

## Equality Studies 2009-2010 Modules for occasional students

### **EQUL40130 Equality and the Media (Tuesdays 4.30pm)**

The media is popularly described as having a watchdog role, representing public interests and facilitating democratic participation. However, critics argue that the media's current role as profit-making enterprises has resulted in a surfeit of entertainment, trivia and sensationalism. This module examines how the media fulfils a public service role in relation to the coverage of equality issues. Whose voices are heard? What messages about equality are presented? Are audiences empowered to act on equality issues? This module will develop students' knowledge of media literacy and advocacy by studying how and why the media operates. We will assess the impact of global economic and political structures and look at how media producers work (through ethics, professionalism, news worthiness and media savviness). We examine how equality issues are represented (through narratives, framing and symbolic representation) and develop media strategies for the representation of equality issues (through practical workshops on broadcast, print and internet media). These strategies create powerful messages and myths about equality that have important consequences for public discourse and egalitarian practices. This module is coordinated by Bernie Grummell.

### **EQUL 40050 Political Theory of Equality (Wednesdays 4.30pm)**

The purpose of this module is to explore a number of the central questions of contemporary normative egalitarian theory. After discussing some of the 'canonical' texts in recent egalitarian theory such as Rawls and Dworkin, we will discuss some key debates that occur within and beyond liberal egalitarianism, such as the debate around equality and responsibility and the debate about whether the need for incentives justifies inequality, in both cases drawing on recent work by political theorists. The module then moves on to discuss questions of respect and recognition; love, care and solidarity; and work. Throughout the module, the emphasis is on engagement with contemporary authors. Classes are based on discussion rather than lectures.

### **EQUL 40240 International Human Rights Law (Thursdays 6pm)**

The purpose of this module is to explore and critically evaluate the contribution of international human rights law to the realisation of egalitarian goals. Core themes addressed are: the relationship between international human rights regimes and domestic legal orders; the interface between international human rights standards and the politics of social movements; the conceptual underpinnings of the laws and policies emanating from the United Nations system and that of the Council of Europe; the sources and material scope of international human rights law and related enforcement mechanisms. This module is coordinated by Tanya Ward.