Welcome to New Students

We are happy to welcome the following new students to the STPEC Program as of November 2013:

Meeting Times for New STPEC Majors

We will be holding meetings for new STPEC majors on February 5-14th. Please contact a STPEC advisor to sign up for a meeting time.

Two $1,000 STPEC Scholarships available for Spring 2014

Apply now!

These STPEC scholarships are 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 2014 semester.

For more details please go to: http://www.umass.edu/stpec/academics/ScholarshipListgs/stpecscholarship.html

Deadline for application is Friday, February 21st, and scholarships will be awarded at the beginning of April 2014. You can find applications online or in the STPEC office mailboxes.

Fill out your Spring 2014 schedule with these 1 and 2 credit offerings from STPEC

STPEC 291Q: Science for the People

1 credit, Pass/Fail April 11-13 Schedule #51022
Do you care about climate change, health inequalities, agricultural sustainability, food justice, GMOs, energy policy, scientific constructions of gender or any of the other myriad issues involving SCIENCE and SOCIAL JUSTICE confronting us today? Do you hanker after an analysis of these issues that accounts for POWER and PRIVILEGE?

Students will participate in a weekend conference to be held at UMass April 11-13, 2014. The conference will examine the history of the science-activist organization Science for the People and its relevance issues we face today, including climate change, GMOs, the militarization of scientific research, and the scientific construction of race and gender. In addition to attending all conference activities on Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning, students will contribute to on-line discussions on Moodle. Contact the instructor, Sigrid Schmalzer, for details: sigrid@sbs.umass.edu

STPEC 291R: Activist Brown-Bag Lunch Series

1 credit, Pass/Fail Wed 11:15-1:15 Schedule #51023
Class will meet: 01/29; 02/19; 03/05; 03/12; 04/16; 04/30. March 5 and April 30 are classroom sessions. Attend talks by local activists and explore opportunities for activism in the Valley, all while eating your lunch!
This class will meet select Wednesdays from 11:15am-1:15pm. We will have 4 talks by local activists, with lots of time for questions and answers. We will also meet Wednesday, February 27 and Wednesday, April 24 to discuss the talks and a few short readings. A modest final paper will be required. Registration available on SPIRE. See page 6 for more details.

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and much, much more!
INCOMPLETES IN STPEC SEMINAR I

Once again a reminder that STPEC 391H is a pre-requisite for all other STPEC seminars. You will not be admitted to other STPEC seminars until you have completed (with a grade of C or better) STPEC 391H. If you find yourself in an extreme panic due to this policy please come and talk to an Academic Advisor about your situation.

ADD/DROP NOTES

For the Spring 2014 semester most STPEC courses will remain on-line. STPEC Independent Studies and Internships will be off-line.

★ If you cannot add a class using SPIRE you may request the course by filling out a STPEC Course Add Request Form (available from the STPEC office). If you are on a wait list, be sure to go to the class you are requesting. You will 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 an Independent Study, fill out a STPEC Independent Study Form.

★ To register for an Internship, fill out an Internship Study Contract. For more instruction on fulfilling the STPEC Internship requirement, please see page 4.

★ 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 (494P) 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 (494P) at a later date. So if you need to take your I.E. this year please be sure to sign up for 494P!

★ 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).

STPEC Staff and Instructors for Spring 2014

Program Director    Sigrid Schmalzer
Associate Program Director    Graciela Monteagudo
Chief Academic Advisor and Internship Director    Katherine Mallory
Assistant Academic Advisor    Tyler Rocco-Chaffee
Program Coordinator    Deborah Reiter
STPEC Seminar Instructor    Hari Kumar
Junior Writing Instructor    Ethan Myers

and a warm welcome to our senior seminar instructors

Sarah Cantillon, Professor at UCD School of Social Justice in Dublin, will teach STPEC 491H: Global Health Inequalities

Robert E. Weir, a Lecturer at the History Departments of Smith College and UMass Amherst, will teach STPEC 493H: American Labor: Theory, Work, and Movements

ECO-REPS needed!

Looking to incorporate more environmental action into your studies? Sign up for ENVIRSCI 297F and become an Eco-Rep! In this 2 credit peer-facilitated course we learn about current issues surrounding sustainability and environmental literacy through dialogue with our peers and given readings. Our goal is to promote positive change on campus and in our individual lives to create a more sustainable community. Throughout the semester there are various field trips offered and interaction events on campus to further engage with our knowledge. Eco-rep is a great way to get involved and spread awareness about the important issues discussed in class. Classes meet in the residence halls and are on both Tuesday and Wednesday at 5:30pm. To sign up and learn more go to umass.edu/ecorep or email Jackie Hynes, Eco-Rep Program Manager at jhynes@umass.edu.

T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS WE GOT ‘EM!!

A reminder that we have both red and black STPEC t-shirts available for sale in the STPEC office. We also have a few hooded sweatshirts, in a variety of styles and sizes. See a staff person if you’d like to purchase one!
Mark those calendars! STPEC is hosting a major conference on the weekend of April 11-13 on Science for the People: The 1970s and Today.

