

STPEC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SPRING 2018

SOCIAL THEORY PRE-REQUISITE

STPEC 189: Introduction to Radical Social Theory in Historical Context – Graciela Monteagudo
Wednesdays 4:00-6:30 pm 4 credits, graded Schedule # 51395

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
TuTh 11:30 am – 12:45 pm 3 credits, graded Schedule #51357

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 CORE SEMINARS

STPEC 391H: STPEC Core Seminar I – Graciela Monteagudo
TuTh 1:00-2:15 PM 4 credits, graded Schedule # 60740

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, Anarchism, Postcolonial, and Poststructural theories. As this is an interdisciplinary class, we will be bringing in analytic tools from various disciplines 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.

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STPEC 392H: STPEC Core Seminar II – Graciela Monteagudo

TuTh 2:30-3:45

4 credits, graded

Schedule #60741

STPEC Core Seminar II focuses on a series of interrelated political, social and theoretical movements of the 20th and 21st Century with an emphasis on how political practices and philosophies relate to the successes and catastrophic failures of modernism in complex and contradictory ways. Some of the topics addressed include anti/post-colonialism, the role of identity in political theory/practice and poststructuralism. We will research the connection between race, class, gender, sexuality, able-bodiness and other axes of oppression resistance under neoliberalism, including violence against women under neoliberalism. A major research paper of the student's choosing will be produced over the course of the semester allowing her/him to more deeply engage with a topic, and to 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.

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. (May not be taken concurrently with any Focus Seminar). This restriction will be enforced!

STPEC 491H: Race at Work: Workers of COLOR and the AMERICAN Labor Movement– Traci Parker

Thursday 4:00-6:30 pm

4 credits, graded

Schedule #51399

This course explores the relationship between race and labor, reaching from the age of emancipation through the Reagan era. Engaging historical and filmic texts, this course examines various themes in labor history and class formation. Beginning with an interrogation of race in labor history as a field of historical study, this course moves along chronological and thematic axes to investigate changes in wage and labor structure, agricultural and industrial production, domestic work, and service work. It will consider the experiences – including, but not limited to migration, community building and organizing, labor unions, policy, and leisure – of African American, Asian, and Mexican Americans, among others. The Civil Rights Movement and the Fair Employment Movement will be critical to this course as they best highlight the strategies and patterns of labor organizations, protests, and negotiation among workers of color since emancipation. This course also will explore affirmative action and the reconsolidation of racial discrimination in the workplace in the late twentieth century.

STPEC 492H: Workplace Law in Capitalist America– Harris Freeman

Tuesday 4:00-6:30 pm

4 credits, graded

Schedule #51379

The seminar examines how economic crises, political upheavals and social movements have influenced the development of workplace rights, and explores how the law has impacted the trajectory of the labor movement over the course of the development of American capitalism. The seminar opens with the historical and socio-political context in which workplace rights developed during the rise of industrial capitalism. Next, we explore how modern workplace law arose through the rise of industrial unionism in the New Deal era and during the decades following World War II. Topics to be studied include laws governing union organizing, workers' control, collective bargaining, as well as the laws governing struggles to overcome workplace race and sex discrimination. We conclude with legal challenges faced by marginalized and disempowered workers in the 21st century: immigrant workers' rights; efforts to stop factory closings and job loss; free speech rights in the workplace; discrimination against LGBT workers; and the failure of workplace law to keep pace with major shifts that have restructured work and labor markets over the course of the last twenty-five years.

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INTEGRATIVE EXPERIENCE

STPEC 494PI: Praxis – TBA

Wednesday 11:15-1:45

3 credits, graded

Schedule #51376

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.

PRACTICUM

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

(aka “Practicum”) No Class Meetings

Schedule #51361

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.

ADDITIONAL COURSES AND COLLOQUIA

The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements

STPEC 291X: Executive Committee – Hoang Phan

student meetings: Time and location TBA by mutual agreement

Schedule #51375

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 coming semester should speak with Hoang Gia Phan during pre-registration.

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

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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.