GSWS 318-4: Young Women Civic Leaders

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Inter Session 2013 (May and June). Tuesdays/Thursdays 13:30-17:20. AQ 5048.

Do you want to help make a difference in your local community? Join a summer 2013 hands on action research project in the Burnaby, Surrey and Tri Cities regions under the direction of Catherine Murray (GSWS and CMNS). This course teams students with the Justice Education Society of BC supported by the Status of Women Canada in their initiative Setting the State for Girls and Young Women to Succeed: Engaging Girls and Women in Leadership roles. Young Women Civic Leaders is a two-year project that promotes the full participation of young women between the ages of 15-25 at all levels of civic, political and community life. You will assist the project team in identifying barriers and strategies to reduce them by working collaboratively with community partners, institutions and other stakeholders over the summer semester.

Research and communication tasks include:

- research local patterns of civic engagement among young women;
- participate in needs assessment analysis and report writing;
- support the work of Young Women's Civic Leadership Committee;
- participate in action-oriented community projects developed and implemented by the Committee;
- help to monitor and analyze media coverage of the provincial election campaign in the context of gender issues.

Evaluation: This course will be based on 20% participation, 40% ethnographic observation, and interpretation, and 40% for the final project. Of the grade, 60% is based on team work, and 40% individual contribution. The course will meet twice a week: once on campus, and once in the field.

Requirements: normally, 60 credit hours, GSWS major or minor, and demonstrated interest in gender and community development, gender and mobilizing for social and political change.; and GPA 3.0 or higher ( check with the GSWS Advisor (gswsmgr@sfu.ca re eligibility).

Admission: Admission is by invitation from the Project Managers, based on an application. Send your resume, and a short cover letter describing why you are interested in the course, the community in which you live, and if you have any related course or work experience which may help in the tasks identified. This should be sent to: murraye@sfu.ca by April 5, 2013. You will be notified by April 12, 2013 and first class starts May 7, 2013.

Scheduling: Field work is concentrated in May and June. The team will self-organize in consultation with Anastasia Gaisenok, the Justice Society Project Coordinator, to schedule the 100 field hours and 20 hours devoted to class time. We will plan on 8 sessions, 2 times a week (usually Tuesday to Thursday 1:30 to 5:30 PM to be confirmed), with at least three of them on campus. Sessions are usually 4 hour blocks. This means that you can expect about 120 hours for the course (counting preparation time) over the 8 weeks. First class is 1:30 PM Tuesday, May 7, 2013 in Burnaby, AQ 5048.
Course Director: Catherine Murray, CMNS-GSWS
Community Project Partner: Anastasia Gaisenok, Young Women Civic Leaders Project Coordinator:

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Full Project Description:
Young Women Civic Leaders

Young Women Civic Leaders is a two-year project in Burnaby, the Tri-Cities and Surrey which builds the capacity of young women and offers them opportunities to take leadership roles in their communities. The project will help them to respond to the under-representation of girls and young women in civic and political sectors.

Young Women Civic Leaders is being developed by the Justice Education Society (JES) and is funded by Status of Women Canada. It promotes and encourages full participation of young women on all levels.

Project activities will be designed, guided and implemented by young women and girls through a Young Women’s Civic Leadership Committee. Participants will interact with decision-makers in their communities, such as local government representatives, advisory boards and committees. Young women will plan and organize activities and community-based projects that engage these decision-makers in examining and addressing key barriers to women’s participation in civic and political life.

NB:

Mayor Andrée Boucher Memorial Scholarship

Since 2006, an FCM scholarship has been presented to a female college or university student deemed to have submitted the best research paper on a topic related to women in politics. In June 2008, the scholarship was renamed the Mayor Andrée Boucher Memorial Scholarship, in honour of the late mayor of Quebec City. The $2,000 scholarship is awarded annually.