

STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2017

Special Note: students must receive a grade of C or better in a course for it to count towards the fulfillment of their STPEC requirements.

SOCIAL THEORY PRE-REQUISITE

Note: These are two of several courses which will fulfill the STPEC Social Theory Pre-requisite. For other options please see the STPEC Recommended Course List.

STPEC 101: Introduction to STPEC – Hoang Gia Phan

Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:45

3 credits, graded

Schedule # 31333

This course will familiarize new students with the program and its vision. STPEC is a rigorous, democratically run, interdisciplinary academic program. STPEC is also a community of students, staff, instructors, alumni, and friends that will help you navigate your time at UMass. Ideally this course will also familiarize us with each other.

The content of this course is organized around concepts students will encounter in their other STPEC requirements, as well as in the STPEC community and the greater world. It will provide an introduction to social theory, political economy, race and ethnicity, gender, masculinities and femininities, globalization and inequality in the Global North and the Global South. Assignments facilitate exploration of these and related topics. Students will have the opportunity to learn the value of social theory and how to make an argument; communicate for effective dialogue, and how to begin to identify social justice issues.

STPEC 101, like STPEC's core classes, is seminar-style. This means small groups with an emphasis on discussion and reflection. This class is open to STPEC majors only.

STPEC 189: Introduction to Radical Social Theory in Historical Context – Graciela Monteagudo

Wednesdays 4:00-6:30 pm

4 credits, graded

Schedule # 31335

This is an introductory course to radical social theory. Our focus is the history of social thought in the West, and the postcolonial critiques of some of these ideas. In this course, students will learn that "radical" means "at the root," and radical social theory is theory that explains the roots of social inequalities and proposes ways of transforming society to achieve justice. As a General Education course, our goal is for students to have the opportunity to discuss key societal issues through a variety of disciplines, including philosophy, anthropology, history, economy, African-American, Native American and gender and sexuality studies. Through analysis of readings and films, we will explore the connection between cultural processes and power in the West and the implications for non-Western people on a global scale and on different times and places.

This course fulfills the History and Global Gen Ed requirements.

Graciela Monteagudo is the STPEC Associate Director.

JUNIOR WRITING COURSE

STPEC 320: Writing for Critical Consciousness – Marissa Carrere

Thursday 4:00-6:30 pm

3 credits, graded

Schedule #31331

The STPEC Junior Writing Seminar focuses on individual development of voice. We will weave this theme through standard essay assignments, weekly response papers, cover letters and resumes, and a student-driven class project of your choosing. Since you and your classmates will be struggling together to find your voices, we'll focus on peer-editing and tutoring techniques at the beginning of the semester. As we discuss peer-editing, we may consider issues of language and dialect, Black English, Standard Written English and feminism. The second half of the semester will focus on political, environmental, educational, cultural, and philosophical texts. Throughout all assignments I expect to see cultivation of your voice and communication of your own creative ideas. I encourage integration of ideas from your other courses and experiences. Be prepared to think critically and examine texts carefully. We will be sharing our writing with each other – be ready to give and receive constructive feedback. This course meets only once a week; do not plan to miss any classes.

Enrollment is limited to 20 students. STPEC majors only. Prerequisite: College Writing or equivalent.

STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2017

STPEC CORE SEMINARS

STPEC 391H: STPEC Core Seminar I – Graciela Monteagudo

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:45

4 credits, graded

Schedule # 41892

This seminar is the first in the yearlong STPEC Core Seminar Sequence. STPEC Core Seminar I focuses on major theoretical currents in political theory and the historical circumstances that gave rise to those theories-in-particular Liberalism, Marxism and Anarchism. STPEC Core Seminar II will analyze contemporary social movements in the context of these (and other theoretical apparatuses). As this is an interdisciplinary class, we will be bringing in analytic tools from various disciplines- including economics and political theory-but always paying attention to the historical construction and reception of ideas.

This is a four credit honors course. Enrollment is limited to 20 students. STPEC majors only.

PREREQUISITES: One Intro to Social Theory course and one Intro to Political Economy Course chosen from the STPEC Recommended Course List.

