live what I teach--that a lifelong love and quest for learning and knowledge is important.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Living Bill of Rights*

What a wonderful way to learn history, through the lens of baseball. While my students are only Kindergarteners, I find I am able to get them excited about something new (i.e. history, civil rights) through something familiar--baseball, the Red Sox.

*Elementary School Teacher*

*Seminar: America And The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

This was an outstanding course! The content and way it was presented was perfect for the audience. I will definitely bring back some of these problems to my

students! I would love to see more math content courses, especially in the area of discrete math.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: Combinatorics: The Art of Counting Without Counting*

This was a great way for me to learn what games our kids play outside of school. I would have liked to learn about games to bring into the classroom but found the conversation stimulating nevertheless. I feel much more comfortable bringing the topic of video games into class for discussion.

*Middle School Teacher*

*Seminar: Games and Society*

I come back from TAS Seminars excited and rejuvenated to teach. My students feel my enthusiasm; though don't always understand how anyone could feel this about being in school. Marcia Folsom helped me explore *Pride and Prejudice* for the first time. I'd never read this Austen novel and felt that the questions raised and discussions that ensued sparked more than an interest. I can't wait to go back and read it again.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

TAS classes bring together thoughtful teachers to discuss education issues in a more poignant and low-pressure environment. It reminds what it is like to be a student again. Great class!

*Middle School Teacher*

*Seminar: Games and Society*

## Westwood Schools

Really enjoy getting the opportunity to step out of the classroom and get a chance to be a student again and learn about a topic that not only affects my life in the classroom but also my everyday life. It's also an interesting opportunity because you get to interact with educators from across the area in a variety of school settings.

This seminar was on a very timely and important topic. It is definitely a course that generates thought & discussion and I think this is a topic that needs to be focused on more in schools. I really enjoyed this course and Beth was a great resource and obviously had a lot to share about the topic

Westwood Public Schools

*Secondary SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: Multiculturalism--Truth, Tool, or Travesty*

Superb seminar! Theo is a brilliant presenter! Directly relevant to the teaching of adolescents, as the protagonists of the novels we read are all either in the midst of, or on the cusp of, adolescence.

The seminar also nourished my intellectual side; it was fun to discuss Freud, the difference between the classical and romantic males, and the "objective correlative".

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

I found Teachers as Scholars to be a wonderful program! I have truly enjoyed The Amazing Brain class, as it allowed me to revisit some of my former training as well as learn new theories and ideas.

John Dowling's book and lectures were thorough, interesting and very engaging. Thank you John!

*Elementary Guidance Counselor*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

Interesting and well organized- the 4 themes were useful and helped in making sense of this idea. The presentations were good- the second session benefited greatly from the time spent in the galleries. More examples from the collections, discussed in the galleries would be a plus. The student presentations were unexpected and though interesting, a bit more clarity as to what was expected may make things easier for the presenters- and more meaningful as they would be more focused. There were a lot of ideas here that I will be able to bring back to use with my students.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

This is my second experience with TAS. The first was an excellent "tour" of Japanese art at a gallery on Charles St. The MHS seems like a wonderful resource that I had not been aware of. Dr. Fowler is entertaining and fascinating. He shared the inside stories that we so rarely hear in history courses. The walking tour has also been a welcome change. We have started trying to take students into Boston and this inspires me to keep trying! These have been delightful and educational days. Thanks!

*Middle School Teacher*

*Seminar: Where Worlds Collide: Boston and the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*

My second TAS class, impression in general- GREAT! My last course was on using non-fiction specifically picture books with students- mine are middle school. I use what I learned all the time, especially to intro a new topic.

This course in particular- AWESOME!! Animated, interesting "expert" Professor Fowler- made both classroom and walking tour fascinating and entertaining, I find these classes to be a relaxing break from ordinary and a wonderful way to learn.

*Middle School Teacher*

*Seminar: Where Worlds Collide: Boston and the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*

What a wonderful seminar taught by Margery. She really shared of herself--knowledge of current Spanish culture since Franco's time. She also gave many pertinent resources for us to expand our knowledge of Spanish culture/history outside of this seminar. Mil gracias.

