

STPEC 101 | Introduction to STPEC**TuTh | 11:30am – 12:45pm****Shemon Salam****3 credits**

This course will familiarize new students with the program and its vision. STPEC is a rigorous, democratically run, interdisciplinary academic program. STPEC is also a community of students, staff, instructors, alumni, and friends that will help you navigate your time at UMass. Ideally this course will also familiarize us with each other.

The content of this course is organized around concepts students will encounter in their other STPEC requirements, as well as in the STPEC community and the greater world. It will provide an introduction to social theory, political economy, race and ethnicity, gender, pandemics, masculinities and femininities, globalization and inequality in the Global North and the Global South. Assignments facilitate exploration of these and related topics. Students will have the opportunity to learn the value of social theory and how to make an argument; communicate for effective dialogue, and how to begin to identify social justice issues.

STPEC 101, like STPEC's core classes, is seminar-style. This means small groups with an emphasis on discussion and reflection.

This class is open to STPEC majors only.

STPEC 189 | Introduction to Radical Social Theory**W | 4:00pm – 6:30pm****Graciela Monteagudo****4 credits****Gen Ed: HS and DG**

This is an introductory course to radical social theory. Our focus is the history of social thought in the West, and the decolonial 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 build a better world. 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, economics, Black, Latinx, 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 People of Color on a global scale and across time and space.

Seats in this course are reserved for freshmen and sophomores of SBS or HFA. STPEC students may enroll.

STPEC 291X | STPEC Executive Committee**Time TBD****Hoang Phan****1 credit**

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 min forum prior to both full Executive Committee meetings.

This course will be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time.

STPEC 320 | Writing for Critical Consciousness**M | 4:00pm – 630 pm****Graciela Monteagudo****3 credits****Junior Year Writing**

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 research paper with a theme of your choosing. We will focus on peer-editing and tutoring techniques at the beginning of the semester. 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; attendance is crucial.

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

STPEC 391H | STPEC Core Seminar I

TuTh | 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Graciela Monteagudo

4 credits

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, Decolonial, 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.

Enrollment is limited to 15 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 | STPEC Core Seminar II

TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm

Shemon Salam

4 credits

STPEC Core Seminar II focuses on the development of social struggles, political economy, and theory from the 1960s to the present. Continuing our analysis of racial capitalism and empire, Core II will explore how these formations changed due to economic crisis, national liberation, and class struggle. We will research the connections between race, class, gender, sexuality, disease, and other axes of oppression under racial capitalism. A major research paper of the student's choosing will be produced over the course of the semester allowing students to more deeply engage with a topic, and to practice applying the critical methodological and theoretical tools developed in the STPEC curriculum.

Enrollment is limited to 15 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 491H | STPEC Focus Seminar I: Strategies for Liberation

Tuesday | 4:00pm – 6:30pm

Kevin A. Young

4 credits

How can politically marginalized groups wield collective power? This seminar explores this question through a survey of theoretical, historical, and contemporary perspectives on mass-based resistance. The course understands “politics” as much more than just elections and voting: political action often employs other strategies, such as marches, sit-ins, boycotts, strikes, divestment campaigns, and armed resistance. Why do social movements choose the strategies that they do? And what makes movements effective? Scholars and activists have offered many different answers to these questions. Case studies will come particularly from the U.S. context, but also from Egypt, Syria, Russia, El Salvador, and elsewhere. The last month of the semester will be partly structured around students’ own interests, with each student researching and presenting on a social movement of their choosing, necessarily paying close attention to axes of gender and sexuality throughout the seminar, drawing on examples and critical work from authors working in the Caribbean, South Asia, North America, South Africa, East Africa, and the UK.

PREREQUISITE: STPEC 391H

Enrollment is limited to 15 Senior and Junior STPEC majors only. Sophomores who obtain permission to enroll from the instructor should contact Monica Garcia for an override. Students may take Focus Seminars to fulfill upper level requirements. See the

Recommended Course list for this semester to find out which category this seminar will fulfill and ask Monica to apply that change on Spire.

