Summer 2016 - GSWS 319 C100 Crippin' the Norm
Special Topics in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (4)

Class Number: 5918

Delivery Method: Distance Education

Overview

- **Course Times + Location:** Distance Education
- **Prerequisites:** 30 units including three units in GSWS or WS or GDST.

Description

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

A specific theme within the field of gender, sexuality, and women's studies, not otherwise covered in depth in regularly scheduled courses, will be dealt with as occasion and demand warrant.

**COURSE DETAILS:**

The dominant way of thinking about disability is as a medical or health “problem” that requires “correction” if possible. This course provides a fundamentally different perspective on disability and challenges these notions at the heart of medical and scientific knowledge, as well as multiple forms of cultural production.

This course is grounded in critical feminist disability studies, which defines disability as a product of relations of power and privilege. Within this framework, disability is not understood as a physical deficit or defect inherent in certain bodies or brains, but as a fictional ‘other’ to the equally constructed ‘norm’ of ability. This perspective provides a way of thinking about bodies rather than describing something that is wrong with bodies.

**COURSE-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL GOALS:**

Through this course, you will:

- Gain a comprehensive overview of contemporary theoretical perspectives on disability and connect these issues to your own experiences
- Gain an understanding of the construction of dis/ability and its role as a system of oppression
- Enhance critical analytic skills and capacity to conduct original research
- Improve written and verbal communication through exercises and discussions, group project work and assignments
- Develop creative thinking and intellectual curiosity

You will not learn medical definitions of particular forms of disability. This course offers a critical, cultural perspective on disability and the nature of the body, not a medical, biological or health sciences approach.
Grading

- Participation in Weekly Discussion 20%
- Short Paper 20%
- “Accessible Date” assignment 10%
- Creative/Community Group Project 15%
- Final Paper Proposal 5%
- Final Paper 30%

Materials

REQUIRED READING:
About Canada: Disability Rights (2012), Sienstra. ISBN: 9781552664629


Centre for Online and Distance Education Notes:
Additional Course Fee: $40

Students requiring accommodation as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities.

Students are responsible for following all exam policies and procedures (e.g., missing an exam due to illness) available here.

This course outline was accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change. Please check your course details in your online delivery method, such as Canvas.

*Important Note for U.S. citizens: Effective Summer 2016, as per the U.S. Department of Education, programs offered in whole or in part through telecommunications, otherwise known as distance education or correspondence are ineligible for Federal Direct Loans. This also includes scenarios where students who take distance education courses outside of their loan period and pay for them with their own funding, and attempt to apply for future Federal Direct Loans.

For more information about US Direct Loans please visit and to read our FAQ on distance education courses, please go here: http://www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid/international/us-loans/federal-direct-loan.html

Registrar Notes:

SFU’s Academic Integrity web site http://students.sfu.ca/academicintegrity.html is filled with information on what is meant by academic dishonesty, where you can find resources to help with your studies and the consequences of cheating. Check out the site for more information and videos that help explain the issues in plain English.

Each student is responsible for his or her conduct as it affects the University community. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of the University. Furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to the majority of students who pursue their studies honestly. Scholarly integrity is required of all members of the University. http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html

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