
SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *January 2010*

Save the Date!
**Making Connections: Life After UMass
STPEC/Women's Studies/Labor Center
/AfroAm Networking Event**

Thursday April 8 4:30-6:00 pm room tba

Over 30 alums from STPEC, Women's Studies, the Labor Center and Afro-American Studies will come to UMass to talk with current students about their career/job/grad school experiences and to share information on internships and other career opportunities. Join us for lots of food and informal conversation. These are UMass graduates who look forward to meeting current students to help them think about life plans. We will have a wide range of careers represented from education and law to medicine and social services and much much more.
Co-sponsored by Career Services.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of November 2009:
Avital Benedek, Morgan Bondy, Shaunah Gordon, Kirby Hunter, Rebecca Lendvay, Nathan Richardson, Jenna Ruddock, Tenzin GGT, and Megan Valcour.

Many thanks to STPEC students and staff who assisted with these meetings.

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Monday, February 8th and Tuesday, February 9th. Please come into the STPEC office to sign up for a meeting time (the sign up sheet will be posted behind the main 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.

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

STPEC Scholarships!

***Congratulations to our
Fall 2009 STPEC Scholarship recipient,
Danielle Nelson***

Apply Now!

STPEC will be offering another \$1,000 scholarship in the Spring of 2010. The criteria for application is:

- 1) official current enrollment as a STPEC student
- 2) a minimum 3.0 grade point average and
- 3) completion of or current enrollment in the Junior I seminar for the Spring 2010 semester.

The application consists of a one page essay detailing how, as a STPEC major, the student has applied his or her STPEC education to day to day life through campus activities, clubs, activism, and so on. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR ESSAY** as the essays will be anonymous when reviewed.

Applicants must also complete an application form which must be turned in with the essay. Applications should be turned in **ONLY** to Deborah Reiter, STPEC's Program Coordinator, they may be left in her STPEC mailbox in a sealed manila envelope or e-mailed to stpec@sbs.umass.edu.

Deadline for applications is March 5, 2010, and scholarships will be awarded in April. You can find applications online at www.umass.edu/stpec.scholarships or in the STPEC office mailboxes.

T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS WE GOT 'EM!!

NEW! We now have **RED STPEC t-shirts** available for sale in the STPEC office. We also have hooded sweatshirts, in a variety of styles and sizes, along with our regular black STPEC "Red Star" t-shirts in all sizes. See a staff person if you'd like to purchase one!

★ \$10.00 per black t-shirt/\$14.00 per red t-shirt.
Hooded sweatshirt prices vary according to size and style.

ADD/DROP NOTES

For the Spring 2010 semester most STPEC courses will remain on-line. Only STPEC Independent Studies and Internships will be off-line.

★ If you **cannot** add a class using SPIRE you may request the course by filling out a STPEC Course Add Request Form (available from the STPEC office). If you are on a wait list, be sure to **go to the class you are requesting**. You will need to have attended the first two class meetings in order for us to consider your add request.

If a course is less than 75% full at the time of your request we will put you immediately into the course. For courses which are over 75% full, requests will be prioritized according to the following guidelines:

1. Special Needs Students (ie. a Junior who is going abroad for a year and who needs to graduate on time).
2. Seniors will have priority over Juniors who will have priority over Sophomores.
3. Students with the same graduation status will be prioritized on a first come first serve basis.

★ To register for an Independent Study, fill out a STPEC *Independent Study Form*.

★ To register for an Internship, fill out an *Internship Study Contract*. For more instruction on fulfilling the STPEC **Internship requirement**, please see page 4.

If you are filling the Internship requirement this semester, don't forget that we offer an accompanying course, **STPEC 494A: Praxis**, taught by Katherine Mallory, our Internship Director. To register for STPEC 494A please talk to Katherine in the STPEC Office.

★ Be sure to give your completed form(s) to Deborah Reiter, STPEC's Program Coordinator (you may leave it/them in her mailbox if she is not available in person).

INCOMPLETES IN JUNIOR SEMINAR I:

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a *pre-requisite* for all other STPEC seminars. You will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have *completed* (with a grade of C or better) STPEC 391H. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to this policy please come and talk to an Academic Advisor about your situation.

STPEC Staff and Instructors for Spring 2010:

Program Director **Sara Lennox**
Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director
Katherine Mallory
Assistant Academic Advisor **Jay Venezia**
Program Coordinator **Deborah Reiter**
Junior I Instructor **Sreela Sarkar**
Junior II Instructor **James Fiorentino**
Junior Writing Instructor **Ethan Myers**

and a warm welcome to our senior seminar instructors:

Barbara Cruikshank from the Political Science Department at UMass Amherst will teach STPEC 491H: *Protest and Rebellion*;

Ramón Borges Méndez, from Clark University, International Development, Community and Environment Program will teach STPEC 492H: *Bubble 2009: The Origins and Impact of the Current Crisis*;

Darcy Buerkle, from the Smith College Department of History will teach STPEC 493H: *Thinking Through Gender and Sexuality in History*.

UMass SCHOLARSHIPS Alumni Association Scholarships

Leaders in the Making Scholarship

Four \$2,000 scholarships for sophomores and juniors with diverse records of achievement in academics and volunteerism.

