

WGS435Y5 – Women and Gender Studies Practicum

WGS435Y5 is a *practicum/experiential-learning* course. *The course involves learning through doing.* This means that advanced WGS students select (in collaboration with the professor) a placement site outside of campus to engage directly in, study and critically reflect upon feminist activism outside the university classroom.

Students can choose to work in explicitly feminist or women centered organizations or in others that have broader sets of aims, feminist social change and community service among them. One specific course objective is the opportunity to develop new understandings of the relationship between academic and activist work, theory and practice and to gain a better sense of what organizations you may want to support or work for in the future. The hands-on knowledge and experience gained in the Practicum should serve well in post-graduate life.

Because of the work placement format, it is important that all applicants fill out the application that follows as soon as possible. Please return before **March 31** for priority consideration. All application information will remain confidential.

The placement will require an unpaid work commitment of approximately 200 hours throughout the year. There is considerable flexibility in how this commitment is fulfilled; for example, you and your Practicum supervisor might decide that working a few hours twice per week is a more suitable arrangement. You will be responsible for getting yourself to your workplace. In some cases, you will work with employees on site; in other cases you will work with another UTM student or doing much of the work independently. In all cases, your work is seen as a real contribution, not a make-work project. Please note that no money is involved; this is an academic placement only. You will have complete insurance coverage for the time you spend on the job through the University of Toronto.

Please think about where you would like to work and if you would like to engage in research, advocacy or direct service. We would like to have an early start at securing the placement site and this should be completed before September. Professor Simalchik will assist you in the process of selecting the site that most closely matches your interest, experience and learning objectives.

The class will meet at UTM on Wednesdays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in September and October as a regular seminar with other class times scheduled sporadically throughout the year. Most of the course time will be spent at the practicum site.

If you are interested, please complete the following questionnaire and return it to Sharon Marjadsingh (sharon.marjadsingh@utoronto.ca) in EH 209 by **March 31, 2016**.

Please note: If you are a student from abroad wishing to participate in a paid or unpaid Internship, Community Engaged Service Learning (CESL) courses, and/or to conduct on-campus research, **you must contact the UTM International Education Centre (IEC) early on** to ensure that you are applying for the proper documentation as the process differs for undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact Cristina Puha, International Immigration Student Advisor cristina.puha@utoronto.ca to determine your eligibility

WGS 435Y5 Practicum Application Form

Name: _____ Student #: _____

Programs: (Please indicate Spec/Major/Minor): _____

Which year of study will you start in Sept? _____

Phone number (s): _____

E-mail address: _____

NOTE: It is **imperative** that you **check your UTORID e-mail regularly**. We send many important reminders and notices by e-mail. If you change your e-mail address, please notify Professor Simalchik (joan.simalchik@utoronto.ca) to maintain regular contact.

Previous WGS Courses: _____

What year (e.g.2012) did you take WGS200Y5? _____

What geographical area is most convenient for you? (e.g. Mississauga, Toronto, Brampton, etc.)

Please explain why you are interested in the WGS Practicum and what your learning expectations for this course are. (max 200 words)

We hope to accommodate ten students who meet the requirements.

Prerequisite: WGS200Y5

Recommended Preparation: 1.0 WGS300+ level credits.

We will be back in touch by early May. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Joan Simalchik by email (joan.simalchik@utoronto.ca) or Sharon Marjadsingh (sharon.marjadsingh@utoronto.ca)