

Foundations of Disability Studies

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"The two mythologies about disabled people break down to one: we can't do anything, or two: we can do everything. But the truth is, we're just human."

-Mark O'Brien

Course Description:

In this course, we will begin by studying disability history which will inform theoretical models and frameworks. This foundation will then aid us in our understanding of current policies and cultural beliefs regarding disabilities, and what this means to both those who are disabled and those who are not. The human experience is more diverse than we often recognize or appreciate.

Course Objectives:

- Understand that Disability Studies is not the same as the study of disability
 - Become familiar with multiple and inter-disciplinary approaches to understanding disability
 - Think critically about how disability is represented in a range of materials from a Disability Studies perspective
 - Articulate your own perspective on disability informed by critical disability studies scholarship
 - Understand and interpret perspectives and experiences very different from one's own, informed by course content
 - Evaluate the credibility of sources of information about disability and use appropriate information to inform one's reasoning
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Sociology Department Core Competencies

- To demonstrate **critical thinking**.
- To be able to write in a clear, logical manner.
- To be able to clearly express sociological knowledge in verbal/written communication.
- To be able to use the core theoretical perspectives in sociology to understand, analyze and assess social experience.
- To collect, analyze and interpret sociological data effectively.
- To understand key social phenomena of deviance, globalization, social change, multiculturalism, structural inequality, and the intersections of race, class, gender, and other forms of stratification.

*Emphasis for this class in bold

Required Reading:

No textbooks are required for this class. All assigned articles and media will be posted in Canvas.

Assignments

Class Introductions	25
10 Reading Annotations and Discussions (20 points each)	200
4 Can't Let It Go Video & Discussions (75 points each)	300
Analysis Paper: Constructions of Humanness	200
Disability Representation Final Project Proposal	75
Disability Representation Final Project	200
	1000 Total Points

Introductions: 25 points:

Create a video introducing yourself and post for your classmates to get to know you! Please be sure to caption or provide a full transcript for all videos. While not required, do feel free to comment on each other's videos as well.

Annotations of Course Readings using Perusall (10 @ 20 points, 200 points):

Perusall allows you to read a document and annotate it asynchronously with your peers, thereby creating a dialogue with the author and others about your reading. You need to include at least seven (7) annotations as you read each article. These can be original annotations or continued discussions. There are several things that count as an annotation: a question, a point of confusion, something you want to say to the author, connections to other class materials, and an area that got you thinking are excellent examples. Annotations and additional comments must be substantive in order to earn full points. Each article is worth up to 20 points.

Can't Let It Go Discussions (4 @ 75 points, 300 points):

You will create a video with captions or transcript, and post in the Discussion Board for that Module. The video should be 3-7 minutes in length, and specifically discuss course content. Direct references must be made to DS content to provide a verbal citation for your peers where to locate the topic you are raising. It is encouraged but not required to respond to other student's videos as well.

Social Construction of Humanness, Analysis Paper: 200 points

There is one analysis paper assigned during the semester, worth 200 points. This paper will require you summarize, synthesize, and analyze course content. There will be a file in Module 5 and in Course Summary list of assignments with the details for this paper, along with a link for submission. I will also post the grading rubric for the paper there.

Final Project Part 1, Disability Representation Proposal: 75 points

You will submit a brief explanation of your selected topic and the perspective you plan to take for the Final Project.

Final Project Part 2, Disability Representation: 200 points

You will analyze disability representation in fictional film or literature, using a framework that I will provide. Details and all materials related to the project will be posted to Canvas in Module 9, and in the Course Summary list of assignments.

Letter Grades:

A 90-100%	C- 70-72%
B+ 88-89%	D+ 68-69%
B 83-87%	D 63-67%
B- 80-82%	D- 60-62
C+ 78-79%	F 59 or below
C 73-77%	

Course Schedule

*This syllabus may be modified, and content could be replaced or added to as necessary.

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	<p>Course Introduction & Overview</p> <p>1.1 Watch: Syllabus & Introduction</p> <p>1.2 Read: <i>Disability Studies: What is it?</i>, Ferguson & Nusbaum <i>Disability Reader Ch 1 & 3</i>, Hunt & Finkelstein</p> <p>1.3 Watch: Maysoon Zaid TED talk & Deafies in Drag</p> <p>1.4 Assignment: Your introduction</p>
2	<p>Disability & Meaning</p> <p>2.1 Readings: <i>Disability Studies Reader Ch. 13 & 16</i> <i>Disability Theory Ch 1-3</i>, Siebers</p> <p>2.2 Watch: Judith Butler & Sunny Taylor “An Examined Life” Rosemarie Garland-Thomson “Disability Matters: Or Who Should and Should Not Inhabit the World”</p> <p>2.3 Assignment: Annotations on <i>Disability Studies Reader Ch. 13 & 16</i></p>
3	<p>Models of Disability</p> <p>3.1 Read: <i>Rethinking Disability: Emerging Concepts, Ch 1</i> <i>Cultural Locations of Disability</i>, Snyder & Mitchell <i>Conceptualizing Disability</i>, Putnam</p> <p>3.2 Assignment: Annotations on <i>Cultural Locations of Disability</i></p>
4	<p>Ableism & Stigma</p> <p>4.1 Read: <i>Selections from Stigma</i>, Goffman <i>Re-reading...Emancipatory Disability Researcher</i>, Abrams <i>Beholding</i>, Garland-Thomson</p> <p>4.2 Watch: Breathing Lessons, Mark O'Brien</p> <p>4.2 Assignment: Can't Let It Go Discussion 1</p>
5	<p>Considering Identity: Social Construction of Humanness</p> <p>5.1 Read: <i>Social Construction of Humanness, Part 1 and 2</i>, Ferguson, Ferguson, & Taylor <i>Winks, Blinks, Squints and Twitches</i>, Ferguson</p> <p>5.2 Watch: How Autism Freed Me to Be Myself, Rosie King Film - The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</p> <p>5.5 Assignment: Annotation on <i>Social Construction of Humanness</i></p> <p>5.6 Assignment: Construction of Humanness, analysis paper details available</p>

