

## STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2007

*Special Note: students must receive a grade of C or better in a course for it to count towards the fulfillment of their STPEC requirements.*

### JUNIOR SEMINARS

*STPEC 391H: Junior Seminar I – Geert Dhondt*

TueThur 2:30-3:45

Schedule # 47345

This seminar is the first in the yearlong STPEC Junior Seminar Sequence. Junior I focuses on major theoretical currents in political theory and the historical circumstances that gave rise to those theories-in particular Liberalism, Marxism and Anarchism. Junior II will analyze contemporary social movements in the context of these (and other theoretical apparatuses). As this is an interdisciplinary class, we will be bringing in analytic tools from various disciplines- including economics and political theory-but always paying attention to the historical construction and reception of ideas.

Geert Dhondt is a Ph.D. candidate in the Economics Department. This is a four credit honors course. Enrollment is limited to 25 students. STPEC majors only. **PREREQUISITES:** One Intro to Social Theory course and one Intro to Political Economy Course chosen from the STPEC Recommended Course List.

*STPEC 392H: Junior Seminar II – Mirangela Buggs*

TueThur 2:30-3:45

Schedule # 47346

The second half of the Junior Seminar sequence, Junior II focuses on a series of interrelated political, social and theoretical movements of the 20th Century. In Junior I we studied some of the driving forces behind the production of modernity as way to organize and understand the world. Junior II will pay particular attention to the way in which the political practices and philosophies of the 20th Century relate to the successes and catastrophic failures of modernism in complex and contradictory ways. Some of the topics addressed include the Russian Revolution, totalitarianism, anti/post-colonialism, the role of identity in political theory/practice and postmodernism. A major research paper of the student's choosing will be produced over the course of the semester allowing her/him to both (1) more deeply engage with a topic, including one that may not be discussed in the seminar, and (2) practice applying the critical methodological and theoretical tools developed in the STPEC curriculum.

Mirangela Buggs is a Ph.D. candidate in Social Justice Education. This is a four credit honors course. Enrollment is limited to 25 students. STPEC majors only. **PREREQUISITE: Completion of STPEC 391H** (the semesters may *not* be taken concurrently). This restriction *will be enforced*.

### JUNIOR WRITING COURSE

*STPEC 393A: Writing for Critical Consciousness – Ethan Myers*

Tuesdays 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Schedule # 43150

The STPEC Junior Writing Seminar focuses on individual development of voice. We will weave this theme through standard essay assignments, weekly response papers, cover letters and resumes, and a student-driven class project of your choosing. Since you and your classmates will be struggling together to find your voices, we'll focus on peer-editing and tutoring techniques at the beginning of the semester. As we discuss peer-editing, we may consider issues of language and dialect, Black English, Standard Written English and feminism. The second half of the semester will focus on political, environmental, educational, cultural, and philosophical texts. Throughout all assignments I expect to see cultivation of your voice and communication of your own creative ideas. I encourage integration of ideas from your other courses and experiences. Be prepared to think critically and examine texts carefully. We will be sharing our writing with each other – be ready to give and receive constructive feedback.

This course meets only once a week; do not plan to miss any classes.

Ethan Myers has a Master's Degree in Literature and American Studies from UMass Amherst.

Enrollment is limited to 20 students. STPEC majors only. Prerequisite: College Writing or equivalent.

**SENIOR SEMINARS**

All seminars are four credit honors courses. Enrollment for each seminar is limited to 20 students. STPEC majors only. **PREREQUISITE FOR ALL SENIOR SEMINARS: Completion of STPEC 391H with a grade of C or better** (may not be taken concurrently with any Senior Seminar). This restriction will be enforced!

*STPEC 491H: Gender and International Development* – Sangeeta Kamat

Thursday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Schedule # 47888

The course introduces students to a historical and political critique of gender and development. We will look at theories of development, their impact on women and the reconstruction of development theory by feminist scholar-activists. The course also reviews current policy trends in the areas of population control, environment, and the global economy that impact women in the South.

Sangeeta Kamat is an Associate Professor in Educational Policy Resource and Administration at UMass Amherst.

*STPEC 492H: Anarchism and Revolution: The Spanish Civil War* – Martha Ackelsberg

Monday 7:00-9:30 pm

Schedule # 43156

We'll begin with an overview of 19th-century European anarchist theory (especially), to provide a framework for exploring the complex roles of anarchists during the Spanish Civil War and its accompanying social revolution. We'll examine the processes of anarchist collectivization, struggles of women to be taken seriously as equal partners in the revolution, and the complexities of anarchists negotiating with political power.

Martha Ackelsberg is a Five College Fortieth Anniversary Professor and a Professor of Government at Smith College.

*STPEC 493H: The Crafted City: Urban Regeneration and the New Cultural Economy* - Myrna M. Breitbart

Wednesday 3:35-6:05 pm

Schedule # 47347

This course explores the role of what Roslyn Deutsche calls “aesthetic practices in the politics and redesign of urban space.” Based in critical urban and cultural studies, we examine the increasingly common use of the arts and cultural production, heritage tourism, and creative industries and quarters to imbue cities once associated with decline and decay, with new value. Case studies investigate past and current efforts to employ art, culture, image-making and design to address urban economic problems and contribute to downtown and/or neighborhood regeneration. Examples of how large and small cities, waterfronts, factory and warehouse districts, and downtowns have been re-imagined, re-built and re-marketed are discussed in terms of the underlying rationales and theories, prevailing social, economic and political conditions, and impacts on diverse constituencies. In addition to city-sponsored and public/private initiatives that may promote gentrification, we also explore some community-based efforts to link the arts and culture to neighborhood revitalization and community development. Students can propose individual projects and opportunities may be provided for community-based research.

