

## STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – FALL 2010

*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.*

### JUNIOR SEMINARS

*STPEC 391H: Junior Seminar I – James Fiorentino*

TueThur 11:15-12:30 Fri 12:20-1:10

Schedule # 77589 disc # 77590

This seminar is the first in the yearlong STPEC Junior Seminar Sequence. Junior 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. Junior 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.

James Fiorentino is a Master's Degree student in History. This is a four credit honors course. Enrollment is limited to 25 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.

*STPEC 392H: Junior Seminar II – Sreela Sarkar*

TueThur 1:00-2:15 Fri 1:25-2:15

Schedule # 77591 disc # 78916

The second half of the Junior Seminar sequence, Junior II focuses on a series of interrelated political, social and theoretical movements of the 20th Century. In Junior I we studied some of the driving forces behind the production of modernity as way to organize and understand the world. Junior 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.

Sreela Sarkar is a Ph.D. student in Communication. This is a four credit honors course. Enrollment is limited to 25 students. STPEC majors only. **PREREQUISITE: Completion of STPEC 391H** (the semesters may *not* be taken concurrently). This restriction *will be enforced*.

### JUNIOR WRITING COURSE

*STPEC 393A: Writing for Critical Consciousness – Ethan Myers*

Wed 3:35-6:05 pm

Schedule # 75103

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.

Ethan Myers has a Master's Degree in Literature and American Studies from UMass Amherst.

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

**SENIOR SEMINARS**

All seminars are four credit honors courses. Enrollment for each seminar is limited to 20 students. STPEC majors only. **PREREQUISITE FOR ALL SENIOR SEMINARS: Completion of STPEC 391H with a grade of C or better** (may not be taken concurrently with any Senior Seminar). This restriction will be enforced!

*STPEC 491H: Race and Urban Political Economy* – Preston Smith

Thursday 6:30-9:00 pm

Schedule # 77592

This course will examine the relationship between a changing economic structure, national and urban governments, and political resistance of people of color in a new urban political economy. Special attention will be paid to the place of US cities in global economic restructuring, racial and ethnic conflict between African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and whites, class and/or gender conflict within racial and ethnic groups, and political strategies to confront residential segregation, deindustrialization, disinvestment, and gentrification in minority neighborhoods.

Preston Smith is a Professor of Politics; Politics & Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts at Mount Holyoke College.

*STPEC 492H: Labor Theory and Ideology* – Jerrold Levinsky

Tuesday 4:00-6:30 pm

Schedule # 75104

This course examines the historically divergent perspectives on the origin, development, and goals of organized labor. Theories which will be explored include those which view the labor movement as a form of business institution, an agent for social reform, a revolutionary force, a psychological reaction to industrialization, a moral force, and an unnecessary intrusion into market affairs.

Jerrold Levinsky is a Lecturer in the Department of Legal Studies at UMass Amherst and works for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD).

*STPEC 493H section 2: Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity* - Flavio Risech

Wednesday 6:30-9:00 pm

Schedule # 79890

War crimes, torture and genocides demonstrate all too frequently that “never again” remains an elusive ideal. What role does the international system of human rights and humanitarian law play in deterring abuses of power? We examine the debates over the definition, adjudication and punishment of such acts, and study several cases to evaluate how effective domestic and international legal institutions can be in preventing such crimes in the future, redressing those that do occur and shaping collective memory and reconciliation after the fact, often called transitional justice. The Nuremberg trial legacy, the truth commission in South Africa, the Pinochet case, the Yugoslavia war crimes trials, the genocide in Rwanda, and the new ICC will provide primary material for critical discussion; students will research, present and critique case studies.

Flavio Risech is a Professor of Critical Social Inquiry at Hampshire College.

**PRACTICUM**

*STPEC 498Y – Exploring the Intersection of Theory and Practice* – Katherine Mallory  
(aka “Practicum”) No Class Meetings

Schedule # 75091

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 Katherine and get her approval of your placement before you turn in your contract. She can be reached at [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu).)

*STPEC 494A: Praxis* – Katherine Mallory

Time and Date TBA - 2 credits, graded

Schedule # 75094

This optional two-credit course is limited to students who are working on their STPEC internship requirement (STPEC 498Y). It is designed to provide support, structure and feedback for students writing their final internship paper.

Students in this course write four short (3-5 page) papers on assigned topics related to their internships. Tentative topics include: mission, history and vision; organizational structure and funding; Marxian labor analysis; institutionalized oppression. Reading assignments are short. At the end of the semester, students can compile and revise their papers for the final paper for STPEC 498Y.

The class will meet either once weekly or biweekly from the second week of add/drop through late November or early December. The day, time and location of the class will be announced during add/drop.

To enroll, contact Katherine Mallory at [stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu) during the first week of add/drop, so that she can inform you about the first class meeting.

**ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA**

*The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements*

*STPEC 291E: Slavery Today*

TuTh 4:00-5:15 3 credits mandatory pass/fail

Schedule # 79158

This course will examine modern slavery and its impact on the world today. In a discussion based setting, we will assess slavery's evolution in recent years and its incorporation into local and international systems. After a brief survey of slavery through the late 1800's and 1900's, class will focus on current issues around the globe and in the U.S. as well. Structured around the economics, politics, and the social problems of slavery, class analysis will be thorough and holistic. Through this analysis, students will have the insight to decide for themselves what it means to exist in a world benefiting through slave labor and what we can do about it.

This class will be facilitated by Benjamin Durfee, a Political Science student. For more information on this class you may contact Ben at [bdurfee@student.umass.edu](mailto:bdurfee@student.umass.edu).

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**ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA continued**

*STPEC 291K: Food Movements*

MWF 2:30-3:20 2 credits mandatory pass/fail

Schedule # 79370

This class follows the socioeconomic and political policies surrounding the food industry. We will focus on the causes of certain food movements and how they affect food consumption in the United States. We will also discuss food origins and the environmental effects, nutrition and health concerns surrounding food, and how certain race and class structures influence food availability and variety. We will look at all steps of food production from earth to plate and back to earth. PS We will have snacks!

This class will be facilitated by Nicole Brownstein, a Comp Lit/STPEC student and Nora Murphy, an Anthropology student. For more information on this class you may contact Nicole at nbrownst@student.umass.edu or Nora at nmurphy@student.umass.edu.

*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 2007 should speak with both Sara Lennox, Program Director, and Deborah Reiter, Program Coordinator, as soon as possible.

*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 Katherine Mallory (the STPEC Internship Advisor) and complete a STPEC Internship Contract by the end of add/drop. She can be reached at stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu.

*STPEC 298Y: Section 4: Peer Advising in the STPEC Office*

Time to be arranged 1-3 credits

Schedule # 75085

Advise current and prospective majors, participate in staff meetings, and help with other aspects of running the STPEC program. Provides the opportunity to become intimately involved with decision-making and program development. Requirements include helping with peer advising, reception and general office tasks in the STPEC Program Office, a written evaluation paper at the end of the semester, attendance at several skills seminars and weekly attendance at the STPEC staff meeting. Students are also encouraged to engage in special projects of their own design which will be beneficial to the STPEC community. Eighty hours per semester for two credits or forty hours for one credit, pass/fail. STPEC majors only. To register please speak with Katherine Mallory, STPEC Internship Coordinator or Deborah Reiter, STPEC Program Coordinator.