

## SUMMER 2008 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **GSC 27999-01                      Gender Studies Gateway Course**

**For all Majors & Minors**

**No Hours/No Credits      Co-Requisite Course for Pre-approval Registration**

All Gender Studies Majors and Minors are pre-approved for this Gateway Course. Every Gender Studies Major and Minor **MUST REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE ONCE A SEMESTER** in order to obtain pre-approved permission to register for Gender Studies Courses other than those specifically requesting Department Approval.

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### **GSC 30309                      Labor & America Since 1945**

**TR 8:55 am – 11:25 am**

**Fulfills Humanities Requirement for Majors**

**Daniel Graff/HIST**

This course explores the evolving relationships of American workers to politics, the economy, and the wider culture since 1945. The United States emerged from World War II as the strongest global power, and its citizens subsequently enjoyed a long postwar economic boom that created what we might call the first truly middle-class society in world history. At the heart of that new society was the American labor movement, those unions like the United Auto Workers and the United Steel Workers who ensured that at least some of the postwar profits made it into the wallets of workers and their families. Today, however, unions represent only 8% of workers in the private sector. What accounts for the decline of organized labor since the 1950s? What has the decline of the labor movement meant for workers specifically, and the American economy and politics more broadly? How and why have popular perceptions of unions changed over time? What has been the relationship of organized labor to the civil rights movement, feminism, and modern conservatism? What is “globalization” and what has been its impact upon American workers? Through an exploration of historical scholarship, memoirs, and Hollywood films, this course will try to answer these questions. Students interested in politics, economic development, international relations, social justice, human rights, peace studies or mass culture are particularly welcome. Note: This course fulfills the university history requirement.

### **GSC 30570                      Slavery in the Atlantic World**

**MW 1:15 pm – 3:45 pm**

**Fulfills Humanities or Diversity Requirement for Majors**

**Denise Challenger/AFST**

This survey course explores the nature and meaning of the 'Atlantic world'. Covering the fifteenth century to the nineteenth century, it interrogates the role of coerced African labour in the birth of the Atlantic world. Created as a consequence of the Columbian encounter, a main focus will be on the ways in which the common historical thread of trans-Atlantic slavery connected the economies, cultures and societies that bordered the

Atlantic Ocean. Moreover, it explores how constructions of gender, race and sexuality were central to the formation of societies in the 'Atlantic world'. Thematically this course explores, in a variety of geographical sites, the varied and nuanced claims to humanity that Afro descended peoples displayed against the systematic attempts to dehumanize and exploit their bodies. Africans throughout various communities in West Africa, North America, Brazil and the British Caribbean are the primary focal points of this course.