
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, 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 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

Monday | 4:00 – 6:30 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. 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 15 students. STPEC majors only. Prerequisite: College Writing or equivalent.

STPEC 391H | STPEC Core Seminar I

TuTh | 1:00pm – 2:15pm

Shemon Salam

4 credits

STPEC Core Seminar I looks at the Black Radical Tradition and racial capitalism from the 15th century to World II. Through these two frameworks and methods we will analyze gender, inequality, nationalism, and struggles of the oppressed. This is a student driven course where classroom discussions, presentations, self-reflections, and group work are central to the daily functioning of the class.

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 | 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Graciela Monteagudo

4 credits

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. Theories addressed include Autonomist Marxism, poststructuralism, and decolonial theory. We will research the connection between race, class, gender, sexuality, able-bodiedness and other axes of oppression resistance under neoliberalism, including violence against women. A major research paper of the student's choosing will be produced over the course of the semester. This allows for deep engagement with a topic and to practice applying the critical methodological and theoretical tools developed through 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

Topic Title: From Environmental Racism to Climate Justice

Toussaint Losier

Tuesday | 4:00pm – 6:30pm

4 credits

By beginning with the emergence of the Environmental Justice movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s, this course would examine the problems of industrial pollution and environmental degradation from the perspective of “frontline” or directly impacted communities. Taking the cases of Hurricane Katrina as a signal example of how communities of color have been made to bear the brunt of extreme weather events arising from climate change, this course would extend the concept of “frontline” communities to study how those directly impacted by global warming are now playing a key role in the global climate justice movement.

Toussaint Losier is an Assistant Professor in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies

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**Topic Title: Race, Nation, and Citizenship in the Americas****Jorge Daniel Vasquez Arreaga****Wednesday | 4:00pm – 6:30pm****4 credits**

This seminar addresses how ethno-racial hierarchies and racism produce exclusionary citizenship and structural inequality across the Americas. Using analytical tools from Historical Sociology, African American Studies, Latin American Marxism, and Postcolonial Studies, the seminar analyses the discourses on the nation, the matrix of coloniality, gender in Nation building, the formation of interracial alliances in the construction of non-exclusionary citizenship, and the anti-colonial and anti-racist struggles covering events from the late 19th century until the early 21st century. The seminar analyzes the work of classical actors such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Ellen Irene Diggs, C.L.R. James, José Carlos Mariátegui, Fernando Ortiz, Gustavo Urrutia, Lélia González, René Zavaleta Mercado, Michel-Rolph Trouillot, and addresses particularly the case of United States, Haiti, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Students will research and present on the configuration of race and nation in one country of the Americas of their choice.

JD Vasquez Arreaga holds a Ph.D in Education from LaSalle University, Costa Rica and expects a Ph.D. in Sociology from UMass Amherst in 2022

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.