

## **Spring 2010 Registration and Advising Notes**

**STPEC registration advising for  
STPEC SENIORS ONLY begins  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th**

**STPEC registration advising for ALL  
STPEC students begins  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th**

*ALL* STPEC students will need to come to the STPEC office for advising *before* they will be able to register on SPIRE. *Don't wait until it's your day to start registering - come in early!!!*

### **Important Advising Details:**

- ★ Once you have met with a STPEC advisor your STPEC advising hold will be lifted and you will be able to use the SPIRE system for Spring course registration. You **MUST** meet with a STPEC advisor in order to have course registration access.
- ★ **STPEC students who are Seniors must see either Jay Venezia or Katherine Mallory for advising.** If your graduation year is 2010 (going by the Registrar's records) you will need to see Katherine or Jay for an advising session before your advising hold will be lifted. Because they will be so much in demand during pre-registration, Katherine and Jay will be scheduling appointment times for seniors for advising. Appointment sheets for senior advising will be up on the door of the STPEC Program Office.
- ★ No appointment is necessary for general advising for non-seniors - although you may want to call before coming over to make sure that someone will be in the office to help you when you arrive. If you have unusual circumstances and you feel that you need special help, you may want to make a point of seeing Katherine Mallory or Jay Venezia, STPEC's Academic Advisors.
- ★ We will try our best to publish the STPEC Recommended Course List by November 10th. The list will also be posted to [www.umass.edu/stpec](http://www.umass.edu/stpec).

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## **Welcome to New Students**

We are pleased to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of September 2009:

*Rachel Antony-Levine, Miranda Bertholet, Shelby Brimmer, Andrew Cogan, Matt Connors, Daniel Farrell, Logan Flagg, Avery Fuerst, Tracy Gebhart, Kate Grannemman, Andrew Lefrancois, Daniel Madsen, Dave Martin, Jonathan Millis, Sara Moffett, Kerri Sadoff, Samantha Sanon, Burton Schaber, Mariucy Tejada, Laura Tupper, Alexandra White.*

Many thanks to those who helped with these meetings, including Corey Chenevert, Andrew Cogan, Jennifer Miller and Jay Venezia.

## **MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS**

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Monday, November 16 and Tuesday, November 17. Please come into the STPEC office to sign up for a meeting time (the sign up sheet is posted next to the front desk) and obtain a STPEC Application Form. If you cannot make any of these times please speak to either the Program Coordinator or the Program Director so that they may arrange an alternate time for you. The new student meeting is a requirement for all new STPEC students.

**As always, we're looking for current STPEC student volunteers to help with the new student meetings** - it's fun and easy and a good way to meet new STPEC students! Please see Deborah in the STPEC Office if you'd like to help - or just show up.

## **Meet & Greet Information Session for new STPEC students**

Along with our mandatory new student meetings (see above), STPEC will be holding an open house/information session for students new to the major on Thursday, November 19th at 7:30 pm. Come to the STPEC office at E-27A Machmer Hall for discussions and Q&A regarding STPEC student experiences in the major, the university and the surrounding community. Meet current STPEC students, including other students who are new to the major and the university. Bring some questions and a hunger for pizza and salad. For more info contact Jay Venezia, STPEC Assistant Academic Advisor, at [advisor@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:advisor@sbs.umass.edu) or 545-0043.

## Registration and Advising Notes

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*If you have any suggestions for courses you would like to see - or not see - put on our list, please let us know now!*

- ★ All STPEC seminars and Junior Writing will be on-line until **Monday, December 14th**. STPEC Senior Seminars will be available on-line to STPEC Seniors and STPEC Junior Seminars and Junior Writing will be available on-line to STPEC Juniors and Seniors. Please be sure to register before December 14th for the classes you want - after December 14th you may find that you need to fill out an add form and then wait until January to find out if you are in the class!
- ★ Juniors may add themselves to a request list for Senior Seminars, and Sophomores may add themselves to a request list for Junior Seminars and Junior Writing, by filling out a STPEC course add request form available from the STPEC Office. On December 14th we will review these written requests and add additional students to courses based on course enrollment size and special student needs. Our goal is to put as many STPEC students as possible into the seminars of their choice. If you do not receive the STPEC course you have put in a written request for, you may attempt to add the course again by filling out another add request form in the STPEC office during the first week of the Spring 2010 semester.

### NOTE ON COMPLETION OF JUNIOR I

You must have completed (turned in the work and officially received a final grade of C or better for) STPEC's Junior Seminar I by Monday, January 11th in order to remain on the registration lists for Junior Seminar II or any Senior Seminars. After this date you will be dropped from the roster(s) and will need to fill out an add/drop request to be added back into the course(s). You will not be able to take Junior II or any Senior Seminars unless you have completed Junior I before the beginning of the Spring semester.

