
SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER



MARCH/APRIL 2009

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

Jobs, Internships and Social Change

***Featuring STPEC, Afro-Am,
Labor Center, and
Women's Studies Alumni/ae***

Thursday, April 2

4:00-6:00 pm

Cape Cod Lounge, Student Union Bldg

*Brought to you by STPEC, Women's Studies,
the Labor Center, and Afro-American Studies*

Co-sponsored by the UMass Career Center

***This will be a wonderful fun and informative
social event with our extremely cool alums!***

Our participants include a wide array of STPEC, Women's Studies, Labor Center and Afro-American Studies graduates who now have careers in law, medicine, publishing, social services, union/community organizing, education, politics and art.

Light food and refreshments will be served

Everyone is welcome to attend!

WE'RE HIRING!!!

And we'd like YOU to help us choose our new junior seminar instructor for the 2009-2010 academic year! If you'd like to be on the hiring committee for these positions please contact Deborah in the STPEC office as soon as possible. Participating in the hiring committee will involve a time commitment of approximately 10-15 hours to be spent reviewing applications, interviewing applicants and debating our possible choices. Hiring committee members are expected to attend ALL meetings and interview sessions, which we will schedule based on participants' free times. We expect to begin conducting interviews by early to mid-April. ***All current STPEC students are welcome to participate.***

Fall 2009 Registration and Advising Notes

***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!!!***

**FOR students who will be SENIORS in 2009-2010
STPEC pre-registration advising begins
MONDAY, MARCH 30**

***Seniors must see Katherine Mallory or
Jay Venezia for advising***

**FOR ALL OTHER STPEC STUDENTS
Official STPEC pre-registration advising begins
MONDAY, APRIL 6**

Access to the SPIRE system for registration for
Fall 2009 courses begins MONDAY, APRIL 6

***Students are ramped on to the system based on seniority
Check SPIRE for your personal access date and time***

- ★ Once you have met with a STPEC advisor you will receive a RAC code, which will enable you to use the SPIRE system for fall course registration. You **MUST** have this code in order to register for any fall courses, STPEC or otherwise!

Please see page 3 for more important advising details

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14. Please come into the STPEC office to sign up for a meeting time (the sign up sheet will be posted next to 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 current STPEC students to volunteer 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.

UpComing Events:

From the Bottom of the Heap: The Autobiography of Black Panther

Robert Hillary King

A talk by Robert Hillary King

Thursday, April 9th 7:00pm

3rd Floor, Gordon Hall

Robert Hillary King is the only freed member of the Angola 3. He was in prison for 31 years until 2001 when the state of Louisiana acknowledged his innocence. While in prison he became a member of the Black Panther Party, organizing prisoners to improve conditions. He was then beaten, starved, given life without parole after being framed for a second crime, and kept in solitary confinement for 29 years. Come hear Robert Hillary King's story and learn about the campaign to free his Angola 3 comrades.

STPEC co-sponsors with the RSU, Economics GSO, GSS, GEO, PERI and AFSC.

Blackness over Europe: Meditations on Migrancy, Culture and Belonging

Lecture by Donald Carter, Hamilton College

Part of the W.E.B. Du Bois Lecture Series

Black Europeans: Race and the New Europe

Monday, April 6 4:00-5:30 pm

Campus Center Room TBA

STPEC co-sponsors

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 (be sure to use the e-mail address you want to have on critic-l). See you on the net!

STPEC ON FACEBOOK

Did you know...

STPEC has a facebook page titled: STPEC: Social Thought Political Economy. URL is <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=35014851280>
We hope you'll use this site to connect with other STPEC students and alumni/ae. We'll also be posting some events and jobs on this page.

More Scholarships are available from the

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Please go to: www.umass.edu/sbs for full details

Ansin Study Abroad Fellowships

\$1,000 awards

Deadline to apply: Friday April 17, 2009

Schott J. Bacherman Fund

For freshmen, sophomores or juniors with major in Journalism, Communications or related BDIC program. This award supports an internship appropriate to the major. One scholarship of up to \$5,000 and one internship of up to \$3,000

Deadline to apply: Friday April 17, 2009

Connor Internship Award

Supports students taking advantage of work experiences in professional settings.

Up to \$2,500. Awarded periodically. Check the SBS website for updates.

Alan L. and Carol S. LeBovidge Undergraduate

Research Scholarship

Supports students doing research with a UMass Amherst SBS faculty member.

Up to \$2,000

Deadline to apply: Friday April 17, 2009

Merriam Internship Scholarship

Provides support to undergraduates who take unpaid internships in public policy, law, ecological conservation and/or real estate development.

Awards of \$2,500 for summer or fall semester internships

Deadline to apply: Friday April 17, 2009

UNITE HERE - 2009 Internships and Jobs

Want to fight for economic and social justice? Want to learn union organizing skills with one of North America's most progressive and successful unions?

Paid Internships and jobs available at:

<http://jobs.unitehere.org/>

We still have a few STPEC Hooded Sweatshirts left..

In various sizes and styles. Price varies accordingly. Please see a STPEC staff member if you'd like to look through our supply. We also have t-shirts in stock as always.

Welcome to New Students

We are pleased to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of February 2009: Amelia Adams, Michelle Alcott, Kyle George, Chelsea Krawczyk, Megan Lowe, Craig Mannett, Kimberly Ovitz, Ben Vainer, and Kate Wood.