STPEC 492H | STPEC Focus Seminar II: Constructive Resistance

Wednesday | 4:00pm – 6:30pm

Stellan Vinthagen

4 credits

Constructive Resistance: Building a new society out of the ashes of the old

This course focuses on movements and communities that apply “constructive resistance” or build new societies while simultaneously resisting the existing oppressive systems. Constructive resistance is pre-figurative action that change here and now (as “direct action”), and as such it stands in contrast to “protest”, “demands” or “respectability politics” by activists who wants to compel or force the state, elites or others to create the change. Constructive resistance is a neglected concept, in academia and among activists, despite being practiced everywhere. It shows a wide variation, with more or less “construction” of alternatives or “resistance” to existing systems; and, is guided by very different values, principles, strategies and visions. Such productive resistance is particularly developed among Indigenous communities and poor people’s movements in the Global South. They fight to survive against physical and cultural genocide, marginalization or colonization of their land, resources and communities, and stay alive by regenerating, recreating and developing resilience through autonomous social structures. They create parallel societies of political, economic, cultural or spiritual organizations, which also serve as the basis of their ability to resist repression, cooptation and marginalization. We also find at least elements of “constructive resistance” in the Global North, as for example within cooperatives, counter-cultural centers, food-banks, mutual aid networks, local exchange trading systems, non-profit banks, and within resistance movements that care for each other during repression. This course builds on both academic and activist texts, films and examples, making sure the course has both a clear activist perspective and an academic basis. The course gives social science concepts and theories to analyze resistance, creation of alternatives and parallel structures, but focuses on empirical examples of how poor and marginalized communities go to direct action: try to create autonomy, self-governance and build their own constructive programs and resist injustices. Key themes are community-based struggles and the combination of resisting injustice with building new societies and alternatives. Seminars will involve students through discussions, which follow up on background lectures, guest visits from researchers and activists, films, literature readings, student projects, etc. Assignments consist mainly of a book review, oral presentations, and a course paper analyzing a chosen case of relevance. Extra credits are offered for excursions to relevant projects in New England. The overall aim with this course is to develop strategies of social change: to critically assess popular struggles that build alternative ways of life, and what challenges and possibilities movement activists face when they try to combine resistance with the building of new societies.

PREREQUISITE: STPEC 391H

Enrollment is limited to 15 Senior and Junior STPEC majors only. Sophomores who obtain permission to enroll from the instructor should contact Monica Garcia for an override. Students may take Focus Seminars to fulfill upper level requirements. See the Recommended Course list for this semester to find out which category this seminar will fulfill and ask Monica to apply that change on Spire.

STPEC 494PI | Praxis

W | 11:15pm – 1:45pm

Shemon Salam

3 credits

Integrative Experience

This course tackles the latest developments in racial capitalism by analyzing social struggles and organizations since the economic crisis of 2007. Using the latest research on gender, class, race, empire, and sexuality, this course looks at how crisis and struggle are simultaneously shaping the world. For the final project students build their own organizational website. Students will construct their own organization based on the readings from this semester, STPEC courses, and other courses they have taken.

As an integrative experience (IE) course, students are encouraged to draw on knowledge from prior courses, life experiences, and readings from outside the class. Praxis will be driven by applying theory to the real world. This course is highly student driven: composed of presentations, small group discussions, debates, and self-reflection.

This course satisfies the Integrative Experience requirement for BA-STPEC majors.

STPEC 498Y | Practicum – Exploring the Intersection of Theory and Practice

Hoang Phan

3 credits

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.

To enroll, submit a completed STPEC internship contract before the end of add/drop. Note: you must meet with Monica Garcia and get approval of your placement before you turn in your contract. She can be reached at mmgarcia@umass.edu.

The following courses do not fulfill any STPEC or University requirements

STPEC 298: Practicum (1-12 credits, mandatory pass/fail)

STPEC 398: Practicum (1-12 credits, graded)

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 298 is pass/fail) and recommended final paper length: students in STPEC 298 write about 2-3 pages per credit, and students in STPEC 398 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 Monica Garcia, Director of STPEC’s Internship Program and complete a STPEC Internship Contract by the end of add/drop.