

**FIGHT BACK USA:**  
***CORPORATE GREED, DEBT, AUSTERITY***

**APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Content Themes for Local Teach-in**

If you are organizing a campus/local event on April 5<sup>th</sup>, you might consider the themes listed below. These themes form the core of the NYC live stream webcast Teach-in. The order is suggestive of the logic of the widespread crisis. All themes overlap of course, but this is a rubric for thinking about how to “connect the dots” for your audience.

Most importantly, the final theme “**Into Action**” is designed to get your group thinking about local action strategies that coordinate with existing campaigns around:

- 1) **Anti-austerity**  
(federal spending priorities, state budget shortfalls, union fight back on collective bargaining rights, teacher and other public sector union campaigns, protest of cuts to social services for the poor, war/war spending protests...)
  
- 2) **Anti-bank /Corporate Greed protests**  
(corporate tax-avoidance actions, “uncut” campaigns, anti-foreclosure movement, student loan/debt protests, bank bailout protest...)

**Help make this the most memorable spring for US social justice movements in decades!**

**THEMES**

**CORPORATE GREED**

- **Income Inequality** (the growing income inequality gap that characterizes the US and global economy)
- **Wealth Transfer** (bailouts of banks and corporations) with tax dollars from working people who slide deeper into crisis.
- **Corporate Tax Breaks and Rising Profits** (tax policy and relief designed by and for a rich and tiny minority, while starving essential services --at all levels of government--for the majority)

**HELPFUL WEBSITES/VIDEOS**

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

Center for Economic Policy Research [www.cepr.net/index.php/data-bytes/poverty-bytes/poverty-2010](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/data-bytes/poverty-bytes/poverty-2010)

Tax Justice Network [www.taxjustice.net/cms/front\\_content.php?idcatart=2](http://www.taxjustice.net/cms/front_content.php?idcatart=2)

Cont'd THEME: CORPORATE GREED

US UNCUT [www.usuncut.org](http://www.usuncut.org)

Watson Institute [www.watsoninstitute.org/gpd/markets.cfm](http://www.watsoninstitute.org/gpd/markets.cfm)

PBS Newshour "Widest Income Inequality Gap Ever" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nlg0RSmGr-c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nlg0RSmGr-c) (9/2010)

"Growth of Inequality in America" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDFVcTFNnZs&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDFVcTFNnZs&feature=relmfu)  
(3/2011)

James Galbraith, "50 Years of Global Inequality" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaUxttL4s14](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaUxttL4s14)

## DEBT

- **National Debt** (war spending, bank bailouts, tax-breaks for the rich)
- **Predatory Lending by Banks**
- **Mortgage Crisis**
- **Student Loan Crisis**
- **Consumer Debt Crisis**

### HELPFUL WEBSITE & VIDEOS

National Priorities Project <http://nationalpriorities.org>

Federal Budget 101: A webinar <http://nationalpriorities.org/en/resources/webinars/federal-budget-101>

Federal Budget Charts <http://nationalpriorities.org/en/resources/federal-budget-101/charts>

Consumer Warning Network/ "Produce the Note"

[www.consumerwarningnetwork.com/2008/06/19/produce-the-note-how-to](http://www.consumerwarningnetwork.com/2008/06/19/produce-the-note-how-to)

"Default: The Student Loan Documentary" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1463LHDLGvQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1463LHDLGvQ)

## AUSTERITY

- **Manufactured Crisis, Manufactured Solution**
- **Austerity as Myth** (pretense for assault on civil society)
- **Assault on Collective Bargaining and Union Rights** (impact on worker's rights of all workers going forward)
- **Assault on Social Service Spending at all Levels of Government** (impact on the poorest Americans)
- **Demonizing Public Employees** (teachers, civil servants, higher education)
- **Sacraficing the Many for the Few**

## HELPFUL WEBSITES/Videos

“AUSTERITY” by Mark Blythe <http://vimeo.com/15061570>

AFL-CIO [www.afcio.org](http://www.afcio.org)

NEA [www.nea.org/home/42762.htm](http://www.nea.org/home/42762.htm)

SEIU [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org)

The Murphy Institute [www.workerred.org](http://www.workerred.org)

“WE ARE ONE” [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XalfDNQV5dM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XalfDNQV5dM)

## INTO ACTION!

- **Identify Existing Local/Regional Campaigns** (anti-austerity; workers rights/union campaigns; anti-bank actions)
- **Include Representatives from these campaigns in your Teach-In** (utilize local campaigners as speakers)
- **Focus on Campus-Community Connections** (strategize as to how campus energy and bodies can be leveraged for existing efforts; think through how different sectors --state workers, students, homeowner...-- possess different points of institutional leverage. Consider how, where and when direct action can be most effectively used to maximize different types and points of leverage.
- **ACT !** (decide an action focus and start ORGANIZING!)

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