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	<p>Disability History: Some Basics</p> <p>6.1 Read: <i>New Disability History</i>, Ch 1, Baynton <i>The Ugly Laws</i>, Ch 1 & 2, Schweik <i>The Right to Self-Determination</i></p> <p>6.2 Assignment: Annotations on <i>New Disability History</i>, Ch 1</p>
7	<p>Disability History & Eugenics</p> <p>7.1 Read: <i>Economics, Euthanasia, Eugenics</i>, Bruggeman</p> <p>7.2 Watch: “War on the Weak” (YouTube)</p> <p>7.3 Watch: “A World Without Bodies”</p> <p>7.4 Go to: Holocaust Museum website, type “disability” into the search tool and look around! http://www.ushmm.org/</p> <p>7.5 Assignment: Annotations of <i>Economics, Euthanasia, Eugenics</i></p> <p>7.6 Due: Analysis paper – Construction of Humanness</p>
8	<p>Institutionalization to Deinstitutionalization (and Institutionalization, Again)</p> <p>8.2 Read: <i>Reconsidering Confinement</i>, Chapman, Carey, & Ben-Moshe <i>Christmas in Purgatory</i>, Blatt & Kaplan <i>After Decades in Institutions a Bumpy Journey to a New Life</i>, Swarns</p> <p>8.3 Watch (Optional): Willowbrook Documentary</p> <p>8.5 Assignment: Can’t Let It Go Discussion 2</p>
9	<p>Disability Activism and Legislation</p> <p>9.1 Read: <i>Why I Burned My Book and Other Essays on Disability</i>, Ch 1 & 5 (Longmore) <i>A Guide to Disability Rights Laws</i> <i>The Right to Self-Determination: Freedom from Involuntary Servitude (Employment)</i></p> <p>9.2 Watch: “The Power of 504” “ Our Fight for Disability Rights”</p> <p>9.3 Assignment: Annotations on <i>Why I Burned My Book</i>, Ch 1 & 5</p> <p>9.4 Assignment: Final Project Details Available</p>
10	<p>Disability Activism and Independent Living</p> <p>10.1 Disability and the Law 2 ppt/video lecture</p> <p>10.2 Read: <i>Portion from the Americans with Disabilities Act</i> <i>Disability and the Law Lecture Part 2</i> <i>Disability Discrimination and the Evolution of Civil Rights in Democratic Societies</i>, Jaeger & Bowman</p> <p>10.4 Watch: “Crip Camp”</p> <p>10.5 Assignment: Annotations on <i>Disability Discrimination</i></p>

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	<p>Disability and Spirituality; Disability and Physician-Assisted Suicide</p> <p>11.1 Read: <i>Inclusion</i>, Carter <i>Why I Burned My Book, Ch 8 & 9</i>, Longmore <i>Unspeakable Conversations</i>, McBryde Johnson</p> <p>11.2 Look at: “Not Dead Yet” Disability Rights group against euthanasia</p> <p>11.3 Assignment: Can’t Let It Go Discussion 3</p> <p>11.4 Assignment: Final Project Part 1 Due for project approval</p>
12	<p>Disability and Intersections</p> <p>12.1 Read: “<i>The institution yet to come</i>”: <i>Analyzing incarceration through a disability lens</i>, Ben-Moshe <i>Unspeakable Offenses</i>, Erevelles & Minear <i>Disabling Juvenile Justice</i>, Annamma <i>In The Fight to Close Rikers, Don't Forget Deaf and Disabled People</i>, Lewis</p> <p>12.2 Assignment: Annotation on <i>Unspeakable Offenses</i></p>
13	<p>Disability and Narrative</p> <p>13.1 Read: <i>Narrative Prosthesis and the Materiality of Metaphor</i>, Mitchell <i>The Empire of the Normal</i>, Couser <i>Blind Rage</i>, Kleege</p> <p>13.2 Assignment: Annotations on <i>Narrative Prosthesis</i></p>
14	<p>Disability, Representation, and Film</p> <p>14.1 Read: <i>No Pity, Ch 1</i>, Shapiro <i>Why I Burned My Book, Ch 7</i>, Longmore <i>Redefining Disability</i>, Cheu</p> <p>14.2 Assignment: Annotations on <i>No Pity Ch 1</i></p>
15	<p>Disability and Representation: Inspiration Porn</p> <p>15.1 Read: <i>The Problem With Inspiration Porn</i>, Grue <i>Come and See Our Art of Being Real</i>, Mcaskill</p> <p>15.2 Watch: Stella Young, “I’m not your inspiration”</p> <p>15.3 Assignment: Can’t Let It Go, Discussion 4</p>
Final Due	<p>Due: Disability Representation Final Project</p>