

STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – Spring 2010

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 – Sreela Sarkar

TueThur 1:00-2:15 Disc. Fri 12:20-1:10

Schedule # 57058/57059

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.

Sreela Sarkar is a Ph.D. student in Communication. 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 – James Fiorentino

TueThur 11:15-12:30 Disc. Fri 12:20-1:10

Schedule # 57060/57061

Junior II is the second half of the STPEC Junior Seminar sequence. Junior II focuses on a series of interrelated political, social, and theoretical movements of the twentieth century. This course is designed to encourage students to deploy the critical-analytic methods and approaches that we discussed in Junior I to some of the century's pivotal events; we'll examine the Mexican, Russian, Chinese, and Iranian revolutions in detail. We'll pay particular attention to the cultural, intellectual, and economic contexts within which ideologies of Euro-American imperialism arose; we will assess the origins and development of "scientific racism" via a comparative study of South Africa, 1900-1948 and French-occupied Southeast Asia, 1918-1954. Other topics include: The struggle for Palestinian self-determination; the heyday of African independence movements, 1945-1974; global capitalism's "neo-liberal turn," ca. 1972-1999; race and nation in the modern United States. Evaluation is based on several short reading response papers (3-4pp.) and one major (15-20pp) research paper. Students will also be required to lead at least one in class discussion on the week's assigned readings.

James Fiorentino is a Master's Degree student in History. 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

Tue 4:00-6:30 pm

Schedule # 52316

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: Protest and Rebellion – Barbara Cruikshank

MWF 11:15-12:05

Schedule # 57062

This course examines the history, representation, regulation, and political theory of protest and rebellion. Authors include Piven & Cloward, Hochschild, Fanon, Ranciere, among several others.

Barbara Cruikshank is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at UMass Amherst.

STPEC 492H: Bubble 2009: The Origins and Impact of the Current Crisis – Ramón Borges-Méndez

Wed 4:00-6:30 pm

Schedule # 52331

In this course we will examine the complexity of the current global recession with special emphasis on the United States, although we will discuss its impact worldwide. The first quarter of the class will be devoted to understanding the ideological and structural roots of the crisis. The second quarter of the course will be devoted to understanding the new kinds of financial crises or “financial bubbles” which preempted the most recent one. We will discuss the specific mechanisms and forces that triggered them and we will examine crises in Russia, Mexico, Argentina, and Asia. We will also examine some of the anti-globalization responses which were triggered by these crises. The third quarter will be devoted to understanding the “New Wall Street System”. Special attention will be given to understand the new instruments and practices which were responsible for the current crisis: derivatives, securitization, hedge funds, credit default swaps, stocks shorting, and other risky financial practices. Finally, the last quarter will be devoted to the efforts of the current Obama administration to stem the crisis and to address other economic structural problems. For a more detailed description of this course please see the STPEC website.

Ramón Borges-Méndez is currently a Visiting Associate Professor at Clark University, International Development, Community and Environment Program and an alumnus of the STPEC Program.

STPEC 493H: Thinking Through Gender and Sexuality in History – Darcy Buerkle

Wednesday 7:00-9:30 pm

Schedule # 57063

The purpose of this class is to develop an understanding of methodologies and important themes in modern European history and historical writing about gender and sexuality. Our focus on the particularities of the interwoven and overlapping issues of gender relations, power and hierarchy, race, violence, family, religion, cultural and intellectual production will enable amendment, analyses and critique of dominant historical narratives. The history of women and gender in the twentieth century invites a re-examination of nation, citizenship and state-sanctioned violence, in particular.

Darcy Buerkle is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Smith College.

PRACTICUM

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

(aka “Practicum”) No Class Meetings

Schedule # 52320

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.

STPEC 494A: Praxis – Katherine Mallory

Time and Date TBA - 2 credits, graded

Schedule # 52329

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 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 197I: Intro to STPEC

Wednesdays 4:00-6:30 pm 2 credits, graded

Schedule # 52333

This seminar is intended for students who are just beginning the STPEC major, whether as first year students or transfers. This class will be geared toward useful conversations like what is the STPEC Program really, how to read and use theory, and who are we that we care about social justice, and community building. Through horizontal discussion sections and field trips, 'Intro to STPEC' will engage students in a non-conventional learning atmosphere that challenges students to critically look at the relationship between our actions and theory.

This class will be taught by Katherine Mallory, STPEC Chief Academic Advisor, Jay Venezia, Assistant Academic Advisor and Michelle Alcott, STPEC student.

This class is open to STPEC majors only.

STPEC 291D: Worker Cooperatives: an alternative model for business and community

Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 pm 1 credit, pass/fail

Schedule # 58712

This class will examine worker owned and run cooperatives, beginning with an outline of the concepts and ideals of worker coops, followed by a brief history. It will then look at some examples, both internationally and locally. Class time will also be devoted to specific decision making practices and interaction within and among coops.

This class will be facilitated by Isaac Fairbank, STPEC student.

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ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA continued

The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements

STPEC 291F: Prisons, Race, and the Social Order

Wednesday 4:30-6:00 2 credits, pass/fail

Schedule # 58989

This student-led colloquium will explore the racial, economic, and disciplinary roles of imprisonment and the prison from its historical origins in the 17th and 18th-centuries into the present, with the American judicial/penal system since the late 1960s as our primary focus. Readings will include theoretical works, sociological studies, as well as narratives written by prisoners themselves. We will utilize three major frameworks in developing a critique of the prison: the prison-industrial complex, racialized incarceration as a modern "peculiar institution", and the disciplinary/surveillance society. The aim of the course will be to foster a critical perspective of the prison system and explore means of resistance to its domination.

This class will be facilitated by Donald Lippincott, STPEC student.

STPEC 291G: G-d in Governance

TuesThurs 11:15-12:30 2 credits, pass/fail

Schedule # 58988

The purpose of this course is to critically look into the commonly held notion that a religious democracy is inherently unfair. This will be done by examining the interplay of religion and law in governments through the lens of the society's treatment of 'minorities' (those who do not subscribe to or are not empowered by the religion of the government). Certainly religious democracies face obstacles to impartiality, but are the unfairness of these democracies a result of the religion associate with? To answer this question we will look at the case studies of England, Australia, Turkey, Pakistan and Iran.

This class will be facilitated by Noah Hershey, Legal Studies student.

STPEC 291 series: 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 2010 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.

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

Time to be arranged 1-3 credits

Schedule # 52335

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.

