

Thank you for signing up for Scholar Strike!

What is Scholar Strike? Scholar Strike is a day of action/teach-in/social justice advocacy happening on September 8-9 2020. These days were chosen because of their proximity to Labor Day, and because for many people it is the beginning of the semester of classes.

Anthea Butler and Kevin Gannon are taking up the organizing duties, but this day can't happen without YOUR participation.

Please note: We are not publishing a letter with your names. We gathered names to gauge interest and organize, not for publicity purposes. If you wish to share your participation, that's great. If not, that is cool too. Lists of academics tend to become targets for conservative orgs, and we're not about that at all.

Inspired by the striking WNBA and NBA players, Anthea flippantly said on twitter she would be down to strike just like the players on Twitter. Many of you responded affirmatively, and that is how Scholar Strike began.

To answer your questions about the format of the two day action, let me set some parameters out at the beginning. There are MANY ways to participate in this action to show our support for BLM and protests against police violence, racialized violence, racism, white supremacy. We know that many people are under union contracts and can not formally strike.

Understanding that, there are a variety of ways to participate. We will have google sign ups for each of these areas so that we can coordinate with you. There are as follows.

1. Strike means strike. You can walk away from Teaching/ Administrative duties for one or both days in solidarity with those suffering from unjust policing and racism in America. We will have a template to put up on your email away message that you can use or alter to let people know you are participating in this action.

For some of you, this can be total, for others, it will mean simply stepping away from your normal teaching/ administrative activities to teach your students and others on your campus about racialized violence in America. For those who can not do this because of union contracts, etc., we encourage you to participate in other ways, and to contribute to the teach in or other actions, which are listed below.

2. **Our lead event is a virtual teach in.** We have a Youtube channel set up, and for those who are interested (and willing to sign up) we want to host 10 minute segments which will run for two days (4-5 every hour, with interstitials in between) that will cover a variety of subjects on race, racism, policing, advocacy, all from your area of expertise. If you are, say a historian who deals with the civil rights movement, or a sociologist who deals with policing, or a political scientist, we invite a short 10 minute talk on the area of your expertise that dovetails with the current racial upheaval we are continuing to experience in the United States. If there is a particular issue of equity or diversity relating to race that you are interested in, we welcome that too.
3. All day on twitter, we encourage social media posts/ threads with the hashtag #ScholarStrike for a social media blitz on issues surrounding race and racial justice. These can be curated on your own platforms, but we now have a twitter and instagram account. If you use Facebook or TikTok, we welcome these as well (and if you send them to our twitter, we will repost!). We will also facilitate Twitter chats under the hashtag.

4. For some of you, this will mean actions on your campuses that speak to specific issues in your area. For instance, at Penn we have a campaign to defund our police force, Police Free Penn. You can set up activities with regards to issues on your campuses like these, or in support of anti racism efforts on your campus and in your immediate communities. Consider us a conduit for amplification of your efforts, not oversight.
5. If you are willing to help in any way, please email us here at Scholarstrike@gmail.com. We will be sending an additional email with sign-ups for the virtual teach in (6 hours per day) . We will have additional sign ups for people who want to tweet, write fb posts, or any other social media pushes that day. We are also planning on making a list of demands to universities regarding social justice and racial equity in keeping with the goals of the day. That will be published the day of the strike. If you have suggestions, please forward them to us as well.

That's it for now. Please look for the next email that will show you where to sign up for teach-in slots, and further information on the strike event!!

Anthea and Kevin

