In spring 2018, CWGL will lead a three-credit experiential course, taught by Professor Radhika Balakrishnan, on the practice of feminist advocacy on behalf of women’s human rights at the local, national, and global levels, especially as seen at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The sixty-second session of the CSW will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 12-23, 2018.

The course offers 20 3rd and 4th year students a chance to observe and experience feminist advocacy praxis linking community activism and international human rights standards and structures. In addition to the content covered in class, students will also spend time in NYC attending official government CSW sessions, which will focus on the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls. They will participate in spaces led by nongovernmental organizations from around the world to meet and discuss advocacy strategies with US and international activists.

Central to the life of the course will be case studies linking community engagement to global human rights mechanisms to strengthen local and national organizing, including the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to work and the right to non-discrimination/equality. Students will also reflect on their experiences and develop critical analyses of the state of feminist activism and their own activist goals. The culmination of the course will be the planning and organization of a public event to share their learning with the broader Rutgers community. The course might be eligible as credit under the Rutgers Civic Scholar Certificate of the Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service.

For 25 years, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), based at Rutgers University, has been actively engaged at the United Nations to strengthen and facilitate women’s leadership for human rights and social justice worldwide. Every March, CWGL joins activists from around the world in advocacy at the UN promoting women’s human rights and gender equality at the CSW, which is dedicated to gender equality and the advancement of women. It will be an exciting opportunity to learn, observe and practice feminist advocacy.

Submit your application and resume by November 10, 2017. Candidates chosen for the course will be notified of their acceptance by Nov. 17, 2016 and provided with the necessary information needed to register for the course via email.

Check out video with course highlights at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4A6DOzoPA8!

Please direct all questions to zhaimid@cwgl.rutgers.edu. Be sure to include Feminist Advocacy Course in the subject line.