*Middle School Teacher*

*Seminar: From Repression to Democracy: Pos-Franco Spain*

This course was a truly special one. Margery took us on a tour of Spain--one that no common traveler could have taken. We learned so much about Spain, including Spanish politics that most citizens of Spain are not aware of. From secret recordings of Franco's "regime" to interviews in the beach resort community of Benidorm (sp?) it was a journey long and far reaching even the true "Ghosts of Spain."

*Middle School Teacher, World Language*

*Seminar: From Repression to Democracy: Post-Franco Spain*

I thoroughly enjoyed this seminar. Graeme Bird has such a wonderful presence, style and sense of humor, and the material was so informative. I learned so much, both personally and as a teacher. This the 3rd TAS seminar I have been fortunate enough to attend, and while the others were wonderful, I feel I have taken so much away from this one in particular. Were I to offer a suggestion, it would be interesting to see copies of the original type of Shakespeare to see how the handwriting/printing compares to Old and Middle English.

Thank you!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

I enrolled in this seminar because I felt ill informed about the Muslim world. Major Muslim areas are front and center in current world politics. I felt the need to have background information, as well as current information, about the countries to better understand things of major importance in the news every day. The fact that women were the focus of the seminar added particular interest for me.

The seminar exceeded my expectations. Not only did I learn a tremendous amount during the three days of seminars, I now have resources to continue the exploration on my own.

Maura is incredibly knowledgeable about the Middle East, it's history, the major religion of the area, the political and cultural forces that have, and continue to shape the region and, of course, women's place in this picture. She organized the seminars in ways that brought all of these forces together to give a broad picture of the area. She provided a wealth of resources, including the three terrific books chosen for the seminars. Maura was effective plus. A great seminar!

*Administrator*

*Seminar: Women in the Modern Muslim World*

### Wheeler School

I LOVED Michael Downing's fiction workshop. The class was a wonderful blend of short lectures with helpful advice about writing, discussion of published stories, and sharing of original work. I came into the class with some experience as a writer and was thrilled to find how little I knew! My whole approach to teaching and writing fiction has been affected--and I am excited about returning to my classes (and my computer) with renewed sense of the craft of writing fiction.

Thank you.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story*

Peter Bergethon did a remarkable job of laying a foundation for his students which will undoubtedly, perhaps necessarily lead to sustained inquiry in the field.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

I really enjoyed this. I would like to take more TAS classes. Reading books about 9/11 was really hard for me. I understand what Eden was teaching us, but maybe there are books on a different subject that would work instead? Eden was knowledgeable, friendly and down-to-earth. I like her teaching style a lot. I didn't get put on the spot and could contribute when I wanted. I learned a lot. It was

*Elementary Librarian*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

This seminar was fantastic. It is such a treat to be taught by Mimi - I really didn't know much about East Asian art until this seminar and now I feel like I have a basic understanding of the cultures and techniques that produced these objects. I am not sure how I will work this into my curriculum, but I am going to make it happen. Thanks for providing such an excellent program. Suggestion - More seminars at MFA, longer seminars.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

What a wonderful opportunity...listening to Professor Gittleman is like being entertained by a combination of Woody Allen, Mel Brooks and the most knowledgeable, enthusiastic, passionate teacher you have ever had. I learned a lot, I laughed a lot and not just about baseball...but watching a man who has been teaching (at the same place) for 46 years be still so energized and so excited about his subject inspired me to try to reenergize my own teaching and to appreciate how lucky I am to do what I do.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: America and The National Pastime: Baseball Inside And Outside The Lines*

Great resources...nice snacks and coffee. Graeme is very well informed and helped make good connections to words. Well worth coming

*Middle School SPED Teacher*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

### Winchester Public Schools

As an English teacher in an art class, I wondered how I would be able to take what I had learned back to my classroom. I knew there would be a connection..I just didn't know how luckily the idea of identity and names was a starting point which inherently links to a lot of literature. Also, the studio impact of the class allowed me to play and talk with my fellow art colleagues. It opened my eyes to a whole host of ideas and projects that link the idea of literature and poetry to the visual world. I can't say how much fun and enlightenment my experience has been here.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Making Art in Hard Times*

This seminar has been fabulous! The books were fascinating and made more so by the depth and insights of the discussions. Theo's ability to illuminate the texts with his wide knowledge of literature, poetry and history is incredible. As a non-English teacher I have learned a great deal about analyzing literature, and as an avid reader I have enjoyed every moment! There is nothing I could suggest to improve TAS--it is wonderful!