Dozens of people -- including many members of the 1970s-80s organization Science for the People -- will be coming to campus to present on agricultural sustainability and food justice, the militarization of scientific research, genetics and the “myths” of race and gender, climate change activism, health inequalities, how to build a career as a progressive scientist, and much more.

Learn more and check out the program at http://science-for-the-people.org.

There are still some spots in the 4-credit seminar associated with the conference (History 492AH), which will be taught by STPEC Director Sigrid Schmalzer and will be an extraordinary opportunity to think outside the box and do things you can’t do in regular college classes. But you don’t have to be in the seminar to be involved in the conference. We want people to organize guerrilla theater, host musicians, and of course attend the conference panels! If you intend to participate in the conference, you can get 1 credit by signing up for STPEC 201Q.

SO PLEASE PLAN TO COME, AND PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS! This is an especially great opportunity for STPEC to reach out to the “north side” (i.e., the “science side” of campus). So if you know people majoring in science, engineering, or medicine who might be persuaded to think that science should serve the people, not corporations or the military, please make sure they know about this conference!

CAREER SERVICES SPONSORED EVENTS
for full info go to: www.umass.edu/careers

Alana Fair
Tuesday, February 18 1:00-5:00 pm
Student Union Ballroom
Meet all types of employers looking for ALANA students of all majors for fulltime, Co-op and/or Internship opportunities.

Career Blast 2013
Wednesday, February 19 10:00-3:00 pm
Campus Center Auditorium
Employers attending this event have a variety of opportunities and look forward to meeting UMass students in a friendly and professional atmosphere. All majors and degree level students will find employers available to talk with them about full-time employment, internships, co-ops and summer jobs.

STPEC BA/MA 5 Year Masters Programs
STPEC students will now be able to graduate in 5 years with a BA in STPEC and either an MS in Labor Studies or an MA in Public Policy.

BA/MS Labor Studies: Coursework provides the skills necessary to work in the labor movement - expertise in organizing, collective bargaining, strategic corporate research, and union leadership - and you will have an opportunity to examine the larger theoretical and strategic issues confronting workers and their unions in the new millennium. This program is still in development, please contact Eve Weinbaum: weinbaum@lrrc.umass.edu for more details.

BA/MA Public Policy: This professional academic program offered through the Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA) prepares students for careers as public managers, policy analysts, advocates, and public leaders. Students are encouraged to specialize in a substantive or methodological field of interest. Core courses provide students with a strong analytical foundation, applicable to a wide variety of policy issues.

UMass SCHOLARSHIPS
Alumni Association Scholarships
Each year the Alumni Association presents over $90,000 in scholarships and awards to eligible students.

Leaders in the Making Scholarship
Four $2,000 scholarships for sophomores and juniors with diverse records of achievement in academics and volunteerism.

Life Member Scholarship for Internships
Scholarships given to exceptional sophomores or juniors to help defray the cost of a summer, unpaid, away-from-home internship.

Michael W. Morris Scholarship
Scholarship for students from Lawrence or Lowell, MA.

For more information on these and other scholarships go to umassalumni.com/students/scholarships.html or visit Memorial Hall.

Labor Studies and Union Semester at the Murphy Institute at CUNY
New York Union Semester is an innovative semester-away program, for both undergraduates and graduate students, who intern with a labor organization in New York City while taking college or Masters’ level courses in Labor Studies. Participants receive a partial tuition scholarship and weekly stipend to help cover their expenses. Please go to http://www.unionsemester.org/ for more information.

National and international internship listings are available from the Peace and Collaborative Development Network: look under “forums” at http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/
STUDENTS NEEDED FOR THE STPEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!!!

STPEC students have the opportunity as majors not only to make decisions about their own education, but also to provide leadership and vision to the major itself. The STPEC Executive Committee is the official governing body of the major and is one very important way students are empowered to determine STPEC policy and educational vision. Consisting of STPEC students and staff and supportive UMass faculty, the Executive Committee is a representative body that uses a consensus decision-making process to determine policy. Issues are gathered by students and staff during the semester and presented to the Executive Committee for final approval or direction.

Students wishing to serve on Executive Committee 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 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.

Course requirements
1. Attend the orientation session to be held at the first meeting of Student Representatives.
2. Attend all Student Representative and Executive Committee meetings; 2/06, 2/27, 3/27, 4/10 from 5:15-7:15 pm and 03/07 and 04/25 from 3:00-6:00 pm.
3. Review the minutes of the previous Executive Committee or Student Rep meeting.
4. Deliver weekly announcements to your designated STPEC course.
5. If enrolled in a STPEC course, facilitate a 15 minute forum prior to both full Executive Committee meetings.
6. Adhere within reason to past or documented Student Representative and Executive Committee protocol.

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 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.

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 497P: 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 who are either currently fulfilling or have recently completed their STPEC Internship requirement and offers practical guidance on writing the Internship paper. Students may also take this as STPEC 494PI, a 3 credit course which fulfills the I.E. Gen Ed requirement. To register for 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.
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?