Graciela Monteagudo is the STPEC Associate Director.

STPEC 392H: STPEC Core Seminar II – Shakuntala Ray

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:45

4 credits, graded

Schedule #41915

The second half of the STPEC Seminar sequence, STPEC Core Seminar II focuses on a series of interrelated political, social and theoretical movements of the 20th Century. In STPEC Core Seminar I we studied some of the driving forces behind the production of modernity as way to organize and understand the world. STPEC Core Seminar II will pay particular attention to the way in which the political practices and philosophies of the 20th Century relate to the successes and catastrophic failures of modernism in complex and contradictory ways. Some of the topics addressed include the Russian Revolution, totalitarianism, anti/post-colonialism, the role of identity in political theory/practice and postmodernism. A major research paper of the student's choosing will be produced over the course of the semester allowing her/him to both (1) more deeply engage with a topic, including one that may not be discussed in the seminar, and (2) practice applying the critical methodological and theoretical tools developed in the STPEC curriculum.

This is a four credit honors course. Enrollment is limited to 20 students. STPEC majors only.

PREREQUISITE: Completion of STPEC 391H (the semesters may *not* be taken concurrently). This restriction *will be enforced*.

FOCUS SEMINARS

All seminars are four credit honors courses. Enrollment for each seminar is limited to 15 students. STPEC majors only.

PREREQUISITE FOR ALL FOCUS SEMINARS: Completion of STPEC 391H with a grade of C or better (may not be taken concurrently with any Focus Seminar). This restriction will be enforced!

STPEC 491H: Mass Resistance and Political Strategy – Kevin A. Young

Tuesday 4:00-6:30 pm

4 credits, graded

Schedule #41893

“Politics” is much more than just elections and voting: political action often employs other strategies, from sit-ins, boycotts, strikes, and divestment campaigns to occupations of workplaces and public squares. Why do people engage in such forms of resistance? Why do social movements choose the strategies that they do? And what makes movements effective? Scholars and activists have offered many different answers to these questions. This seminar surveys these debates, drawing from a range of theoretical, historical, and contemporary perspectives on mass-based resistance. Thematic case studies will include abolitionist, labor, civil rights, peasant, student, feminist, LGBTQ, antiwar, anti-imperialist, indigenous autonomy, and environmentalist movements. We will also consider some of the forces that mobilize in opposition to these movements. Geographically, cases will draw from the United States, Latin America, Egypt, South Africa, Germany, and

STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2017

elsewhere. The second half of the semester will be heavily structured around students' own interests, with each student researching and presenting on a social movement of their choosing. Kevin A. Young is Associate Professor of History at UMass.

STPEC 492H: Marx and Postcolonialism – Svati Shah

Wednesday 4:00-6:30 pm

4 credits, graded

Schedule #31332

Postcolonialism has generally referred to the study of the histories, politics, economics, literature and social milieus of nations within Latin and South America, Africa and Asia. While these continental regions are also variously referenced as "the Third World" and "the Global South," the frame of 'postcolonialism' marks scholarship that has placed the history of colonialism and its aftermath at the center of our understanding of places that are often marked as being in a lesser relation to the "developed" world. Understanding hugely influential Marxist social movements and theories is essential to understanding how and why the postcolonial world comes to be, the challenges that activists working in countries in these regions face, and what the possibilities of mobilizing against right wing populism there might entail. The seminar will be taught from a feminist, queer and anthropological perspective, while focusing on foundational works on postcolonialism and its relationship with Marxist politics, theories, and movements. These include works by Marx, Trotsky, Gramsci, Goldman, James Trouillot, Goldman, Beverley, Mbembe, Fanon, Nandy, and the Subaltern Studies Group. Svati Shah is Associate Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies.

PRACTICUM

STPEC 498Y: Exploring the Intersection of Theory and Practice – TBA

Schedule #31320

(aka "Practicum") No Class Meetings

This course fulfills the STPEC internship requirement. Students in this course undertake an internship of 120 hours or more in an organization of their choice, and engage in critical reflection on their experience. Fieldwork placements are identified and arranged by each individual student and must be approved by the instructor. Students are encouraged to use this class as an opportunity to synthesize knowledge gained in the classroom and test its applicability to "real life" situations.