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Problem Children: J.D. Salinger's A Catcher in the Rye and Carson McCullers' A Member of the Wedding*

It was an honor to participate in this workshop. Although I teach physics, I got quite a bit of science and art information. Great leader. I had tons of fun.

*Secondary Science Teacher*

*Seminar: An Introduction to Asian Art and Ideas*

This course was an unbelievable experience. Eden is so knowledgeable about

her field. I have learned so much about how to look at books, the process of a book from start to publishing. Thank you for this opportunity.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar: The Right Book at the Right Time: Quality Fiction and Nonfiction in Children's Literature*

This course was wonderful! The information is useful as well as applicable in my role as a guidance counselor. The hands-on activities/labs were fantastic! I especially enjoyed the zebra fish and the instruction on how to recreate the fish tank at home or in a classroom environment. The information presented on the effects of drug/alcohol on the brain is extremely applicable in working with a high school population.

*Secondary Guidance Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

Fascinating, whirlwind synthesis of biology, chemistry, physics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, music, art, linguistic, religion and philosophy. The enthusiasm and compulsion to understand displayed by Peter Bergethon was inspiring. My appreciation for the marvel that is our brain has grown by leaps and bounds. Sometimes overwhelming, sometimes frustrating, always challenging and engaging.

"What a piece of work in Man,

How noble in reason

How infinite in faculty

In apprehension how like a God!"

Wm. Shakespeare, Hamlet

*Middle School Reading Specialist*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

Fabulous class- gives me new ways to think about students - what is going on in their brains as they are learning. How to structure what I do to respond to the differing needs of different students at different ages. It is interesting to know more of the math and science behind things I have learned through experience.

*Elementary Performing Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The Evolution of the Mind*

John was clearly an engaging and extremely knowledgeable teacher. I have learned a great deal from this course, personally and professionally, and am looking forward to sharing what I have learned with my colleagues.

*Middle School Sped Teacher*

*Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

The creative writing has been gratifying, engaging, and particularly helpful to me. Having never taken a course in writing, and being very interested in learning how to write fiction, how to evaluate good fiction, how to reflect on ways we work

more clearly and more effectively--this course did it all.

Michael eased my feeling of being totally incompetent with his warm nature, constructive criticism and nonjudgmental demeanor.

These three Fridays have been an invigorating, delightful experience.

Thank you.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: What's the Story?*

What an oasis "Teachers as Scholars" is in the doldrums of a New England winter! As this particular seminar falls at the mid-point of the academic year, it is truly appreciated as a well-deserved treat! My days here discussing Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* with Marcia Folsom and all the other brilliant educators has been inspiring and energizing. I have also been fortunate enough to have collected many new ideas for my classroom. So today's seminar will continue through my students. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

I really wish this seminar met 3 times and not twice. I have learned so much about the language of film. Jeff Kline is an excellent scholar and teacher. His selection of filmmakers, the interactive discussions, the range of his knowledge all have raised my consciousness about why I love foreign films so much. I also can use my literary analysis skills and apply to visual images--a different type of text. I loved the five films we had for homework that we then discussed in the seminar. This has been very helpful for my teaching as well. Once again, Teachers as Scholars has given me a very rich, intellectual experience. This is the best professional development my school offers me--the time just flew by.

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: Unraveling French Cinema*

I thoroughly enjoyed the TAS seminar. Sarah and Nancy are obviously passionate about the subject and possess a wealth of knowledge. Discussions were very lively and engaging. I loved the assignment: First Amendments Minutes. It was really interesting to meet and hear from the guest speakers.

*Elementary Teacher*

*Seminar; The Living Bill of Rights*

Zoe's questions were excellent and the class was excellent. I also enjoyed the book and plan on using it in my class. Thanks

*Secondary English Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

A great opportunity to look at a wide range of protest literature. Great discussions! The sessions were thought provoking. Especially enjoyable for the

2nd session. Interplay between 2 instructors excellent- helped to bring more discussion from group. 1st session not as good to me as 2nd partly due to more literary nature. I'm not as interested in the interplay between history and literature. Enjoyable!

Thank you.

