
SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *SEPTEMBER 2008*

WE NEED STUDENT MEMBERS TO RUN FOR THE STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!

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

Each regular STPEC course will elect one student representative to the Executive Committee, and one representative each will be elected from the first and second year class. Each representative's job is to collect the concerns of students in his/her class, meet with other elected student representatives to decide on issues to take to the Executive Committee meeting, present those issues at the meeting, and to report back to his/her constituents about what happened.

Elections will be conducted right after add/drop is over. Please consider being a candidate—and help make democracy happen in STPEC!

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 Executive Committee meets at least once a semester and can meet more often if its members decide it's important to do so.

New Web Resources for STPEC students!

Check out STPEC's new *website* at www.umass.edu/stpec

Check this site for STPEC events, scholarship announcements, newsletters, course lists, recent news items, and more. We are still looking for more photos for these web pages! So if you have a photo of STPEC students or a STPEC event that you'd be willing to share please e-mail it to stpec@sbs.umass.edu.

Welcome to New Students

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of Spring 2008: Kate Conti, Steve Hoeschele and Sarah Lanzillotta. Many thanks to all who helped with these new student meetings.

**See page 3 for details on our
*NEW STUDENT MOVIE NIGHT!***

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Monday, September 22nd and Tuesday, September 23rd. If you are a new STPEC student please come into the STPEC office to sign up for an 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 good way to meet new STPEC students! Please see Deborah in the STPEC Office if you'd like to help - or just show up!

New STPEC Research Guide!

Barbara Morgan, Librarian extraordinaire, has put together an on-line research guide specifically for STPEC students!

<http://guides.library.umass.edu/stpec>

If you have any suggestions for additions or changes to this guide please let us know by contacting Deborah at stpec@sbs.umass.edu.

WANT TO JOIN THE STPEC OFFICE STAFF? The first STPEC Office staff meeting will be on Thursday, September 11th from 1:00-2:00 pm in the STPEC Program Office. If you'd like to join the STPEC office staff (and help run the STPEC Program for academic credit!) please see page 3 for more details or talk to Deborah or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

◆◆◆◆◆ ADD/DROP NOTES ◆◆◆◆◆

For the Fall 2008 semester, STPEC 391H, 392H, 393A, 492H and 493H will be on-line for STPEC juniors and seniors. STPEC 491H will be on-line for STPEC seniors only. If you are a sophomore requesting 391H or 393A, or a junior requesting 491H, or if SPIRE will not let you add the desired class for other reasons, you will need to come into the STPEC Office and fill out a STPEC Add Form *before the second meeting of the course* in order to add it.

- To request an Independent Study, please fill out an *Independent Study Form*.
- To request an Internship, please fill out an *Internship Study Contract*. For more instruction on registering for the STPEC Internship, please see page 4.
- 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). **You will also 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 **STPEC 298Y section 4: STPEC Office Staff**, please speak to Deborah Reiter or Katherine Mallory in the STPEC Office. For more details on the STPEC Student Office Staff Internship, please see page 3 or ask a staff member for a syllabus.

INCOMPLETES IN JUNIOR SEMINAR I

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is *almost always* a *pre-requisite* for all other STPEC courses, except for Junior Writing. In most cases, you will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have *completed* STPEC 391H. *However, the exception to this rule is occurring this semester!!!* See below for details. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to our standard policy please come and talk to Katherine Mallory about your situation.

SPECIAL SENIOR SEMINAR ENROLLMENTS

For the **FALL 2008 SEMESTER ONLY** we will be able to allow students who have not taken or completed Junior I to enroll in STPEC 492H, *Black Politics: Cartographies of Race and Class* or STPEC 493H, *Religion, State, Secularization: Negotiating Jewish Modernities*. As long as you have completed your social theory pre-requisite with a grade of C or better you will be eligible to take either of these two seminars in the fall. To register please talk to Deborah in the STPEC office or e-mail her with your request: stpec@sbs.umass.edu.

