

WGS435Y5 Women and Gender Studies Practicum

WGS435Y5 is a *practicum/experiential-learning* course. A practicum by definition is a course designed to give students supervised practical application of a previously or concurrently studied theory. This means that 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 activism. It 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.

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. 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 need to secure the best possible placement for your objectives, it is important that all applicants fill out the application that follows as soon as possible. Please return before **May 4** 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; you and your Practicum supervisor will decide what the most suitable arrangement for your project will be. 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 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 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 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 (hs.advisor@utoronto.ca) in EH 209 by **May 4, 2018**.

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 3359 Mississauga Road North, Mississauga, Ontario L5L 1C6 www.utm.utoronto.ca

WGS 435Y5 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 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 list relevant work/volunteer experience.

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

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

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