In spring 2019, 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-third session of the CSW will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 11-22, 2019.

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 social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of 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.

Submit your application and resume through this form by Oct. 19, 2018. Candidates chosen for the course will be notified of their acceptance by Oct. 26, 2018 and provided with the necessary information to register for the course via email.

For course highlights, check out this video and this article!

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