



## **For WGSS Majors Who Plan to Graduate After Fall 2025**

**If you are graduating this next academic year, you need to register for WGSS 411 (Feminist Praxis) for fall quarter. It is a requirement for the major (minors and juniors are welcome as well)**

**\*\*It is important that you try to secure an internship ahead of time. (See the paragraph below about how to do this)**

### **What is WGSS 411 Feminist Praxis: Internship Seminar?**

This is a class tailored for Seniors (and Juniors) and serves several purposes: it focuses on current and local social justice struggles; it bridges feminist theory with practice and activism; it helps prepare you for finding employment or applying to graduate school after you graduate.

This is the WGSS major “Senior Capstone” class that is devoted to helping you apply the theories you have learned as a WGSS major and translate the skills you have developed as a student into “Career Readiness” language for seeking satisfying work. In this small class you will have the chance to get to know all those other amazing WGSS majors you haven’t really had a chance to meet. If you are graduating in the spring, this is your graduating class!

The course consists of a three-hour weekly seminar meeting and a 5-hour internship. There are weekly assigned short readings and short written reflections.

### **Why am I Required to Have an Internship?**

WGSS 411 requires that you work **at least 5 hours a week in an internship** (e.g. a community agency, a political office, a research institute, a health and human service organization). The purpose of the internship is to give you valuable experience and mentorship. The internship will help you gain experience and a letter of recommendation you can use when you apply for a fulltime job after college. When polled, most students say that a top reason they want a UO degree is to leverage their education and experience for a job they like. However, most students don’t take the necessary steps in college to prepare themselves adequately for that goal. This class gives you that opportunity while also giving you credit that applies to your WGSS major or minor and your UO degree. Internships are increasingly a pre-requisite to a paying position but many students cannot afford to take an unpaid internship during college. This course helps level the playing field and increase equity among our students. By making one of your WGSS classes an internship, you are not “working for free” or paying for any additional credits toward your degree.

Another reason we require the internship is that feminist theory should never operate in a vacuum or be so abstract as to have no connection with actual community needs and aspirations. This is your opportunity to put your feminist education to work and benefit both the community and yourselves.

This is the course where you get to DO something with all that feminist theory you have been studying! The time is certainly NOW.

### **Why Do We Have a Weekly Seminar?**

This course is central to the WGSS curriculum and provides more than independent practicum hours. We gather weekly to discuss relevant readings about social inequity and your own experiences working in the community. Through discussion and writing, we hope to encourage a healthy self-consciousness about your own location and the interventions you can make in the organizations and agencies you support with your work.

Several weeks of the course provide personalized attention from Career Center staff to help you navigate your post-graduation job search or graduate school application.

### **How Should I Schedule My Week to Include My Internship?**

This course does not require more hours than any other course but you will need to plan your weekly internship hours to meet the needs of the agency or organization. During the pandemic all internships were remote and I imagine there will still be opportunities to do some work remotely and some in-person.

While there are several moving parts of WGSS 411 (the seminar, the internship, assigned reading and writing) the course does not require more hours than any other WGSS course. The seminar and the internship together comprise 8 hours a week and remaining 4 hours a week should be devoted to reading and responding to the assigned articles.

### **How Do I Find My Internship?**

The best practice is to arrange your fall internship this spring or over the summer. Because many UO and LCC students value internship experiences and there are limited internship positions, I encourage you to make contact with agencies that look interesting to you and discuss what options they will have for you in the fall. Many have application processes that are too time-consuming to start in the fall. **If you can secure a spot soon, that would be ideal.**

I am currently working with agencies to save a few spots for the fall and if you haven't found one by the time we start the quarter, I will help you find one quickly. But it would be best if you thought about what kind of issue or training you are drawn to and give a few of those organizations a call to see if you can secure a spot. You might even get some training or paperwork done over the summer so you can start doing meaningful work right away when the term starts.

Eugene has many excellent non-profit organizations. WGSS students have worked in all kinds of agencies they choose either because they are passionate about an issue, they want to try working in an area to see if they like it, or they want their resumé to reflect their experience in a particular

field. The list below includes organizations where WGSS students have found meaningful internships. Feel free to google and call any of them that interest you and try to secure a position.

Beyond Toxics  
HIV Alliance  
Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon  
NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)  
Black Lives Matter  
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)  
Centro Latino  
CALC (Community Alliance of Lane County)  
Womenspace  
Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS)  
Mobility International USA  
Kids First  
Lane County Legal Aid  
New Roads School (high school for homeless youth)  
Occupy Medical Services  
White Bird Medical Services  
Diabetes Community Care Team  
Volunteers in Medicine  
Station 7 (housing homeless kids age 11-17)  
Relief Nursery  
Trans\*ponder (transgender advocacy)  
Sponsors (prison transition)  
Parenting Now!  
Ophelia's Place for middle school girls  
City of Eugene Human Rights Commission  
Center for Dialog and Resolution (Lane County Restorative Justice)  
Mansfield Hall for students with autism  
Danceability International  
A politician's office (Eugene Mayor Vinis, Congressman DeFazio, Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden)  
Various offices on campus that deal with sexual assault prevention, LGTBQ issues, counseling and health center, student advising etc.

Check out **The Career Center** to see if there are internships posted that you are interested in. Internships are often advertised on Handshake: <https://career.uoregon.edu/jobs-and-internships>

**If you have any questions about the class or about specific internships you might be interested in, please email Professor Judith Raiskin at [raiskin@uoregon.edu](mailto:raiskin@uoregon.edu)**