Spring 2013 Registration and Advising Notes

STPEC Spring 2013 Registration Advising begins TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

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 your STPEC advising hold will be lifted and you will be able to use the SPIRE system for Spring course registration. You MUST meet with a STPEC advisor in order to have course registration access.

★ Both Katherine Mallory, STPEC’s Chief Academic Advisor, and Tyler Rocco-Chaffee, STPEC’s Assistant Academic Advisor, have appointment times available through Google Calendar. You can link to their appointment calendars from the STPEC Home Page: www.umass.edu/stpec.

★ STPEC students who are Seniors must see either Tyler Rocco-Chaffee or Katherine Mallory for advising.

★ We will try our best to publish the STPEC Recommended Course List by November 14th. The list will also be posted to www.umass.edu/stpec. If you have any suggestions for courses you would like to see - or not see - put on our list, please let us know now!

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Save the Date!
Please join us for the
STPEC Red Star
End of semester Potluck and Graduation Ceremony

Friday, December 7th
Potluck at 6:00
Red Star at 8:00
At Luke’s house; 641 Main Street in Amherst

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS
We are pleased to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of September 2012:
Loren Bostic, Sarah Carragher, Maggie Curran, Kat DeFiore, Stephen De Los Santos, Olivia Espinoza, Erica Garnett, Emily Glick, Jenna Grady, Nina Hazelton, Patrick Jones, Sam King, Daniela Kucher, Cameron LaRochelle, Andrew Ravenscroft, Alex Tracy, Nicole Villar Hernández, Rose Whitcomb-Detmold, Sarah Williams, Sherry Xue, and Devinne Zadravec.

Many thanks to all the STPEC students and staff who helped with these meetings!

MEETING TIMES FOR NEW STPEC MAJORS
We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors November 26 - December 4. If you are a new STPEC student 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 Associate 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
Spring 2013 Registration Notes continued

★ All STPEC seminars and Junior Writing will be on-line until Friday, December 7th. STPEC Senior Seminars and Junior Writing will be available on-line to STPEC Seniors and Juniors and the STPEC Seminars I and II will be available on-line to STPEC Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. Please be sure to register before December 7th for the classes you want - after December 7th you may find that you need to fill out an add form and then wait until January to find out if you are in the class!

★ If you find that you cannot enroll through SPIRE in a STPEC course for which you believe you are eligible, please request the course by filling out the STPEC course add request form which is available from the STPEC Office.

★ To request an Independent Study, please fill out an Independent Study Form (available from the STPEC Office mailboxes).

★ To request an Internship, please fill out an Internship Study Contract. For more instruction on registering for the STPEC Internship, please see page 5.

★ Praxis: If you’d like to sign up for the regular 2 credit Praxis (497P) which will NOT count for the I.E. Gen Ed requirement you may do so on SPIRE. To register for the 3 credit Praxis (494PI) which WILL fulfill the I.E. requirement please speak with Katherine Mallory, STPEC Internship Director. Please note that students who take Praxis for 2 credits (497P) will NOT be able to register for the 3 credit Praxis (494PI) at a later date. So if you need to take your I.E. this year please be sure to sign up for 494PI!

★ Be sure to give any completed Add or Independent Study 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.

STPEC Executive Committee for Fall 2012

For the Fall 2012 semester our student Executive Committee Reps are:

Joshua Colbert – Junior Writing
Robert Feinberg - JW; 492H Public Policy
Kevin Lamory – 491H Urban Political Economy
Liam Lynch – 493H Art, Activism; 491H Urban Political Economy; Praxis; Office Staff
Johannes Raatz – 391H
Adnaan Stumo – 101 Intro to STPEC
Zoe Talkin  – 392H; Junior Writing

If you have issues with/concerns about/suggestions for the STPEC Program please discuss these with a student rep.

The next full Executive Committee Meeting will take place on Friday, November 30 from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Students wishing to serve on Executive Committee for Spring 2013 should register for STPEC 291X, 1 credit, pass/fail. Please read the course syllabus before registering for this credit. The syllabus is available in the STPEC Office or on the STPEC website under People in STPEC/Executive Committee. In order to receive a P in this course, students will need to attend ALL of the student and full executive committee meetings, which are listed on the syllabus and on SPIRE, and meet the responsibilities outlined in the bylaws and on the syllabus.