Many thanks to all the students and staff who helped with these meetings including Adam Leader-Smith, Elizabeth Maynard, Danielle Nelson, Erin Staff, and Jay Venezia.

Important Advising Details

continued from page 1

- ★ **STPEC students who are Seniors must see Katherine Mallory or Jay Venezia for advising.** All seniors graduating in December 2009 or May 2010 will need to see Katherine or Jay for an advising session before they will be able to get their RACs. Because Katherine and Jay will be so much in demand during pre-registration, they will be scheduling appointment times for seniors for advising. An appointment sheet will be up on the door of the STPEC Program Office.
- ★ No appointment is necessary for general advising - although you are welcome 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, STPEC's Academic Advisor, Jay Venezia, STPEC's Assistant Advisor, or Sara Lennox, STPEC's Program Director.
- ★ We'll be getting our Recommended Course List out as early as we possibly can, but probably not until April 6th. The Fall 2009 STPEC course description page will be published and up on the STPEC website by April 3rd. *If you have any suggestions for courses you would like to see - or not see - put on our lists, please let us know!*
- ★ **All STPEC seminars and Junior Writing will be on-line until Wednesday, May 13th. 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 May 13th for the classes you want - after May 13th we reserve the right to take classes off-line if they are full or almost full. Once a STPEC seminar is taken off-line you will need to fill out a STPEC add request form and wait until September 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 in the STPEC Office. On May 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 an add request form in the STPEC office during the first week of the Fall 2009 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, August 3rd 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 Fall semester.

STPEC student phone and e-address lists are now available from the mailboxes in the STPEC office.
If your information is missing or incorrect please contact Deborah at 545-0043 or stpec@sbs.umass.edu.

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 (serious illness during the semester; overload of work and not wanting to turn in poorly researched or poorly written papers; etc.) and everyone must decide for themselves what will work best for them. Most students who take incompletes expect that they will finish the work over wintertime or the summer. Some do, many don't! While we would prefer that you take an incomplete rather than having a nervous breakdown, we want to be sure that you are aware of what taking an incomplete really means.

THE TROUBLE WITH... INCOMPLETES

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. STPEC students have had to appeal suspensions and dismissals due to low GPAs, which were due entirely to incompletes.

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".

3) Some 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. Some students turn in their work for a long standing incomplete a week before they want to graduate and expect the instructor to grade it immediately! At this point the instructor is usually committed to working with the students who are currently in his or her courses – and will get around to grading the work turned in for the incomplete when he or she has time – which may not be until the following year. Also, 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) STPEC students need to remember that **not all instructors, and not all STPEC instructors, will give incompletes**. Some STPEC instructors will not give incompletes at all, under any circumstances. You may want to ask your teachers to clearly state what their policies on incompletes are before the end of the semester.

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". Once a final grade is given it cannot legally be changed, unless the instructor has actually made a clerical error in computing the grade to begin with.

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, and to work out a reasonable time frame for when you will turn in the work.

Any questions on University policies regarding incompletes and student records should be directed to the Registrar's Office; any questions on probation, suspension or dismissal due to incompletes should be directed to the Arts and Sciences Advising Office in Machmer Hall; any questions on STPEC policies or procedures regarding incompletes should be directed to Deborah, Jay or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

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

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 Advisor. *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. In addition you must have written an analytical paper of at least 12 pages based on your experience, which you must submit to Katherine for approval.

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 currently fulfilling their STPEC Internship requirement and offers practical guidance on writing the Internship papers. Progressive critical theory is applied to the internship experience generating insight into the structure of our institutions, and supporting student development into constructive change agents in those settings. Race, gender, sexuality, and class are examined in terms of their intersections. To register please speak with Katherine.

Planning to do an Internship during Summer

Session or Fall 2009? Are you planning to do your STPEC internship requirement over summer session or during the fall semester? If so, you should discuss your plans with Katherine Mallory, STPEC Internship Advisor, before the end of this semester.

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.

NEW YORK UNION SEMESTER at The City University of New York (CUNY)

An Academic Internship Program that
makes a Difference

***Live, work, study and be a part of the
New York City labor movement!***

Union semester is a unique "semester away" program offered by Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies/CUNY which gives students the opportunity to take courses in labor studies and intern with a labor union in New York City. Students earn 16 credits and a Certificate in Labor Studies, and are awarded a \$1,700 tuition scholarship. Current undergraduates who have completed 45 credits with a minimum GPA of 2.5 are eligible.

For more information call 212-642-2075 or
e-mail Amanda Plumb at info@unionsemester.org
www.unionsemester.org

Internships are available with MADRE, An International Women's Human Rights Organization. Please see Katherine for more information, or go to www.madre.org.

Guides to Scholarships, Careers and Jobs in International Education, Conflict Resolution, Social Entrepreneurship, International Development & Related Fields

As part of the Peace and Collaborative Development Network, <http://internationalpeaceandconflict.org> several free guides to careers, internships and scholarships have been developed. You're encouraged to review the guides and suggest additional resources.

The guides include:

- * Guide to Internships
- * Guide to Career and Scholarship Resources
- * Guide to Academic Jobs in Conflict Resolution and Related Fields
- * Guide to Scholarships and Fellowships in Conflict Resolution and Related Fields

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