### STPEC ON-LINE

Feeling out-of-the-loop? Remember, STPEC has an on-line discussion list, called CRITIC-L, that you can subscribe to and use to discuss hot topics, find references and help in courses, or just chat with other STPEC students. We use this list to inform you about events and opportunities. To sign up, send an e-mail request to [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu) (be sure to send from the e-mail address you want to have on critic-l). See you on the net!

## STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STPEC policy is set by the STPEC Executive Committee, whose voting members consist of STPEC paid staff, UMass faculty close to STPEC, and one student spokesperson from each regularly scheduled course plus one student each from the first and second year classes.

- Elected students are representative of and accountable to the people who elected them.
- The Executive Committee will meet at least once per semester and can meet more often if necessary.
- Elected students will meet together before every scheduled Executive Committee meeting to discuss what items they'd like to put on the agenda.

If you have STPEC concerns that you'd like the Executive Committee to address, please talk to your student representative about them. Student reps for Fall 2009 are:

<b>First year class:</b>	Avery Fuerst and Shelby Brimmer
<b>Sophomore class:</b>	Christiana McDougal
<b>Junior I:</b>	Matthew Connors
<b>Junior II:</b>	Erin Staff
<b>Junior Writing:</b>	Rick Blenk, Amanda Gaudet, Erin Desrochers, Jusna Perrin, Tori Zopf, Kate Fahey, and Adam Leader-Smith
<b>Senior 491H:</b>	Kate Wood
<b>Senior 492H:</b>	Brittany Cripps
<b>Senior 493H:</b>	Tyler Rocco-Chafee
<b>Office Staff:</b>	Andrew Cogan

All STPEC students are welcome to attend the Executive Committee meeting. The time and date of the meeting have yet to be determined.

### INTRO TO STPEC

#### A class just for *NEW STPEC STUDENTS!*

In Spring 2010 STPEC will again be offering STPEC 197I: *Intro to STPEC*, a 2 credit optional seminar for incoming first year and transfer students (transfers from both outside and within UMass). This class will be geared toward useful conversations like what is the STPEC program really, how to read and use theory, who are we that we care about social justice, and community building. Through horizontal discussion sections and out of the classroom field trips, Intro to STPEC will engage students in a non-conventional learning atmosphere that challenges students to critically look at the dialectical relationship between our actions and theory.

This class will be co-taught by Katherine Mallory, STPEC Chief Academic Advisor, and one or two STPEC seniors or recent STPEC alums. If you are interested in co-teaching this class please contact Katherine in the STPEC office right away!

## **Planning to do an Internship during Spring or Summer 2010? Now is the Time to talk to Katherine!**

Are you planning to do your STPEC internship requirement during the spring semester? If so, you should discuss your plans with Katherine Mallory, STPEC Internship Advisor, before the end of this semester.

You must have an internship placement set up and approved by Katherine before you can sign up for the course. Setting up an internship can take some time - if you wait until classes begin to make these arrangements, you may find that you are unable to pull it together in time to add the course.

Your grade for the course will be based on your written analysis of your experience. Writing assignments are due at intervals throughout the semester in which you do your internship. For this reason, it may not be possible to register for the course after the completion of add/drop.

The course number for the required internship is STPEC 498Y, section 1. This course is not accessible online (i.e. you cannot add it through the SPIRE system). To register, you must do the following:

- Meet with Katherine to discuss your ideas for a placement and the course requirements.
- Find a placement. Katherine is available to assist you if needed, but you must do the footwork. The responsibility for finding a placement lies with you.
- Get Katherine's approval for your placement. Not all internship sites get approved - this is why it's important to meet with Katherine before you finalize your placement.
- Complete the STPEC Internship Contract & Registration Form (available from the STPEC office). Make sure you fill in and attach all the requested information - otherwise we will not be able to add you to the course.

The STPEC Internship Contract is all you need to add the course, unless your total class load is more than 18 credits (including the internship), in which case you must get a credit overload approved by the Dean's office before we can add you to the course.

Occasionally we accept prior internships or internships completed through other departments for the required internship. In order for such a course to count, it must be graded, worth three or more credits, and involve at least 100 hours of work. In addition, you must have written, or be willing to write, an analytical paper of at least 12 pages based on your experience, which you must submit to Katherine for approval.

How to contact Katherine:

- Drop by the STPEC office during Katherine's office hours
- Leave a message in Katherine's mailbox in the STPEC office
- Email [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu)
- Call 545-0043 (leave a message if Katherine's not in)

***Want to get more out of your internship?  
Want ongoing guidance, feedback and support  
on the development of your internship paper?  
STPEC will once again be offering....***

### **STPEC 494A: Praxis**

This is a two credit graded optional course offered to help students further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This class will offer practical guidance on writing the Internship papers. To register please speak with Katherine Mallory.

