

## STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SPRING 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 – Joseph Rebello*

TuesThurs 2:30-3:45

Schedule # 24071

This seminar is the first in the yearlong STPEC Junior Seminar Sequence. Through the reading and discussion of key texts in early Western modern political theory, we will study some of the politico-philosophical foundations of liberal and radical worldviews. Attention will be paid to the way in which ideologies are not only constructed in reaction to events, such as the French Revolution or rise of industrial capitalism, but also participate in the constitution of political reality itself. Theorists we will read include Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Karl Marx among others.

Joseph Rebello is a Ph.D. student 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 – Geert Dhondt*

Thursday 4:00-6:30

Schedule # 24072

This seminar is the second part of the year-long STPEC Junior Seminar sequence. In Junior II we study aspects of the political and social history of “the short twentieth century,” and critically ponder the challenges and possibilities posed by this century, along with their political and theoretical implications. One can safely say that, in important ways, the twentieth century was the political and ideological child of its predecessor. Different combinations of the ideologies, along with political and economic processes, initiated and defended by nineteenth century forerunners of democracy, liberalism, socialism, and nationalism, flourished in the twentieth century. Humankind witnessed the rise and fall of the Russian Revolution; the rise of Fascism, genocidal politics and holocausts; different experiments at socialist revolutions across the globe; social/political struggles such as the Civil Rights movement in the USA; student and anti-war movements in the sixties and seventies; feminist movements in different parts of the globe; struggles for national and political liberation in Latin America, and in the colonial world; the consolidation of the nation-state as the form of political organization; the emergence of political claims based on gender and race; new configurations of individual, collective, and nomadic identities; the ‘discovery’ of nuclear energy, nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl; the development of micro-chip technology and networks of communications; the so-called globalization of political and economic life; etc. And as Eric Hobsbawm has put it, “The old century has not ended well.”

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. **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 – Mirangela Buggs*

Tuesdays 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Schedule # 23020

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.

Mirangela Buggs is a Ph.D. candidate in Social Justice Education.

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: Comparative Caribbean Literature* – Roberto Márquez

Tuesday 4:00-6:45

Schedule # 24074

This course offers a comparative examination of contemporary fiction and poetry from the English-, French-, and Spanish-speaking Caribbean and its Diasporas, featuring the work of some of the area's most notable and representative writers. Their transformation of the material of Caribbean social and political life into effectively crafted literary statement, revealing its characteristic thematic and broader cultural preoccupations, will be one among the several topics we will collectively address. With a particular emphasis on Caribbean literature's engagement with issues of history, the dramas of cultural articulation, race, class, gender, and nationality, we will also critically explore its variations and originality of literary form, individual mood, regional setting and emphasis, its general impact within and outside the islands of the archipelago.

Roberto Márquez is a Professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Mount Holyoke College.

*STPEC 492H: Global Markets & Local Resistance* – Anny Rivera-Ottenberger

Wednesday 3:35 – 6:05 pm

Schedule # 23043

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of globalization. We will map the changes in the international economy, including the international institutions of "global economic governance" (The World Bank, IMF and WTO), multinational corporations and reorganization of production, and discuss their effects upon both First and Third World economies and societies. We will examine and discuss changes in national political institutions and the challenges that globalization poses to global governance and to social, political and cultural identities.

The second section of the course focuses on the community-based groups and movements that shape popular opinion about and activism in response to living in a global world. We will examine the recent activity of transnational networks of citizens and NGOs to affect areas of policies at the global level, paying particular attention to the workers' response in the Central American maquila industry, poor people's movements in squatter settlements and the complex fight against ecological destruction in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Anny Rivera-Ottenberger is a Lecturer in the Political Science Department at UMass, Boston.

*STPEC 493H: Blackness in the Americas* – Ginetta Candelario

Thursday 11:15-1:45

Schedule # 24078

This course will examine blackness as an ideology, a racial identity and a political phenomenon from a comparative and socio-historical perspective. Centrally, the impact of political economy upon the development and institutionalization of notions of blackness will be considered. This course will also explore the connection between ideology, state policy, social institutions and the everyday life experiences, cultural practices and political actions of African Diaspora peoples in the Americas. How, for example, to explain the rise of Black Power movements in the U.S. and the relative absence of similar movements in Latin America (with notable exceptions)? What of "intermarriage" in U.S. versus in Latin America? How are African Diaspora aesthetic practices \* i.e. beauty culture -- situated in the various manifestations of white supremacy?

Ginetta Candelario is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Latin American & Latina/o Studies at Smith College.

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**PRACTICUM**

*STPEC 498Y – Exploring the Intersection of Theory and Practice* – Katherine Mallory  
(aka “Practicum”) No Class Meetings Schedule # 23028

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 - 1 credit, graded Schedule # 23041

This optional one-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 the semester. The day, time and location of the class will be announced during the beginning of the semester.

To enroll, contact Katherine Mallory at [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu) during the first week of the semester, 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 Spring of 2006 should speak with both Sara Lennox, Program Director, and Deborah Reiter, Program Coordinator, as soon as possible.

*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).

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**ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA continued**  
*The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements!*

*STPEC 298Y: Section 2: Peer Advising in the STPEC Office*

Time to be arranged 1-3 credits

Schedule # 24296

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.

**NEW CLASS:**

*STPEC 394E: Decolonizing the Academy/Reframing STPEC – Margaret Bruchac*

Wednesday 9:30 am – 12:00 noon 3 credits

Schedule # 24894

This course will focus on the emergence of new theoretical perspectives that are shaping the exchange of knowledge and discourse about power relations in the theoretically "post-colonial" world. We will investigate how critiques of Eurocentrism, the influence of Marxism, the impact of feminist theory, and the inclusion of diverse ethnic perspectives in the academy have provoked wider discussions of, and resistance to, decolonizing agendas and methodologies. Students will develop language, methods, and tools for decolonizing their approach to social thought and political economic theory. They will also investigate the degree to which specific forms of social discourse, political action, and theoretical frameworks within the academy at large, and within local academic institutions and departments, can (intentionally or unintentionally) serve as instruments of re-colonization and intellectual dispossession. Students will consider how new decolonizing strategies can be specifically applied and incorporated into the teaching practices in the UMass STPEC Program.

Margaret Bruchac is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at UMass, Amherst. This class is open to STPEC students only.