

WST 4941C

Practicum in Health Disparities in Society

Spring 2026

Professor: Dr. Ecem Ece

Course Format: Virtual, asynchronous

Please see Canvas for instructor contact information and office hours details.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a capstone experience for seniors enrolled in the Health Disparities in Society (HDS) minor. Students are matched with preceptors from community agencies that work with underserved, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised populations. Students will learn about the agency and its organizational culture while applying concepts of cultural competence, linguistic appropriateness, and health disparities.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint, or belief.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Gain first-hand experience working in an organization that is focused on health equity.
2. Apply knowledge from health disparities coursework to practical and professional experiences outside of the classroom and vice versa.
3. Clarify career goals.

CREDIT HOURS, COURSE REQUIREMENTS, AND MODALITIES

Course Credits: 3

Course Prerequisites: WST 2322 Introduction to Health Disparities and enrolled in Health Disparities in Society minor; or instructor's permission.

Course Time Requirements: You need to complete at least 120 hours at your practicum site. In addition to working the required number of hours, students will need to complete reflection and discussion assignments on Canvas, manage their time sheets, and work with their site to obtain two performance evaluations.

Required Materials: All assigned readings, course forms/records, and evaluations are on Canvas.

Instructional Format: Experiential learning in community agencies with asynchronous companion assignments on Canvas.

Extra course fees: There are no additional fees for this course.

ASSIGNMENTS

Time Worked: Students will keep track of the hours they work at their site over the course of the term, using the Google sheet provided by the instructor. Alternate time sheets used by the site may be accepted upon request. Supervisors will be asked to attest to the hours completed on the midterm and final evaluations of the students.

Reflections: These assignments are designed for you to reflect on your practicum experiences, tie those experiences to your other coursework, and consider your career goals. More instructions and specific prompts for the different reflections are on Canvas.

Discussions: These assignments are designed for you to engage with your peers. You will write about various experiences of your practicum. Discussion boards are a place to share your thinking and materials with the class and to provide and get feedback. More instructions and specific prompts for the different discussions are on Canvas.

Evaluations: At both the middle and end of the semester, you will need to work with your site supervisor to complete and discuss the evaluation form and then upload it to Canvas.

GRADING

SUMMARY OF GRADING ASSIGNMENTS AND PERCENTAGE POINTS

Assignment	Point value	Number of assignments	Total points accrueable
Time Worked (at least 120 hours at your site)	75	N/A, Ongoing	75
Reflections	3	3	9
Discussions	2-3	3	8
Evaluations	2-3	3	8
Total			100

FINAL GRADE

At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined by the following formula:

94 and more points = A	80-83 points = B-	67-69 points = D+
90-93 points = A-	77-79 points = C+	64-66 points = D
87-89 points = B+	74-76 points = C	60-63 points = D-
84-86 points = B	70-73 points = C-	59 and fewer points = E

IMPORTANT GRADE NOTE

A grade of C- or lower will not qualify for credit toward a major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit. For more information, see "Grades and Grading Policies" at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

COURSE AND UF POLICIES

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#). The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.

ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE

Please note that students in this course all have different start and end dates for their work assignments. Given that, the following deadlines are based on what the average student who starts in late August and ends in early December should be able to complete.

Week	Work due
1	N/A
2	Reflection 1
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
3	Discussion 1
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
4	Discussion 2
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
5	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
	Time Worked Submission 1
6	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
7	Reflection 2
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
8	Evaluation 1
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
9	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
10	Time Worked Submission 2
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
11	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
12	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
13	Reflection 3
	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
14	Discussion 3
	Evaluation 2
15	Update personal time sheet with hours earned at practicum site.
16	Time Worked Submission 3
	Evaluation 3

Consider adding a (second) Women's Studies major!

Do you want to learn about issues of diversity, power, equity, and justice and gain the scholarly knowledge and skills to change the world? Adding the Women's Studies major can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in intersectional feminist approaches to studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities, and other systems of power. The Women's Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills about diversity and equity issues. The 30-credit Women's Studies major consists of four core courses and six electives. It's simple to combine with another major, and up to 15 credits can double-count with another degree (English, Psychology, and Sociology in particular have many courses that can double-count). It's also the perfect complement to pre-health studies.

Make an appointment with Undergraduate Coordinator Dr. Joanna Neville (jnevile@ufl.edu) to discuss adding the major.