Serving on Executive Committee is a great way to network, gain experience, and have a real impact on your education. You will learn real, transferable skills pertaining to meeting facilitation and participation, make decisions horizontally with faculty and staff, as well as add a valuable credential to your résumé. Students in 291X are expected to serve as a link between the Executive Committee and the STPEC student body. This connection is essential to building a strong, active, and informed STPEC community.

INCOMPLETES IN STPEC SEMINAR I

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a pre-requisite for all other upper level STPEC courses, except for Junior Writing. In most cases, you will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have completed STPEC 391H with a grade of C or better. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to our standard policy please come and talk to Katherine or Tyler about your situation.
I’ve been working in STPEC for almost two months now, and it’s just as inspiring as I had expected it would be. I’ve especially enjoyed the new student meetings and working with students and staff in the office and on Executive Committee. Looking to the future, we’ve just launched a few new projects, and I’m excited to work with STPEC students and staff to make them realities.

First, next spring we will begin a monthly brown-bag activist lunch series. Each month we will invite a local activist to campus for an informal lunch and discussion. This is a golden opportunity to explore internship possibilities and to be inspired by the extraordinary activist work that is always underway in the Valley. If you want to help choose the guests and ensure we pick times that match your schedule, please let me know you’re interested!

Second, we are looking to provide more opportunities for STPEC students to become involved in struggles for social justice in Springfield. Katherine Mallory and I have been speaking with people in three key organizations: Arise for Social Justice (a grassroots advocacy group with 25+ years of fighting for poor people), Springfield No One Leaves (a dynamic new group resisting home foreclosures), and Justice for Charles (an organization, inspired in part by the UMass group Justice for Jason, which is advocating on behalf of a wrongly imprisoned man and raising awareness about injustice in police, court, and prison systems more generally). In addition to supporting student internships, we plan to offer STPEC senior seminars on topics relevant to struggles in Springfield, and we hope to work with Springfield activists to organize conferences and workshops. For example, Arise is now envisioning a conference on climate change and economic justice; this is right up STPEC’s alley, and there’s every reason for our students to help with this project and take the opportunity to learn from Arise’s long experience in organizing.

Third, Katherine Mallory and I are very interested in developing the links between STPEC and the agricultural sustainability movement. Though many who are working for sustainability talk about social justice, we’re convinced that STPEC would help bring to the movement a deeper critical analysis of the social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of the sustainability / justice intersection. As one step in moving this conversation forward, we are planning a panel discussion on agricultural technologies and social change to be held in the spring.

Finally, I am meeting with STPEC students to organize a conference on the history of Science for the People (a radical, Marxist organization from the 1970s and 1980s) and the future of science activism. On issues ranging from climate change to GMOs to the scientific construction of gender, scientists need to become activated and activists need to become more comfortable talking about science. Science for the People offered one exciting approach to science activism; we can learn from that history and plot our own future. I already have a list of more than 40 scientists, engineers, and scholars who would be interesting in coming to UMass in spring 2014 for such a conference. Now comes the hard (and fun!) work of planning sessions and securing funding.

If any of these projects sound like something you want to be a part of, please step up. We can’t do it -- indeed there’s little point to doing it -- without the involvement of STPEC students!

Solidarity, Sigrid

sigrid@history.umass.edu

STPEC Scholarships for Spring 2013 - Apply Now!

STPEC will be awarding two $1,000 scholarships and one $2,400 scholarship to STPEC students in Spring 2013.

**STPEC Scholarships:** Two $1,000 scholarships provided for by the Sara Lennox Scholarship Fund. Awards will be based on previous, current and future plans for activism and community service. In order to apply you must be in Good Academic Standing with the University and have either completed or be currently enrolled in STPEC Seminar I for the Spring 2013 semester.

**Aaron Wilson Memorial Scholarship:** One $2,400 scholarship provided for by Aaron Wilson’s family from donations given in his memory. In order to apply you must 1) be in Good Academic Standing with the University; 2) have completed STPEC seminar I with a C or better before the beginning of the Spring 2013 semester; 3) have financial need.

For more information on these scholarships and for application forms please go to: [http://www.umass.edu/stpec/academics/scholarships.html](http://www.umass.edu/stpec/academics/scholarships.html)
On September 27, the Center for Popular Economics hosted Noam Chomsky at the UMass Fine Arts Center. The event was free to UMass students and faculty and was sold-out in advance.

Chomsky, who’s been an MIT professor of linguistics and philosophy for over 50 years, was introduced as the “world’s top public intellectual.”

