GSWS 411-4: Special Topics in GSWS: Young Women Civic Leaders

Professor: Dr. Catherine Murray
Email: murraye@sfu.ca
Lecture: Tuesdays 17:30 to 21:20; Harbour Centre 1505

Course Description:
Do you want to help make a difference in your community? Join this hands-on action research project in the Burnaby, Surrey, and Tri-Cities regions under the direction of Catherine Murray (GSWS and CMNS). This course is the second to team students with the Justice Education Society of BC (JES) supported by the Status of Women Canada for their project: Young Women Civic Leaders. This is entering the second year of a two-year project ending in December, 2014 that promotes the full participation of young women between the ages of 15 and 25 in all levels of 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 spring semester.

Research and communication tasks include:
- Researching an evaluating “rock the vote” or other social media campaigns to engage youth;
- assisting in data analysis and report of surveys;
- mapping institutions and patterns of youth engagement in the target communities;
- evaluation of the impact of the advisory Women’s Committee on Vancouver City Council;
- Oral histories of city youth committee members in selected cities;
- researching and devising a communication strategy to introduce a local pilot to reduce the minimum voting age in the next municipal elections;
- developing a report card on youth engagement for cities across Canada;
- developing an educational module for “vote compass” or other means to get out the vote in municipal elections with a gender lens.

Scheduling:
The Class meets a total of four times to be decided, excluding the final presentation to the community. The balance of the time is field research. It is expected that you will be allocating about 120-140 hours overall to this action research but the hours of work are flexible.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
20% participation
40% field work
40% for the final project, depending on your individual memorandum of understanding concerning your project deliverable.

Of the grade, 60% is team work, and 40% individual. The MOU is approved by the Instructor and JES project coordinator, Anastasia Gaisenok.

Prerequisite: Admission is by application to the Instructor and JES Project Leader. Send in your resume to murraye@sfu.ca, and a cover letter describing why you are interested in this course, if you have any related skills, work or course experience which may help in the tasks identified, the community in which you live, and which community of the target region you have personal experience with. Note too if you have ever obtained ethics approval for previous original research. This course is cleared for Instructor ethics approval (as GSWS 318). The deadline for admissions is Friday December 20, 2013. You will be notified if you are admitted January 7 and emailed background reading. First class will be held Tuesday January 14. 45 Units, including 6 units in GSWS, WS or GDST.