Rutgers—the State University of New Jersey School of Management and Labor Relations Department of Labor and Employment Relations

37:575:355 CURRENT LABOR PROBLEMS

Dr. Michael Merrill Spring 2012

Crisis, Catastrophe and Conscience

The global economy is currently unbalanced, burdened by overwork and under-employment, and subject to increasingly frequent fiscal and monetary crises. Its environmental policies are unsustainable and have pushed several critical natural systems to and beyond their historically established bounds, with as yet unknown, though likely catastrophic, consequences. And the global governance structure seems only barely up to the task of coping with these challenges.

"Current Labor Problems" for Spring 2012 will explores these issues, and the range of proposed and possible responses as they affect working people and the labor movement worldwide. Participants will consider ideas from evolutionary economics, environmental economics, Keynes, crisis theorists; and global labor movement theorists, among others.

The goal of the course is to provide participants with an opportunity to understand both the nature of the global problems facing working people and the global labor movement today; and, also what, if anything, we, as individuals, should and can do.