“Laugh and cry and tell stories. Sad stories about bodies stolen, bodies no longer here. Enraging stories about the false images, devastating lies, untold violence. Bold, brash stories about reclaiming our bodies and changing the world.”

- Eli Clare, *Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and, Liberation*

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to key questions and debates in the interdisciplinary field of disability studies. Drawing from a range of texts and media, we will explore the social, political, and representational dimensions of disability. Throughout, we will attend closely to the ways that the category and experience of disability differently intersects with formations of gender, race, sexuality, nationality, and class.

Some questions that we will explore include: How and why do minds and bodies get categorized as “normal” or “abnormal,” and what is at stake in these definitions? What is the relation between our bodies and their environments – from the buildings we live in to the air we breathe? How do technologies—prosthetics, pharmaceuticals, and amniocentesis—force us to reconsider what it means to be human? How do people with disabilities negotiate sexual desires and identities? In what ways has mental and physical difference been disciplined through institutions such as asylums, prisons, and schools? And, how do performances of disability in art, activism, or biomedicine reinforce or reimagine cultural categories of ability?

Learning Outcomes
- Greater understanding of the major theoretical, historical, and lived dimensions of disability in North America and worldwide
- Ability to trace the affinities and tensions that emerge between disability studies and feminist, queer, trans, postcolonial, and critical race perspectives
- Awareness of the ways that seemingly neutral biomedical technologies, demographic methods, and political policies are deeply tied up in the production of cultural values and bodily in/capacities
- Grasp of methods and means to engage actively and imaginatively with disability issues in your own life and in the wider community
- Enhanced skills in critical and creative thinking; media, cultural, and literary analysis; communication of ideas through speech and writing; and original research design

Educational Goals:
I Display disciplinary knowledge of core concepts of gender and sexuality.
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: [http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html](http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance – 10%
Active participation – 10%
Accessibility Assignment – 10%
Presentation (Group or Individual) – 10%
Short Paper 1 (Disability & Accessibility) – 15%
Short Paper 2 (Disability & Representation) – 15%
Final Project (2 Short Papers, 1 Research Paper, or Creative/Community Piece) – 30%

Prerequisite: Prerequisite: 15 units. Students with credit for GSWS 321 Special Topic under the title Critical Disability Studies may not take this course for further credit.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)
Course Texts and Courseware:
- Clem Martini and Olivier Martini, *Bitter Medicine: A Graphic Memoir of Mental Illness* ($24 on Amazon)
- A.J. Withers, *Disability Politics & Theory* ($24 on Amazon)

Recommended Texts:
We will be reading two chapters from the texts listed below. They are available through the library as e-books.
- Ellen Samuels. 2014. *Fantasies of Identification: Disability, Gender, Race*. ($33 on Amazon)
- Alison Kafer. 2013. *Feminist, Queer, Crip*. ($33 on Amazon)