Myrna M. Breitbart is a Professor of Geography & Urban Studies at Hampshire College.

**PRACTICUM**

*STPEC 498Y – Exploring the Intersection of Theory and Practice* – Katherine Mallory

(aka “Practicum”) No Class Meetings

Schedule # 43124

This course fulfills the STPEC internship requirement. Students in this course undertake an internship of 120 hours or more in an organization of their choice, and engage in critical reflection on their experience. Fieldwork placements are identified and arranged by each individual student and must be approved by the instructor. Students are encouraged to use this class as an opportunity to synthesize knowledge gained in the classroom and test its applicability to “real life” situations.

The primary written assignment for the course is a 12-15 page (or longer, depending on credits) final paper emphasizing critical analysis of the student’s experience in the organization and/or the organization itself. Analytical themes may include (but are not limited to): the interplay of organizational structure and mission; the strengths and weakness of various means of working for social change; the impacts of economic and/or financial conditions and structures on the organization; and dynamics of race, class, and gender both within the organization and in its interactions with the larger community. All students are required to apply an analysis of race, class, and gender.

To enroll, submit a completed STPEC internship contract before the end of add/drop. (Note: you must meet with Katherine and get her approval of your placement before you turn in your contract. She can be reached at [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu).)

*STPEC 494A: Praxis* – Katherine Mallory

Time and Date TBA - 2 credits, graded

Schedule # 43132

This optional two-credit course is limited to students who are working on their STPEC internship requirement (STPEC 498Y). It is designed to provide support, structure and feedback for students writing their final internship paper.

Students in this course write four short (3-5 page) papers on assigned topics related to their internships. Tentative topics include: mission, history and vision; organizational structure and funding; Marxian labor analysis; institutionalized oppression. Reading assignments are short. At the end of the semester, students can compile and revise their papers for the final paper for STPEC 498Y.

The class will meet either once weekly or biweekly from the second week of add/drop through late November or early December. The day, time and location of the class will be announced during add/drop.

To enroll, contact Katherine Mallory at [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu) during the first week of add/drop, so that she can inform you about the first class meeting.

**ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA**

*The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements*

*STPEC 296A-D: Student Taught Colloquiums* 1-3 credits

Students may offer a colloq (for 3 credits - graded) or take a student taught colloq (for 1 credit - pass/fail). Any students wishing to offer a colloq for the Fall of 2007 should speak with both Sara Lennox, Program Director, and Deborah Reiter, Program Coordinator, as soon as possible.

*STPEC 296A: The Nexus Magazine* 1-2 credits pass/fail Schedule # 43164

Students will be involved in the editing, graphic design, business management, and most importantly, content of the magazine. A core group of Nexus members are working on the administration, logistics and publicity. A larger pool of students are in the process of submitting their work (articles, poetry, artwork) to the magazine. In addition, we have a social justice education committee, that serves to educate the 5-college community about social justice.

Co-lead by a team of students, faculty advisor: Katherine Mallory. For more information or to enroll for the fall semester please e-mail [thenexusmag@yahoo.com](mailto:thenexusmag@yahoo.com).

*STPEC 298Y, sections 1-3: Practicum* (1-12 credits, mandatory pass/fail) No class meetings

*STPEC 398Y, sections 1-3: Practicum* (1-12 credits, graded) No class meetings

These two options are for students doing elective internships (i.e., this course does not fulfill the STPEC internship requirement). The primary differences between the courses are grading (STPEC 298Y is pass/fail) and recommended final paper length: students in STPEC 298Y write about 2-3 pages per credit, and students in STPEC 398Y write about 3-4 pages per credit.

Students in these courses receive one credit for every 40 hours of work that they complete in an organization of their choice. They must find a faculty sponsor who is willing to grade their written work and submit a grade. The STPEC Internship Advisor can provide assistance with finding placements and faculty sponsors, but this is ultimately each student's responsibility.

To register, speak with Katherine Mallory (the STPEC Internship Advisor) and complete a STPEC Internship Contract by the end of add/drop. She can be reached at [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu).

*STPEC 298Y: Section 4: Peer Advising in the STPEC Office*

Time to be arranged 1-3 credits Schedule # 43112

Advise current and prospective majors, participate in staff meetings, and help with other aspects of running the STPEC program. Provides the opportunity to become intimately involved with decision-making and program development. Requirements include helping with peer advising, reception and general office tasks in the STPEC Program Office, a written evaluation paper at the end of the semester, attendance at several skills seminars and weekly attendance at the STPEC staff meeting. Students are also encouraged to engage in special projects of their own design which will be beneficial to the STPEC community. Eighty hours per semester for two credits or forty hours for one credit, pass/fail. STPEC majors only. To register please speak with Katherine Mallory, STPEC Internship Coordinator or Deborah Reiter, STPEC Program Coordinator.