*Secondary Social Studies Teacher*

*Seminar: American Protest Literature*

It was great to take a course out of my "comfort zone". It was like listening to great story telling. I learned current cases, plus historically important cases regarding student rights. Great how assignment got us involved in a current media use to discuss 1st amendment topics. Hearing from plaintiffs was awesome! Minuses:

too much time 1st class on website

A presenter using a website should control the mouse, not direct another person.

*Secondary Math Teacher*

*Seminar: The Living Bill of Rights*

Teachers as Scholars is consistently my favorite professional development opportunity each year. The chance to engage on highly intellectual topics with interesting and intelligent facilitators is a breath of fresh air. While I don't always directly teach the subject of each seminar, the chance to exercise the highly analytical and critical part of my brain helps me to go back to teaching with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Marcia Folsom is an excellent teacher, and I am enjoying the *Pride and Prejudice* seminar immensely. Her love of not only the material she teaches but also the ideas that her students bring to the conversation is evident.

*Middle School English Teacher*

*Seminar: Always Fresh: Reading Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

I found this course to be well guided and intellectually stimulating. The material, although somewhat philosophically and theologically challenging, was instantly accessible through the guidance of Professor Stang. The texts were very appropriate for the course- I thought it was great to start with Thomas since it was so accessible and Judas offered a different version to the more orthodox canonical gospels. The 2-day seminar was an ideal time frame for the course and the company of the other teachers was wonderful. Overall a great experience with TAS!

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Lost Gospel*

This course was, in a word, fabulous. It covered what I expected and more. The material tied in perfectly to my curriculum and has given me some new inspiration. I feel as though my mind has been to a spa. Graeme Bird is the teacher's teacher.

*Secondary Teacher, World Language*

*Seminar: English Etymology through Language and Literature*

Enjoyed presenters as well as how Richard added his expertise to visuals and history. Added dimension to a basic lecture by teachers to Richards lecture was very positive.

*Secondary Visual Arts Teacher*

*Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*

### Winsor School

It has been a lot of pleasure to get out of school and to sing with Warren. I wish I were trained in music so I could have taken full advantage of it.

*World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: The World of Raga*

It was wonderful and inspiring to take a break from the regular workweek and spend time with other teachers. Susan's initial assignment of writing our names 250 times seemed so simple at first but I was given so many ideas by watching the different directions that everyone's project took based on this starting point, I also enjoyed watching everyone feed off of each other.

These three days were a gift.

*Middle School Visual Arts*

*Seminar: Making Art in Hard Times*

First experience with TAS. I've looked through the course offerings in the past 6 years and always found them to be varied and interesting- a hard time choosing top 3. Very pleased with the course - so much to fit into 2 days without feeling too hurried. The instructor did a wonderful job of distilling vast material.

Won't be able to incorporate these specific films as a Spanish teacher, but it has given me some wonderful ideas as well as a welcome opportunity to return, albeit briefly- to the other side of the desk.

*Secondary World Language Teacher*

*Seminar: Bearing Witness: Documentary Film and the Presumption of Authenticity*

This was truly a fascinating course on a topic I know only a little about--to that end, it really fulfilled my goal to stretch myself and to explore something new! The information I learned connects to some of what I teach and has already

begun to beneficially influence my course. Overall, this was a wonderfully, enriching experience!

I did feel at points that I shouldn't interrupt the lecture to ask questions--Professor Dowling had a lot to cover and seemed to want to stay on track. I wonder if it might be useful for him to ask that we write our questions down, and then take breaks a couple of times to address them.

This was my first TAS seminar, and it was a tremendously valuable experience both intellectually and professionally. I will definitely take more seminars in the future! Many thanks to TAS and Professor Dowling!

*Secondary English Teacher,  
Seminar: The Amazing Brain*

I found the course to be very informative and well organized.

Mr. Grossman delivered a wonderful lecture on day 1, the ideas were thought provoking and ample time was given for questions and discussion.

On the second day, the lecture was completed and participants in the course were given the opportunity to present mini lessons on relevant topics of choice.

Mr. Grossman helped to facilitate these presentation and supported presenters by adding additional information. This was my first TAS course and it was very enjoyable. I look forward to taking more classes/lectures on ancient art history.

*Middle School Social Studies Teacher  
Seminar: The Ancient Romans and the Wider World*