

## **Spring 2009 Registration and Advising Notes**

### **STPEC registration advising for all STPEC students begins WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th**

*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 you will receive a RAC code, which will enable you to use the SPIRE system for Spring course registration. You **MUST** have this code in order to register for any Spring courses, STPEC or otherwise!
- ★ **STPEC students who are Seniors must see either Jay Venezia or Katherine Mallory for advising.** If your graduation year is 2009 (going by the Registrar's records) you will need to see Katherine or Jay for an advising session before you will be able to get your RAC. 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 5th. The list will go up on our web page ([www.umass.edu/stpec](http://www.umass.edu/stpec)) the same day. *If you have any suggestions for courses you would like to see - or not see - put on our list, please let us know now!*

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

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on Monday, November 17 and Tuesday, November 18. Please come into the STPEC office to sign up for an interview 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.

**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.

### **Welcome to New Students**

We are pleased to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of September 2008:  
*Katherine Bhaduri, Caitlyn Bond, Katelyn Breen, Nicole Brownstein, John Colvin, Ryan Farr, Jazmond Goss, Steven Gray, Katie Keppeler, Jessica Ryter, Heather Tracy, Elizabeth van der Els, and Victoria Zopf.*

Many thanks to those who helped with these meetings, including Jay Venezia and Danielle Nelson.

### ***INTRO TO STPEC***

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

In Spring 2009 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!

## Registration and Advising Notes

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- ★ All STPEC seminars and Junior Writing will be on-line until **Thursday, December 11th**. 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 11th for the classes you want - after December 11th you may find that you need to fill out an add form and then wait until February 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 12th 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 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, January 19th 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.

### APPLY FOR A STUDENTS SERVE GRANT

Students Serve provides academic service grants of up to \$2,000 to innovative college students across the country. Students can use the academic knowledge they are learning in their classes to create meaningful changes in communities. The next application deadline is November 15th, 2008. These grants are for students who believe that they should have the chance to use their skills and research to improve communities across America. For more information go to:  
[http://studentsserve.com/?page\\_id=5](http://studentsserve.com/?page_id=5)

## 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 elected 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 2008 are:

**First year class:** Cody LeGros, Corinna Edmonds, John Wojtowicz, Jazmond Goss, Katie Keppeler, and Elizabeth Van der Els

*(one of these students will be selected by the group to be the official rep at the final meeting).*

**Sophomore class:** Erin Staff

**Junior I:** Alex Baker, Amarilla Sanders, David DiLorenzo, Lauren Reingold, and Madeline Caulfield  
*(one of these students will be selected by the group to be the official rep at the final meeting).*

**Junior II:** Ayla Bailey

**Junior Writing:** Michael Close

**Senior 491H:** John Huston

**Senior 492H:** Sarah Kingsley

**Senior 493H:** David Wemhoener

**Office Staff:** Danielle Nelson

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

## Hey STPEC students!

★ **Do you have a groovy activist group and or project that you are involved with?**

★ **Would you like your group to be advertised on STPEC's web-site?**

*We now have a Student Participation page and we'd love to put up information about some of the exciting STPECey activities that STPEC students are engaged in!*

Please contact Deborah in the STPEC Office if you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity; 545-0043 or [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

## **Planning to do an Internship during Spring or Summer 2009? 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 on-line (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.

## **NEW YORK UNION SEMESTER at Queens College**

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 Queens College/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 undergraduate credits OR 12 graduate credits and a certificate in Labor Studies, and are awarded a \$1,700 tuition scholarship. Apply now for the Spring term!

**Application deadline for Spring 2009 is November 15th,** however, applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. The earlier you apply, the earlier you will know if you've been accepted! For more information go to:  
<http://www.unionsemester.org/>

## **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!

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 one of the advisors in the STPEC Office.

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!

Upcoming Events:

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**Resisting Empire**

*A National Speaking Tour Featuring  
Camilo Mejía*

**Umass Student Union Ballroom**

**Wednesday, November 5 7:00 pm**

*Sponsored by ISO, Campus Antiwar Network and IVAW-  
Western Mass. STPEC co-sponsors*

Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía was the first veteran to publicly refuse to redeploy to Iraq. He is the Board Chair of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and has written a memoir, *Road from ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía*.

