WGS435Y5 Women and Gender Studies Practicum

The Practicum Course Assists students gain real-world skills in professions related to women and gender issues.

WGS435Y5 is a year-long practicum course. A practicum by definition is an experiential learning course designed to offer students the chance to apply feminist knowledge and theory into practical world of advocacy, policy and community organizations.

Advanced WGS students select (in collaboration with the professor) a placement site outside the university classroom and campus to engage directly in, study, and critically reflect upon feminist work and activism. Students choose to work in explicitly feminist, or women centered organizations, or in others that have broader sets of aims, including feminist social change, and community service.

WGS435Y5 involves an appreciation of the practical aspects of social change and how informed research contributes to the process.

This course involves learning through doing, and through reflection, producing knowledge.

Course Objectives

- To gain a better sense of what organizations you may want to work for in the future.
- To develop new understandings of the relationship between academic and activist work, and between theory and practice.
- To gain hands-on knowledge and experience for post-graduate life.

In order to secure the best possible placement for your objectives, it is important that you complete the application that follows as soon as possible.
Pre-Planning
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 Tahmasebi will assist you in the process of selecting the site that most closely matches your interest, experience, and learning objectives.

Class
The class will meet on Thursdays, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at UTM in September and October as a regular seminar, with other class times scheduled sporadically throughout the year. Most of your time will be spent at the practicum site.

The Placement
The placement will require an unpaid work commitment of approximately 200 hours throughout the academic year (September – April). There is considerable flexibility in how this commitment is fulfilled; you and your Practicum supervisor will decide the most suitable arrangement for your project.

You will be responsible for your own transportation to your workplace. In some cases, you will work with employees on site; in other cases, you will work with another UTM student, or do much of the work independently. In all cases, your work is a real contribution, not a make-work project. Please note that no money is exchanged; this is an academic placement only.

You will have complete insurance coverage for the time you spend at your placement site through the University of Toronto. A small bursary will be awarded to assist with travel and other course related costs.

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it to Heather Thornton (heather.thornton@utoronto.ca) in MN 4258 by April 17, 2020.

All application information will remain confidential.

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, Manager, International Student Advising at cristina.puha@utoronto.ca in DV 2071 to determine your eligibility.
WGS435Y5 Practicum Application Form

Name:

Student #:

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

Which year of study will you start in Sept?

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 Tahmasebi-Birgani (v.birgani@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 list relevant work/volunteer experience.

Please explain why you are interested in the WGS Practicum and what your initial learning expectations for this course are. (max. 300 words, please provide on an additional page)

We hope to accommodate ten-twelve students who meet the requirements: Prerequisite is WGS200Y5 and Recommended Preparation: 1.0 WGS300+ level credits.

We will be back in touch by late April, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Professor Victoria Tahmasebi-Birgani by email v.birgani@utoronto.ca or Heather Thornton by email heather.thornton@utoronto.ca