Chomsky’s talk was on *Who Owns the World*. One of his first statements was “American officials are now practically pleading with an Iraqi government moving ever closer to the Iranians to let some American forces remain at a few giant bases beyond the official end-of-2011 withdrawal date.” While the factor of American officials in Iraq is still controversial for U.S. society, Chomsky states that America is still trying to own the world by “base-building” and “enlarging facilities” in Middle-Eastern countries. Despite this “…the U.S. has found itself, embarrassingly enough, dealing with a region spinning ever more rapidly out of its control.”

It seems that most Americans would agree with this notion, especially since America is suffering in its economy and the United States is the primary source of funding for this “base-building” in the Middle-East. According to Chomsky “Economic historians have argued that Egypt was well-placed to undertake rapid economic development at the same time that the U.S. was. Both had rich agriculture, including cotton, the fuel of the early industrial revolution - though, unlike Egypt, the U.S. had to develop cotton production and a work force by conquest, extermination, and slavery.”

The United States has a history of using force, slavery and land domination in other countries, which is still being practiced today. These policies continue even as the United States government continues to promote its actions as pro-peace and pro-democracy.

“Business leaders who are conducting propaganda campaigns to convince the population that anthropogenic global warming is a liberal hoax understand full well how grave is the threat, but they must maximize short-term profit and market share,” claims Chomsky. Shockingly it seems that this approach is in fact now standard business practice.

Chomsky delivered an incredible performance that inspired many people to question the economic policies of the U.S. Hopefully his inspiration will encourage more people to act for change in the world.

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Noam Chomsky

*Who Owns the World? Resistance and Ways Forward*

*By Loren Bostic*

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**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 with 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, please come see Deborah, Tyler or Katherine in the STPEC Office.

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**The search for our new position of STPEC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR is on!!!**

We are currently conducting a national search to fill our new position of STPEC Associate Director. The Associate Director will be a faculty member with a doctorate in a discipline related to STPEC and will teach one semester each of the STPEC Seminar series and one other STPEC requirement. He/she will also be responsible for curriculum and pedagogy, recruitment and outreach, career counseling and grad school advising, and alumni relations and will help the Director with other STPEC-related tasks.

We’ll be conducting this search during the fall and winter months and will keep you posted on how you can participate.

To see the official job listing please click the link on the STPEC homepage: www.umass.edu/stpec.
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. In order for such an internship 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 Praxis (STPEC 497P (2 credits, does NOT fulfill I.E.) or STPEC 494PI (3 credits, fulfills I.E. requirement). This optional course helps students to further explore the relationship between theory and practice. This course will offer practical guidance on writing the Internship papers. You may register for STPEC 497P on-line. Students taking STPEC 497P will not be able to take STPEC 494PI at a later date. To register for STPEC 494PI 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.

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.

For more information: visit www.studentbridges.org stop by 420 Student Union – call 413 545-1288 – or email umbridge@stuaf.umass.edu

Upcoming Event:

Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation in Cuba
a talk by Norma Guillard
includes a showing of Maestra, a short film about the Literacy Campaign in Cuba

Monday, November 5, 2012
7:00-9:00 pm
Campus Center 174-76

NORMA GUILLARD joined the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign (the Campaign) when she was 15 years old. A social psychologist from Santiago de Cuba, she is one of the first Cuban women of her generation to call herself a feminist. She primarily works on the issues of gender, race, sexual orientation and issues of diversity and identity in a Cuban and Caribbean context. As a Cuban of African descent, Guillard has contributed much to the lively debates on race and racism in Cuba.

Sponsored by: UMass Pride Alliance; Social Thought and Political Economy Program (STPEC); Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies (UMass); Hampshire College Latin@ and Latin American Studies; Common Ground Education and Travel; Feminist Aid to Central America

Looking for an internship, fellowship, grant, volunteer opportunity or job?
Check out the Peace and Collaborative Development website:
http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/
This site is managed by a STPEC alum!

A SOURCE FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS:
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.

STPEC SWEATS and Ts
Just a reminder that we still have STPEC t-shirts (both black on red and red on black), and a few leftover sweatshirts, for sale in the STPEC Office. See a STPEC office staff member if you want one!

ATTENTION NEW MEDIA MAVENS AND SOCIAL NETWORK NEPOTS!
Information on (hopefully) every STPEC event will be posted on the STPEC FACEBOOK FAN PAGE! Search for STPEC on Facebook and “like” us to get updates!