Sankofa Tzedek:
An exploration of community, solidarity, and justice

Q: What is Sankofa Tzedek?
A: We bring together a cohort of students on campus for a semester of personal identity development, intergroup dialogue, intercultural learning, transformational travel, and social justice education that centers the experiences and histories of Black and Jewish communities. Through friendship-building; sustained dialogue on social identity, power and privilege, and activism; and an exploration of the histories of Black and Jewish communities in New York City and the U.S. South, students will build transformational relationships; solidify a commitment to intercommunity solidarity for the purpose of ending racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of oppression; and acquire skills for being effective dialogue leaders on campus.

Q: Why was this program created?
A: Black and Jewish communities, once seen as natural allies in various social movements, have faced increasing separation and tension in recent decades. Recent news headlines include questions about the role of Jewish social justice organizations in anti-racism work, disagreements about how Black leaders should respond to anti-Semitism, political debates about Palestine and Israel, and more. These public tensions tend to make invisible the voices of Black Jews and lead to increasing separation of Black and Jewish communities. On campus, we see--if not outright tension--few opportunities for meaningful connections among Black and Jewish student organizations and administrative programs.

Q: Who should join this cohort? Who will be facilitating?
A: The program is open to all undergraduate students. We are especially seeking students who are excited to engage with historical and current social justice movements, develop leadership skills, and build meaningful relationships.

Sankofa Tzedek is a collaboration between the Multicultural Affairs and the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life. Staff from these two offices will serve as facilitators throughout the semester.

Q: Where will the cohort meet?
A: The cohort will meet on campus and also take offsite trips to locations such as Harlem, Crown Heights, and the Lower East Side to visit with activists and sites of importance to Black and Jewish histories in New York. The cohort will travel together to the U.S. South on a Winter Break Justice Pilgrimage during the month of January.

Q: How often does the cohort meet?
A: The following meeting times will be required of accepted participants.

- Opening Retreat: Friday, October 25–Saturday, October 26
- Friday Programs (10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.)
  - Friday, November 15, 2019
  - Friday, December 6, 2019
  - Friday, February 7, 2020
  - Friday, March 6, 2020
  - Friday, April 3, 2020
- Justice Pilgrimage: Dates to be determined between Thursday, January 9 and Thursday, January 16. Participants will need to report to campus for the start of the pilgrimage.
• Closing Lunch: Friday, May 1, 2020 (noon-2:00 p.m.)

Q: What does a typical Friday program entail?
A: Some Friday programs will be held on campus, and some will feature outings in New York City. On campus, the cohort might spend a day engaged in dialogue about identity, privilege, culture, and values; meeting with guest speakers; or learning leadership skills. Outings could include visits to museums, heritage sites, cultural restaurants, and more.

Q: What is the Winter Break Justice Pilgrimage? How does it work?
A: The justice pilgrimage is a 5-7 day immersive travel experience to Atlanta, Georgia and Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Tuskegee, Alabama. On the journey, Sankofa Tzedek will visit sites of heritage and history for Black and Jewish communities, meet with civil rights leaders of the past and present, and engage in intergroup reflection and dialogue. Students will report to campus for the start of the pilgrimage, and we will make storage available for luggage that you need for the spring semester but do not wish to take on the journey. We will fly from NYC to Atlanta, bus throughout the south, and fly back to NYC by Thursday, January 16. Upon returning to campus, students will be free to move into dorms in preparation for the spring semester.

Q: Will program requirements interfere with my religious observance?
A: Programming will either include opportunities for religious observance or be scheduled around times of religious observance. For example, Retreat programming on a Friday/Saturday will include a celebration of Shabbat. Friday programs will end prior to the start of Shabbat.

Q: Do I have to pay to be a part of this program?
A: There are no program fees required to participate in Sankofa Tzedek.

Q: How do I join?
A: Applications are available online and are due by noon on Friday, September 20. Facilitators will review applications during the following weeks and extend offers in early October.

Contact sankofa.tzedek@columbia.edu with any additional questions.