Life Member Scholarship for Internships

Two \$2,000 scholarships given to exceptional sophomores or juniors to help defray the cost of a summer, unpaid, away-from-home internship.

Michael W. Morris Scholarship

One \$2,000 scholarship for a student from Lawrence or Lowell, MA.

Senior Leadership Award

Twenty-five \$500 savings bonds will be given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the campus community. Students must be nominated by faculty or staff.

Deadline for most scholarships is Thursday, February 4, 2010

For more information go to UMassAlumni.com/students or visit Memorial Hall.

STUDENT TAUGHT COLLOQUIUMS **FOR SPRING 2010!**

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.*

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 is the unfairness of these democracies a result of the religion associated with them? 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.

STUDENTS NEEDED FOR THE **STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!**

All long range policy decisions for STPEC are made by the STPEC Executive Committee—and student spokespersons have an equal voice!

We'd like to have at least one spokesperson from each STPEC class: 197I, 298Y(4), 391H, 392H, 393A, 491H, 492H, 493H, 494A, the first year student class and the sophomore student class. As a spokesperson your job is to collect the concerns and ideas of the students in your class, meet with other STPEC student spokespeople to decide on issues to take to the Executive Committee meeting, present those issues at the meeting, and report back to your constituents about what decisions were made. Each class will have one vote apiece at the full Executive Committee Meeting, although classes may have more than one spokesperson.

We'll start recruiting for spokespeople during the second week of classes. Please consider volunteering - help make democracy happen in STPEC! If you know already that you'd like to be a spokesperson for the Spring 2010 semester please contact Deborah in the STPEC Office with your name and the class you'd like to represent; 545-0043 or stpec@sbs.umass.edu.

Other members of the Executive Committee are all the STPEC teaching and office staff paid on a more than one semester basis and faculty associated with STPEC. The full Executive Committee meets at least once a semester and can meet more often if its members decide it's important to do so.

ESSAY CONTEST!

Morality of Profit project is a global competition inviting discourse on the Morality of Profit. During this yearlong program, SEVEN seeks to assemble the definitive collection of essays on this topic. Writers are asked to submit essays of up to 3,000 words. Initial submissions will be accepted through February 28, 2010. SEVEN will award top honors to three essays, with a grand prize of \$20,000, a second prize of \$10,000, and a third prize of \$5,000. The best pieces will be collected into a manuscript, which is intended for publication along with contributions from branded thought leaders in government, private sector, and the academy; and the program will culminate with an international conference in 2010.

For full details or to participate, please visit:
<http://sevenfund.org/morality-of-profit/index.php>

All About the STPEC Internship Requirement (STPEC 498Y)

All STPEC majors are required to complete a 3 or more credit graded internship with a grade of C or better.

If you have not yet completed this requirement, you can do so by registering for STPEC 498Y, section 1. Your faculty sponsor will be Katherine Mallory, STPEC's Internship Director. *You are responsible for finding your own internship placement, and having it approved by Katherine prior to registering for the course.*

Grades for the STPEC Internship requirement are based on your written analysis of your experience and observations. We therefore recommend that you complete at least one semester in the STPEC Program before registering for an internship, so that you have an analytical framework to use as the basis of your written work.

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.

Regardless of how you plan to fulfill your internship requirement, **you must have Katherine's prior approval. Please don't wait until your final semester** to talk to Katherine, or you may find that you have to stick around for an extra semester!

Want to get more out of your Internship experience? Want some extra help writing your Internship paper? We strongly recommend **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 is intended for students who are either currently fulfilling or have recently completed their STPEC Internship requirement and offers practical guidance on writing the Internship paper. To register please speak with Katherine.

Internships as Electives

We welcome and encourage STPEC students to do internships beyond the 3 credits required for the major. The University allows you to count up to 15 internship credits toward graduation. You can earn up to 15 credits in one placement, or you can complete two or more smaller internships. Students doing elective internships may work with the Faculty Sponsor of their choice.

Want to help us

RUN THE STPEC PROGRAM?!?

Do you...

- ★ want to have a voice in your major?
- ★ yearn for democracy?
- ★ want something GOOD to put on your resume?

In addition to being a unique academic program in terms of critical focus, we have one of the few consensus-run majors in the nation, where staff and students create the program along side one another. Interning in the STPEC office staff is one way students can help create a participatory major, supporting a community conducive to critical thought and social change, as well as contributing to continually rethinking and revising our major. Office staff duties and projects reflect the needs of the program and the interests of the students and include attending weekly staff meetings, assisting with STPEC office work, working on program publications like the STPEC newsletter, organizing student events, and making weekly program decisions. STPEC office staff members also learn useful skills like consensus decision-making, meeting facilitation, peer-advising and mentoring, and negotiating bureaucracy.

So, if you would like to participate in creating the present and future of your STPEC major through **ADVISING, ENVISIONING, COLLABORATING** and **WORKING** with our educational counterparts, you should talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

All STPEC Office Staff meetings are mandatory for all office staff members!

The first staff meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27 from 1:30-2:30 pm in the STPEC Office (E-27A Machmer Hall). If you cannot make this meeting but would like to participate in Office Staff you **MUST** contact Deborah beforehand and provide a schedule of times you are and are not available so that we can plan for future meetings accordingly.