STPEC Staff and Instructors for Fall 2008:

Program Director **Sara Lennox**
Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director **Katherine Mallory**
Program Coordinator **Deborah Reiter**
Junior Writing Instructor **Ethan Myers**

a warm welcome to our new Junior Seminar Instructors:

Junior I Instructor **Christopher Hamilton**
Junior II Instructor **Antonia Carcelén**

to our new Assistant Academic Advisor:
Assistant Academic Advisor **Jay Venezia**

and to our senior seminar instructors:
Sayres Rudy, who is a Visiting Lecturer and has

taught previously for the School of Social Sciences at Hampshire College, for the Political Science Department at Amherst College and for the STPEC Program, will teach STPEC 491H: *The Neo-Colonial Present: Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine*;

Michael Ford, who is a Professor Emeritus in the School of Social Science at Hampshire College, will teach STPEC 492H: *Black Politics: Cartographies of Race and Class*;

Susan Shapiro, who is an Associate Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 493H: *Religion, State, Secularization: Negotiating Jewish Modernities*.

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 making 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, Sept. 11th from 1:00-2:00 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.

CRITIC-L: STPEC ON-LINE

Not yet on the STPEC discussion list-serv? You can use this list to discuss hot topics, find jobs and internships, references and help in courses, or just chat with other STPEC students. The STPEC Office will also be using the list to inform you about events and other announcements. Some of the many departmental decisions we will have to make may end up being discussed on-line as well. To sign up for critic-l send your request to stpec@sbs.umass.edu. This list is for STPEC students, alums, staff and instructors only.

New Student Movie Night!

When: 8pm, Wednesday September 24th

Where: STPEC office, E-27A Machmer Hall (near the Student Union and Dubois Library)

Meet other super cool STPEC students, hang out, eat delicious pizza and snacks, and watch a kick-ass political movie! It's gonna be great, so skip your homework and come hang out.



For more info, snack demands, or social worries, contact Jay Venezia at the office at 545-0043, or email advisor@sbs.umass.edu

STPEC SWEATSHIRTS

If you ordered a STPEC sweatshirt last year and have not yet come in to claim it, please do so now! Pre-ordered sweatshirts will be held until September 26th. After that they will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Please be prepared to pay for your sweatshirt at the time of pick-up.

and T-SHIRTS...

The STPEC Office continues to stock STPEC "Red Star" T-Shirts. See a staff person if you'd like to purchase one! (\$10.00 per t-shirt).

All About the STPEC Internship Requirement (STPEC 498Y)

All STPEC majors are required to complete a 3 or more credit graded internship before graduation.

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. In addition you must have written an analytical paper of at least twelve 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!

Katherine 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. Class meeting times will be scheduled at the beginning of September.

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.

Updates from the Student Bridges Program

Student Bridges is a student-initiated outreach program that connects UMass students with local community-based organizations and schools through tutoring-mentoring partnerships, college awareness activities, and policy advocacy. The program has primarily partnered with schools and programs in the Holyoke-Springfield area.

Student Bridges Course, Internship, Independent Study & Volunteer Opportunities

We offer a 4-credit honors course with a community based learning component (Honors 292S, which meets Tuesdays from 7:00-9pm), in addition to individualized internship and independent study opportunities. Past internships have included placement at local community based organizations, multimedia projects, and organizing efforts that support educational access and equality. For more information:

visit www.studentbridges.org - stop by 306 Student Union - call 413.545.7676 - or email studentbridges@gmail.com

Attend the "Holyoke Bound" Orientation Saturday, 9/20/08 from 11:00 - 4:00 at Peck Middle School, Holyoke

This orientation, open to all students from the Five Colleges interested in or already working, interning or volunteering in the Holyoke area, will include History and Political Economy of the city, presentations on the city's assets, discussions with students and community representatives, information about possible volunteer opportunities, networking with students, faculty, and community members. Free food from local restaurants and transportation from UMass will be provided. Pre-registration is required by Friday, September 12th. Contact Jill Meade to register or for more info: holyokebound@gmail.com

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