SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS

concerning

REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
IN THE PROGRAM IN
SOCIAL THOUGHT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY (STPEC)

Presented at the
768th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 27, 2017

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As part of the plan to replace the Global Education requirement in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) with program-specific requirements, the Program in Social Thought and Political Economy is proposing to revise its major. The significant changes from current requirements are:

(1) The minimum number of required credits for the major will decrease from 46 to 43.
(2) The course STPEC 101 (Intro. to STPEC) will no longer be required. (It will be one option for fulfilling the requirement of an introductory social theory course.)
(3) Students must complete a STPEC Global Education Portfolio that consists of at least 6 courses. The courses can come from regular university offerings (including language courses) and/or study abroad, and may also be used to fill other program requirements.

At its meeting on April 6, 2016, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposed Revision of the B.A. Major Requirements in the Program in Social Thought and Political Economy. It was submitted as proposal #2755 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

On April 19, 2017, the Academic Priorities Council endorsed approval of this proposal subject after two requested changes were made. The first is that fulfillment of department level international and intercultural requirements can be fulfilled by departmentally approved study abroad. The second is that “At least one course taken to fulfill the major's international/intercultural requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

At its meeting on March 22, 2017, the Program and Budget Council voted 9 Yes, 5 No and 1 Abstention on the proposal #2755, Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Program in Social Thought and Political Economy, as part of a group of related proposals (#s 2748 through 2756 in the Course and Curriculum Management System). It addressed its comments to the framework proposal (#2748).

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major Requirements in the Program in Social Thought and Political Economy (STPEC), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-066.
Please describe your proposal.
The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences seeks to transform the international and intercultural education focus in our curriculum from the college-based Global Education Requirement for B.A. majors to an integrated theme that is incorporated directly into strengthened and updated B.A. major requirements. (See Proposal 2748 in the UMass Course and Curriculum Management System.)

To graduate, students in the Social Thought & Political Economy major must currently fulfill the Global Education Requirement of 15 credits plus their major requirements of 46 credits. After the proposed changes, students in the Social Thought & Political Economy major will fulfill major requirements totaling 43 credits that incorporate international and intercultural education directly into the major in a manner tailored to our discipline. The current college level Global Education Requirement will be ended for students in the Social Thought & Political Economy major.

To fulfill the new major-level international and intercultural related requirements, STPEC students will complete a portfolio listing at least 6 courses that contribute to 1) knowledge about cultures and histories outside the United States and of indigenous and diasporic peoples within the U.S.; and 2) understandings of global economic circulations, systems of domination, and networks of resistance. There will be no restriction on double-counting for courses that satisfy the STPEC major. Following the same rules already in place for major completion, students may further double-count one General Education course and one University Requirement. We will strongly encourage, but not require, students to study a foreign language. We anticipate that many students will assemble a portfolio of considerably more than 6 courses.

In addition to the changes related to international and intercultural education, STPEC proposes to remove STPEC 101 as a requirement and instead offer it as one option for the fulfillment of the prerequisite in social theory, thus reducing our credit requirements from 46 to 43.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.
NOTE: All items marked * are selected by the student from a list of options generated each semester. To see this semester’s list, please consult: http://www.umass.edu/stpec/academics/stpec-recommended-course-lists

Prerequisites:
One introductory social theory course*
One introductory political economy course*

Requirements:

STPEC 101: Intro to STPEC (3 credits)

1 upper-level course in each of the following 5 categories (15 credits total)
Modern Social Theory and Social Movements*
Political Economy*
Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and Queer Theory*
History and Politics of Race in the U.S.*
Non-Western Perspectives, Global South and Indigenous People*

1 History elective* (3 credits)
2-course Core Seminar sequence (8 credits total)
2-course Focus Seminar sequence (8 credits total)
Junior-Year Writing course (3 credits)
Internship (3 credits)
Integrative Experience course (3 credits)
Prerequisites:
One introductory social theory course*
One introductory political economy course*

Required courses:

1 upper-level course in each of the following 5 categories (15 credits total)
Modern Social Theory and Social Movements*
Political Economy*
Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and Queer Theory*
History and Politics of Race in the U.S.*
Non-Western Perspectives, Global South and Indigenous People*

1 History elective* (3 credits)
2-course Core Seminar sequence (8 credits total)
2-course Focus Seminar sequence (8 credits total)
Junior-Year Writing course (3 credits)
Internship (3 credits)
Integrative Experience course (3 credits)

Other requirements:

STPEC Global Education Portfolio, listing at least 6 courses taken that contribute to 1) knowledge about cultures and histories outside the United States and of indigenous and diasporic peoples within the U.S.; and 2) understandings of global economic circulations, systems of domination, and networks of resistance. Courses taken abroad to fulfill this requirement must be taken in a departmentally approved study abroad program. These credits must be completed through an IPO-approved study-abroad program. At least one course taken to fulfill this requirement must have an international focus (if a topical course), be a foreign language, or be taken during a departmentally approved study abroad.

Below are three example portfolios illustrating a few of the different ways students might complete the STPEC Global Education Portfolio. The portfolio for Student A demonstrates that a student can complete the portfolio without increasing their credit burden beyond what is already required for the STPEC major and for university-level requirements; this is a reflection of the very rich education in global studies already offered within the STPEC curriculum. The portfolios for Students B and C demonstrate the greater tapping of global education resources and the development of specific areas of interest that we expect to see in most STPEC student portfolios.

Portfolio for Student A
1. STPEC 190A: Introduction to Radical Social Theory (double counts for STPEC major and Gen Ed History)
2. ANTHRO 104: Culture, Society, and People (double counts for Gen Ed Global Diversity)
3. HIST 260: Power and Violence in South Africa (double counts for STPEC major — upper-level requirement in Non-Western World, Global South, and Indigenous Peoples)
4. STPEC 391H: STPEC Core Seminar I (double counts for the STPEC major)
5. STPEC 392H: STPEC Core Seminar II (double counts for the STPEC major)
6. STPEC 491H: Global Health Inequalities (double counts for the STPEC major)
Portfolio for Student B
1. SPANISH 230: Intermediate Spanish I
2. SPANISH 240: Intermediate Spanish II
3. ECON 367: Post Independence African Development (double counts for STPEC major — upper-level requirement in Political Economy)
4. MHC HIST 287AF Afro-Latin America (double counts for STPEC major — upper-level requirement in Non-Western World, Global South, and Indigenous Peoples)
5. STPEC 391H: STPEC Core Seminar I (double counts for the STPEC major)
6. STPEC 392H: STPEC Core Seminar II (double counts for the STPEC major)
7. STPEC Semester Abroad Program in Argentina (includes several courses and two internship opportunities, some of which will double count for the STPEC major)

Portfolio for Student C
1. STPEC 190A: Introduction to Radical Social Theory (double counts for STPEC major and Gen Ed History)
2. CHIN 110: Elementary Chinese I
3. CHIN 120: Elementary Chinese II
4. HIST 115: China, 1600-Present (double counts for Gen Ed Global Diversity)
5. HIST 346: Twentieth-Century China (double counts for STPEC major — upper-level requirement in Non-Western World, Global South, and Indigenous Peoples)
6. STPEC 391H: STPEC Core Seminar I (double counts for the STPEC major)
7. STPEC 392H: STPEC Core Seminar II (double counts for the STPEC major)
8. Senior Honors Thesis on twentieth-century Chinese student movements (double counts for Commonwealth Honors College)

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.
The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has provided a rationale for transforming international and intercultural education in the B.A. majors from the college-level Global Education Requirement to departmental requirements. Please see document Rationale for Transformation of International & Intercultural Education in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences (attached) for this overall rationale.

Within this framework, the Social Thought & Political Economy major has revised our requirements.

