



GLOBAL LABOUR UNIVERSITY - UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

SOCIAL THEORY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONISTS

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MAY 2020 SHORT COURSE

The Global Labour University (GLU) at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg invites particular unions to nominate unionists from their organisation for the Social Theory 2020 short course for trade unionists and labour activists living and working in South Africa. The aim of the course is to help participants develop capacity for critical thinking and to engage analytically about labour and labour-related issues. The thematic focus of Social Theory 2020 is the **energy sector**. The primary goal is to assist unionists in their critical thinking and ability to analyse the complex world in which their unions and worker organisations operate. The certificate course addresses key debates in political economy, development, democracy, labour (and the various forms of work and workers), as well as systemic alternatives with a dedicated focus on the energy sector.

On completion of the course, participants should be able to:

- Apply conceptual and analytical frameworks in developing union analyses and strategy;
- Lead relevant discussions, collect information, analyse problems, make judgements based on analysis, and effectively communicate them; and
- Develop individual capacity and competence in academic reading and analysis.

The course is divided into four themed modules:

- 1) Labour, Development and Democracy
- 2) Global Capitalism and African Political Economy
- 3) Systemic Alternatives
- 4) The Sociology of Worker Organisations and Contemporary Challenges Facing Labour

Throughout each of these modules a focus on trade unions and their engagements on each of these themes will be highlighted. In addition, each module will integrate themes of gender, ecology, international solidarity, and trade union strategy. Each theme will highlight strategic approaches by trade unions.

Target Group

Labour activists and trade unionists from all federations, unions, and worker organisations working in the *energy sector* in South Africa. In 2020 we are focusing on the energy sector and will only accept nominations that fall broadly within the energy sector.

The course is run as part of the Global Labour University programme, a network that has successfully established postgraduate academic study opportunities for labour activists from all over the world. Modules are taught by experienced teaching staff from the University of the Witwatersrand and other guest lecturers.

Practical Considerations

Certification: Upon successful completion of the training programme, participants will receive a short-course certificate of competence. Successful completion means full attendance and participation in all module activities as set by the Module Coordinators.

Classes: The courses will run from **29 April to 29 May 2020** at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Classes run from **08h30-17h00 each day** as set by the Module Coordinators. Group-work projects may also be set by Module Coordinators outside class time. Graduation is scheduled for Friday 29th May, 2020.

Financing and Scholarships

The Social Theory course receives support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). There are a **limited number** of scholarships available to course participants. The **nominating unions are expected to pay R1500 per participant** towards these costs. This payment must be made when confirming the participant.

The scholarship provided by the FES covers the following:

- University Short course costs
- Accommodation at the University of the Witwatersrand; and/or
- Tuition fees.

Day-to-day living expenses are the **responsibility of the participants**. All transport costs, **including parking on University campuses**, have to be paid for in full by the participants or an organisation on their behalf.

Admission requirements

Union nomination, matriculation or school leaving certificate; current employment with, or membership of a trade union, labour organisation, or labour movement; and support from employer and union (confirming time off). Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- you are a trade unionist (in full-time employment and/or voluntary involvement) or are otherwise active in the labour movement;
- you are committed to employing your new skills in labour-related issues;
- you are motivated to pass on your acquired knowledge to others;
- you have at least a School Leaving Certificate (in exceptional circumstances we can also recognise prior learning for those who do not have school leaving certificates);
- those with a Bachelor's degree are also encouraged to apply;
- you have at least three years' labour-related work experience;
- you are responsible or will become responsible for labour-related policies in an organisation representing workers or dealing with labour issues;
- you have a good command of English, are able to express yourself in writing and willing to participate actively in classes; and
- you have support from your employer to attend the course as per the times set above.

Language requirements

The course is taught in English and participants must be fluent in English.

Application process

To complete the application process please submit the following documents (in English):

- **Social Theory Application Form for 2020**
please see the website for the Social Theory for South African Trade Unionists at: <https://www.global-labour-university.org/index.php?id=425> for the relevant application form
- **Your CV/Resume**
- **A Personal Motivational letter**
- **A Letter of Recommendation by your Union/Organisation**
- **Copies of your academic certificates**

Contact:

For enquiries, please contact Mr Warren McGregor:

Email: GLU.SouthAfrica@wits.ac.za

Telephone: 011 717 4479/4443

Facsimile: 011 717 4459

Closing Date: Friday, 25 October 2019

Incomplete applications will NOT be processed.

Application Submission:

Please submit application documents via email to GLU.SouthAfrica@wits.ac.za or via courier to:

Mr Warren McGregor
Global Labour University South Africa
Robert Sobukwe Block, Room 203
School of Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Private Bag X3
Johannesburg, WITS 2050