Local contact: [contact@isonoho.org](mailto:contact@isonoho.org)  
[info@resistingempire.org](mailto:info@resistingempire.org)

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*Black Europeans: Race and the New Europe*

**Black Life in Sweden:**

**Beyond Licorice and Chocolate**

**174-76 UMass Campus Center**

**Thursday, November 13 4:00-5:30 pm**

*Sponsored by the HFA Visioning Grant Conveners; Profs.  
Sara Lennox and Jonathan Skolnik, German and Scandinavian  
Studies, Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.  
STPEC co-sponsors.*

Lecture by Utz McKnight, University of Alabama

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**Reconfigurations of Racism  
and New Scenarios of Power  
after 2001**

**UMass Amherst Dec 8-9, 2008**

*Sponsored by the Center for Latin American, Caribbean  
and Latino Studies. STPEC co-sponsors.*

This is an international conference with the participation of Five College faculty, and national and international scholars and activists, convened by Sonia E. Alvarez (CLACLS/PolSci), Agustin Lao-Montes (Soc), and Amilcar Shabazz (AfroAm). For a more detailed summary of the project, please see the STPEC events web page.

**STPEC student phone and address lists are now  
available from the mailboxes in the STPEC office.**

If your information is missing or incorrect please contact Deborah in the office at 545-0043 or [stpec@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpec@sbs.umass.edu).

New STUDENT TAUGHT COLLOQUIUM  
FOR SPRING 2009

**STPEC 296E: Slavery Today**

Time: tba\* 3 credits, pass/fail

This course will thoroughly examine real situations of contemporary slavery throughout the world, with approximately 60% of the geographical focus being on Africa. We will begin with a recent historical analysis of slavery and culminate with plans to end slavery once and for all by asking critical questions about modern political economy and drawing connections from past slave trades to 21st century trafficking.

With a student-facilitated approach to learning, we will research in depth several specific examples of today's slavery. We will study labor slavery and social servitude such as Mauritania's peculiar form of slavery and its cultural sources. We will examine human trafficking as well as sexual slavery with either religious roots or purely capitalist underpinnings. Students will see the horrors borne of war as they appear in Sudan and through child conscription.

An examination of the political economy behind contemporary slavery and trafficking is in order, scrutinizing wage slavery and debt bondage. We will ask what effects NGO's, multilaterals, and national aid agencies have had on either alleviating or worsening slavery in its many forms. Students may never again look the same way at certain products—like chocolate, coffee, bricks, rugs, and charcoal—which may have been made by slaves' hands.

*This class will be facilitated by Steven Hoeschele,  
STPEC student. \*You may contact Steve for more information at [stevenh@student.umass.edu](mailto:stevenh@student.umass.edu).*

**Scholarship Information Night**

**Memorial Hall**

**Tuesday, November 18**

**5:30 pm**

Learn how to apply for merit-based scholarships, such as Rhodes, Leaders In the Making, Fulbright, and many more. There are over \$500,000 in scholarships available each year!

This program is in partnership with the Office of National Scholarship Advisement. In addition to short presentations from the Alumni Association and the Office of National Scholarship Advisement, we will have Jon Laubinger '03 present who will discuss his personal experiences competing for the Rhodes Scholarship, as well as the importance of receiving UMass Amherst based awards.

## **William H. Gates Public Service Law Program**

This program awards five scholarships on an annual basis to first year students entering the UW School of Law J.D. program. Each Gates PSL scholarship award will cover tuition, books, other normal fees imposed for University and UW School of Law enrollment, costs of room and board and incidental expenses. Acceptance of a Gates PSL scholarship represents a commitment on the part of each recipient ("Scholar") to work in public service for five years following graduation.

<<http://www.law.washington.edu/GatesScholar/about.aspx>>

## **ELIE WIESEL PRIZE IN ETHICS**

For registered undergraduate full-time juniors or seniors. Write an essay of 3,000-4,000 words on ethics. First prize is \$5,000. Faculty sponsor required for submission of essay. Contest Deadline is December 19, 2008. For more information look for posters in the STPEC office or go to [www.eliewieselfoundation.org](http://www.eliewieselfoundation.org) or call (212) 490-7788.

Social Thought and Political Economy Program  
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A105200