### ***Upcoming Event:***

## **Workers and the Poor: Lessons for Organizing in the Age of Obama and Globalization**

**Tuesday, November 10th 4:00 pm  
Conference Room, Gordan Hall**

*Part of the Sociology Fall 2009 Colloquium Series.  
STPEC co-sponsors.*

A presentation by Wade Rathke, Founder of ACORN and author of *Citizen Wealth: Winning the Campaign to Save Working Families*.

## **STPEC SWEATSHIRT & RED T-SHIRT ORDERS BEING TAKEN NOW**

***STPEC sweatshirts are by special order only!***  
**This semester we will also be offering, by special order, RED t-shirts with our standard STPEC design in black.**

If you'd like either a sweatshirt or a red t-shirt please fill out an order form in the STPEC Program office or at <http://www.umass.edu/stpec/pdfs/orderformsweatsf09.pdf>  
**Deadline for ordering is Thursday November 19th**  
We expect orders to be ready for pick-up by the second week in December. We continue to have our standard black t-shirts for sale as well.

**Upcoming Event:**

**Ray Luc Levasseur:**

*Defendant in the Great Seditious Trial of  
Western Mass Returns After 20 Years*

**Thursday, November 12 7:00 pm  
UMass Amherst Campus Center 1009**

*Part of the UMass Amherst WEB DuBois Library Special  
Collections Colloquium Series. STPEC co-sponsors*

In 1989, Ray Luc Levasseur, along with his comrades Pat Levasseur and Richard Williams, stood trial in Springfield, Massachusetts on Federal charges of seditious conspiracy. After ten months of deliberation, in the most expensive trial in Massachusetts history, a jury found all three not guilty of conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government through armed force. In his first public address in the Pioneer Valley in twenty years, Levasseur will reflect on the past and present significance of the Springfield seditious trial victory. He will also discuss his life experience as a French-Canadian youth growing up in a Maine mill town; as a Vietnam veteran; as an anti-imperialist revolutionary active in the Civil Rights, antiwar, and prison reform movements; as a prisoner arrested with other members of the "Ohio 7" and incarcerated for twenty years for his involvement in a series of bombings carried out to protest U.S. backing of South Africa's racist apartheid regime and Central American right-wing death-squads, and his 2004 release and ongoing involvement in movements for social justice. *For more information contact Erika Arthur at earthur@acad.umass.edu.*

**THE TROUBLE WITH INCOMPLETES**

We would like to encourage you to think twice before you take an incomplete in a class. There are many valid reasons why students take incompletes, most students who take incompletes expect that they will finish the work over wintertime or the summer. Some do, many don't! We want to be sure that you are aware of what taking an incomplete really means.

1) Incompletes immediately factor in as an "F" toward your cumulative grade point average. This means if you took 5 three credit courses, got "A"s in 3 of them and took Incompletes in 2 of them (in which you expected to get "A"s or "B"s eventually), your GPA for the semester would be only 2.4. Your resulting low GPA may make you ineligible to take courses at any of the other Five Colleges. Students with a GPA below 2.0 are ineligible to register for internship credits. Many national exchange programs will not accept applications from students with an incompletes on their records. Because it lowers your GPA, taking

incompletes can make you ineligible for certain academic scholarships – many of which have a financial stipend attached. Once a student's GPA drops below a 2.0 the student will be reviewed for probation, suspension, or dismissal by the Arts and Sciences Dean's Office.

2) Incompletes automatically turn into "F"s on your transcript after one full semester has passed – and they then remain "F"s until the instructor turns in a grade. Some students end up taking incompletes in a course that they don't need in order to graduate and never find time to finish it (STPEC Office Staff take notice!). On their final transcript after graduation, the course is recorded permanently as an "F". Other students who take Incompletes end up needing to retake the course, because by the time they get around to writing the final paper for the class, they've forgotten what they were going to write about!

4) Once a student takes an incomplete, the instructor is relieved of any obligation to give a grade at any certain date. Students who let their incompletes go past the agreed upon deadline may find that the instructor has left the area – or that the instructor is unwilling to let them finish work that should have been turned in several semesters, or several years ago.

5) **Not all instructors, and not all STPEC instructors, will give incompletes.** You may want to ask your teachers to clearly state what their policies on incompletes are before the end of the semester. If you think that you really will need an incomplete in a course, it is important to talk to the instructor as early in the semester as possible to work out a reasonable time frame for when you will turn in the work.

Many students assume that if they don't finish the work for a course the instructor will automatically give them an incomplete. The instructor has the option of giving an incomplete, or of giving the grade earned so far with the incomplete work factored in as a zero – which may very well work out to be a "D" or an "F".

Remember, if you are having serious difficulty keeping up with your academic work don't hesitate to ask Katherine, Jay or Deborah in the STPEC Office for advising help. That's what we're here for!

**UMass Alumni Association**

*Offers numerous scholarships and various work-shops and events for UMass undergraduates.*

For details go to:

<http://umassalumni.com/students/index.html>