THE EFFECTS OF THE RECESSION ON JOBS

All Americans have been affected by the Great Recession, some more than others. After Fall Break, we will devote a day to discussion of the effects of the recession on jobs. Some of the issues addressed in the articles we will read* may have affected your family or their friends. If they feel comfortable doing so, you might discuss the following questions with them over Fall Break. We will address these issues in class and you are invited to share these experiences, while protecting the anonymity of those you have talked.

These are some of the questions that you might ask to start a conversation, but please let your respondent tell their own stories.

Have you or do you know anyone who has lost their job in the current recession? If so,
   - Have they returned to work? How long did it take to get another job?
   - Do they consider their new job as good as their previous job?
   - Did they experience a reduction in pay?

Even if you are still working, have you had a reduction in hours during the recession, or are you worried about being laid off?

Do you feel you are working harder than you did 10 years ago? If so, what has changed in your job?

In the longer term, how secure is your job? Are you concerned with your job going away, either because of changes in technology or outsourcing?

Has the field in which you work been affected more or less than others because of the recession? Why?

Have you ever considered returning to school to upgrade your skills or even to retrain for another job?

Are you concerned about your children finding jobs when they graduate? Do you have any career advice for them or others in their generation?

*I invite you and the people with whom you talk to read these articles online. They are on the class website as PDF files.