1) The portfolio will provide students with a way of organizing and articulating the global knowledge they have accumulated as a result of their studies within and outside the STPEC major. The STPEC program already provides extensive engagement in international and intercultural studies. The following STPEC courses have extensive relevant content: STPEC 101: Introduction to STPEC; STPEC 190A: Introduction to Radical Social Theory; STPEC 391H: Core Seminar I; STPEC 392H: Core Seminar II; select STPEC Senior Seminars; all courses identified as satisfying the STPEC requirements in A) The History and Politics of Race in the U.S.; and B) Non-Western Perspectives, Global South, and Indigenous Peoples. The portfolio will help students reflect on the connections among the relevant courses they have taken and demonstrate to prospective employers and graduate schools the breadth and depth of their knowledge in these areas. Given the already heavy credit load that STPEC students bear, we have ensured that students can, if they choose, complete the portfolio without taking additional classes. However, we expect that many students will through their own initiative take additional courses (including language courses) and engage in study abroad and other opportunities that will significantly enhance their portfolios.

2) STPEC 101 was originally created because there were no other opportunities to introduce STPEC students to some of the fundamental concepts in critical social theory prior to their enrolling in the very challenging STPEC Core seminars. However, since the hiring of our Associate Director and the launching of STPEC 190A (Radical Social Theory), many STPEC students find that course satisfies their needs in this area. Maintaining STPEC 101 as a requirement for all students thus places an unnecessary burden
on our very small faculty. At the same time, many students value the greater focus that STPEC 101 offers on facilitated dialogues about social identity and its relationship to critical analysis of power structures. By removing the requirement and making STPEC 101 simply one option for the completion of the social theory prerequisite, we will be able to offer it once a year to the students most interested in this approach, rather than every semester to all students.

Academic Requirements Review

Requirement: V. In addition to the Gen Ed, Diversity, and College requirements, you must complete the following Major requirements: (rg176)
Rule: Graduation Requirements
Line: **No courses graded below a C will be accepted toward major requirements**
Line: 1. Take STPEC 101. (r272,ln20)
Line: 2. Take STPEC 391H, Core Seminar I. [Two introductory courses, one in Social Theory and one in Political Economy, are pre-requisites for STPEC 391H.] (r272,ln30)
Line: 3. Take STPEC 392H, Core Seminar II. [STPEC 391H with a C or higher is a prerequisite for this course.] (r272,ln40)
Line: 4. Take STPEC 393A, Junior Year Writing. (r272,ln50)
Line: 5. Take two senior seminars, STPEC 491H, 492H and/or 493H. [STPEC 391H with a C or higher is a prerequisite for these courses.] (r272,ln60)
Line: 6. Take at least three credits of STPEC 498Y, internship. (r272,ln70)
Line: 7. Take one History elective of at least 3 credits. [This requirement may be waived by your STPEC advisor if you have taken a 3- or 4-credit history course to fulfill one of the five upper-level categories.] (r272,ln80)
Recall: CAT
Line: 8. Take one course in Modern Social Theory. (r272,ln90)
Line: 9. Take one course in Political Economy. (r272,ln100)
Line: 10. Take one course in History and Politics of Women. (r272,ln110)
Line: 11. Take one course in the History & Politics of Race in the U.S. (r272,ln120)
Line: 12. Take one course in Non-Western World. (r272,ln130)
Rule: **Additional STPEC Courses (r10312)
Line: Other Courses
Recall: USD
Recall: ITC
Rule: **Courses Not used for Degree/Major/Minor Requirements***(r10313)
Recall: PAS
Recall: USD
Recall: ITC

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.
This proposal does not require additional resources within SBS or the Social Thought & Political Economy major. Indeed, the removal of STPEC 101 as a requirement will free teaching resources in the department. Under the proposed curriculum changes, we expect some increases in demand for courses within SBS, particularly those that are identified as fulfilling international/intercultural requirements within the program. This additional demand has already been considered by us in approving this major change proposal.

(Please refer to Proposal #2755 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for the Track Changes and the Rationale for Transformation of International and Intercultural Education in CSBS.)