

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
THE FACULTY SENATE

PROGRAM REVISION APPROVAL FORM

50 COPIES REQUIRED

PROGRAM TITLE: Social Thought and Political Economy Program

PLEASE CHECK: GRADUATE _____ UNDERGRADUATE XXX

DEPARTMENT STPEC HEAD/CHAIR: Sara Lennox

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE SBS DEAN: Robert Feldman

Submission Date: September 19, 2011 Proposed Starting Date: Fall 2012

I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Describe the Proposal.

The proposal is to make the three credit course "Introduction to STPEC" a requirement for the STPEC major (see attached addendum for current and proposed catalogue copy). For the past four years this course has been offered under the number STPEC 197I. Along with this proposal to add "Introduction to STPEC" to STPEC's major requirements, we are also submitting a course approval form to regularize this offering and will henceforth offer the course under the course number STPEC 101.

B. Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the Proposal.

STPEC's Curriculum Committee identified the need to engage incoming and transfer students in additional preparation for their upper-level seminars. The class was created and evaluated in its development over the four years it has been taught. Given the success of the class, the Curriculum Committee determined that it should become a third pre-requisite for the major. STPEC will be hiring a Lecturer as Associate Director and so it is possible administratively to ensure the availability of the class to students every year.

II. PURPOSE AND GOALS

Describe the Proposal's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.

The goal is to provide the STPEC major with an additional pre-requisite that develops students' ability to understand and critique social theory in preparation for STPEC 391H. The class introduces concepts in social and political theory that are foundational to the intellectual content of the STPEC Program and examines contemporary issues which social and political economic thought help to illuminate. Students are introduced to the uses of theory and history, develop a familiarity with terminology they will encounter in subsequent STPEC courses, and practice strategies of analysis and critical thinking. Transfer students will be evaluated by the Chief Academic Advisor and may waive the course if they show sufficient preparation and coursework.

III. RESOURCES

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

We anticipate that the course will be offered once a year and will enroll approximately twenty-five students, mostly incoming students and currently-enrolled sophomores who have changed their major to STPEC. To date this course has been funded by year-by-year allocations from the Dean's office. In FY 2012 STPEC has received permission to hire an Associate Director, whose responsibilities will include teaching "Introduction to STPEC." No additional resources will be required.

The Major

Course requirements for STPEC majors are both flexible and highly directed. Students are able to develop their own individualized course of study while they acquire a foundation in areas of concern to the STPEC Program. Courses in these areas are chosen from a list of recommended courses drawn up each semester and available from the STPEC office. Transfer students may petition to have courses taken at other institutions accepted for STPEC credit. STPEC also encourages its students to spend one or two semesters studying abroad and, with program approval, to use courses taken abroad to satisfy STPEC requirements.

Students must take two introductory courses selected from the STPEC course list, one in social theory and one in political economy, before they will be admitted to STPEC's Junior Seminar I. Once admitted, students must complete at least 40 credits within the STPEC Program distributed as follows:

A) Five upper-level courses (15 credits): Includes one course each in modern Western social theory, political economy, history and politics of women, history and politics of race in the U.S., and the non-Western world, all of which must be selected from the STPEC course list.

B) One upper- or lower-level history course (3 credits).

C) One graded internship (3 credits minimum).

D) Four STPEC seminars (16 credits):

a) Two junior seminars: A two-semester sequence initiating the in-depth interdisciplinary study of Western and non-Western social and political theory and its application in particular situations. Enrollment limited to 25 STPEC majors. Both seminars offered every semester.

b) Two senior seminars: Opportunity for students to engage in intensive work in specific areas of interest decided by the professor and students. Recent seminars have addressed such topics as "Law and the American Working Class," "Race and Urban Political Economy," "Gandhi's Critique of Modernity," "Latino Politics and Identities," "Theory and Practice of Education," "Social Construction of the Body," "Economies of the Middle East and North Africa," "The Political Economy of Race and Class," "U.S. Women's Lives," "Conquest of the Americas," "Representation of the Holocaust in Film," "Reading and Creating Political Autobiography," "Queer Theories/Social Realities," and "Sex, Drugs, Rock 'n' Roll and Seatbelts: Individual Liberty, Morality, and Politics."

E) STPEC 393A Writing for Critical Consciousness (3 credits). Fulfills the University's Junior Year Writing requirement. Offered every semester; enrollment limited to 20 STPEC majors. Grades of C or better must be obtained in all courses required for the STPEC major.

Note: All requirements for completing a degree in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences apply, including the Global Education requirement.

Matriculated students new to the STPEC Program must contact the STPEC office for an initial advising session, complete an application form, and attend an introductory meeting with the STPEC Program Director and several STPEC students.

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Students must take three introductory courses before they will be admitted to STPEC's Junior Seminar I, STPEC 101: "Introduction to STPEC" and two introductory courses selected from the STPEC course list, one in social theory and one in political economy. (Transfer students may be able to waive STPEC 101 if they can demonstrate sufficient preparation and coursework.) Once admitted, students must complete at least 40 credits within the STPEC Program distributed as follows:

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