The primary written assignment for the course is a 12-15 page (or longer, depending on credits) final paper emphasizing critical analysis of the student's experience in the organization and/or the organization itself. Analytical themes may include (but are not limited to): the interplay of organizational structure and mission; the strengths and weakness of various means of working for social change; the impacts of economic and/or financial conditions and structures on the organization; and dynamics of race, class, and gender both within the organization and in its interactions with the larger community. All students are required to apply an analysis of race, class, and gender.

To enroll, submit a completed STPEC internship contract before the end of add/drop. Note: you must meet with Hoang Phan and get approval of your placement before you turn in your contract. He can be reached at hgphan@english.umass.edu.

INTEGRATIVE EXPERIENCE

STPEC 494PI: Praxis – Jennifer Cannon

Schedule #31310

Wednesday 11:15-1:45 – 3 credits, graded

This course teaches students to apply social theory to the real-life experience of their required STPEC internship. As an integrative experience (IE) course students are encouraged to draw on knowledge acquired in prior Gen Ed and core STPEC courses to explore connections between theory and practice as they analyze various aspects of the organizations. Class structure and assignments promote group communication, multi-disciplinary dialogue, and critical self-reflection. Course assignments focus on a self-designed project related to the student's internship placement and include multiple peer-edited drafts of a critical analysis of the internship, a self-reflective essay, an oral presentation, and a final cumulative paper.

STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2017

ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA

The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements

STPEC 191STPEC1: FYS - The American Nightmare: Police Killings & Incarceration in the U.S. – Graciela Monteagudo

Section 2 Thursdays 4:00-4:50 pm STPEC students only

Schedule #31353

STPEC First Year Seminar: Open to first-year SBS students

This seminar will examine the complex intersection of race, gender, sexuality, mental health, and class to understand the phenomenon of police shootings and high rates of incarceration in the United States. A final paper will allow students to pursue a related topic of their choice.

Throughout the semester, students will work in groups and present on different topics connected with the theme of the course. Graciela Monteagudo is the STPEC Associate Director.

STPEC 291X: Executive Committee – Hoang Phan

Schedule #31309

student meetings: Time and location TBA by mutual agreement

full meetings: Two Fridays during the semester from 3:00-6:00; dates TBA 1 credit, mandatory pass/fail

Enrollment required for students serving as representatives to the STPEC Executive Committee. Requirements for credit include: attending an orientation session and all student representative and full Executive Committee meetings, delivering weekly announcements to designated STPEC courses and, in STPEC courses in which they are enrolled, facilitating a 15-minute forum prior to both full Executive Committee meetings. Interested students may speak to Hoang Gia Phan.

STPEC 291A-Z: Student Taught Colloquiums 1-3 credits

Students may offer a colloq (for 3 credits - graded) or take a student taught colloq (for 1 credit - pass/fail). Any students wishing to offer a colloq for the Fall of 2017 should speak with Hoang Gia Phan.

STPEC 298Y, sections 1-3: Practicum (1-12 credits, mandatory pass/fail)

No class meetings

STPEC 398Y, sections 1-3: Practicum (1-12 credits, graded)

No class meetings

These two options are for students doing elective internships (i.e., this course does not fulfill the STPEC internship requirement). The primary differences between the courses are grading (STPEC 298Y is pass/fail) and recommended final paper length: students in STPEC 298Y write about 2-3 pages per credit, and students in STPEC 398Y write about 3-4 pages per credit. Students in these courses receive one credit for every 40 hours of work that they complete in an organization of their choice. They must find a faculty sponsor who is willing to grade their written work and submit a grade. The STPEC Internship Advisor can provide assistance with finding placements and faculty sponsors, but this is ultimately each student's responsibility. To register, speak with Hoang Gia Phan (the interim STPEC Internship Advisor) and complete a STPEC Internship Contract by the end of add/drop.