Interning in the STPEC office is one way students can help create a participatory major, support a community conducive to critical thought and social change, and contribute to the continual rethinking and revising of the STPEC 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. If you would like to participate in creating the present and future of your STPEC major please talk to Deborah, Katherine, or Tyler in the STPEC Office.

All STPEC Office Staff meetings are mandatory for all office staff members!
The first staff meeting will be on Friday, January 24 from 12:30-2:00 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.

STPEC Activist Brown Bag Lunch Series

We are proud to announce the second year of the STPEC Activist Brown Bag Lunch Series. This semester, four extraordinary local activists will visit UMass to share their experiences and perspectives on activism in the Valley and beyond. Come ready to ask questions (for example, about internship opportunities!) and participate in a wider discussion of their work. The series is open to the general public, so please bring your friends. For more details on each speaker please see the STPEC web-site: www.umass.edu/stpec

An optional 1-credit course (STPEC 291R) is available for students who attend all four brown bags and two separate discussion meetings. Sign up directly on SPIRE.

All events are from 11:15 to 12:45 in the Campus Center (for specific dates and rooms, see below).

Light refreshments will be served, but you are encouraged to bring a lunch.

Brendan Carey (Unite Here)
Jan. 29th Campus Center 162-175
Brendan Carey is an organizer at Unite Here, a labor union representing workers in the textile, garment, factory, hotel, domestic, casino, and food service industries throughout the United States.

Jeff Napolitano (AFSC American Friends Service Committee)
February 19th Campus Center 904-08
Jeff Napolitano is the director of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Western Massachusetts program. Jeff’s work at AFSC ranges from civil disobedience training to immigration policy advocacy to community grassroots organizing (and more).

Michaelann Bewsee (Arise for Social Justice)
March 12th Campus Center 168C
In 1985, Michaelann Bewsee and a group of other women on welfare organized Arise for Social Justice to support the rights of low-income people in Springfield, MA.

Dan Keefe (Out Now, Justice for Charles, Justice for Jason)
April 16th Campus Center 904-908
UMass alum Dan Keefe (2010) is a community organizer and resource developer at Out Now, a youth-led, adult-advised queer youth organization in Springfield that works to promote harm reduction, self-determination, and community building through anti-oppression organizing.
The Crisis of Syria’s Refugees in Lebanon
Wednesday, February 12, 4:00 pm
Omar Dahi, Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Critical Social Inquiry, Hampshire College
This talk will explore the dynamics of the Syrian uprising to better understand the complexity of the current crisis. In addition, the talk will provide an overview of the humanitarian crisis of internally displaced populations and refugees in neighboring countries.

Income Pooling, Decision Making and Living Standards within Households - Evidence from SILC 2010
Thursday, March 6, 4:00 pm
Sarah Cantillon, Director of the Graduate Programme in the School of Social Justice UCD
A core assumption in conventional poverty measurement is that income is shared within households to the benefit of all household members. This presentation draws on the 2010 Irish SILC module to examine aspects of the household’s financial regime, including which household members receive income, the extent to which income is contributed for the benefit of other household members and responsibility for decision-making. The results show only small differences in income pooling by gender, but large differences by the person’s position in the household. In terms of decision-making, it finds that most couples share responsibility for decisions. Among the findings regarding the consequences of household financial regime were the beneficial impact of having income from work and of shared responsibility for decisions. Contrary to expectations, variations in the proportion of income contributed for the benefit of other household members did not have the anticipated impact on household and individual deprivation.

Race is a Verb: From Race as Genetics to the Biological Consequences of Racism
Wednesday, April 2, 4:00 pm
Alan Goodman, Professor of Biological Anthropology, Hampshire College.
The idea of race, that humans come in genetically distinct types with different abilities, became reified, made to seem real, by constant European and American scientists in the 18th to 20th centuries worked to prove that races differed genetically and in abilities. They failed because human genetic variation is too complex to be color-coded. Human variation is remarkable and it is not race-based.
Yet, we live in a society that still upholds this false but politically useful idea of race-as-genetics; this mythical notion of race is often in our heads and woven into our social and institutional fabrics. This disproven idea is alive and powerful. Racial ideology does work in setting the conditions for deplorable differences in wealth and health today. This paper explains in steps why race does not work as a genetic construct. Yet, race has biological consequences. I end by providing illustrations of the consequences of race and racism on stress and health and call for a new conception of race as a verb and new studies of the biology of racism.

Interested in Public Affairs Programming on WMUA?
Join Undercurrents & Mass Divide, “News and views routinely ignored by the mainstream media.” Undercurrents has been on (and occasionally off) the air at WMUA for decades. The show covers political, social, and economic issues from a progressive perspective.
We expect to have a public affairs slot, which is weekdays 4:30-5:30, Jan-May. Anyone with an interest and willing to make a commitment (for example, one show a month) can participate. Members do need to be air-cleared for WMUA. If you do not currently know how to engineer a show, but are willing to get WMUA training this winter, we are happy to help instruct you about production during shows. Interested? Contact Jennie Traschen at 413-549-4119 or traschen@physics.umass.edu