GSWS 320-4: Crippling the Norm: Disability Studies and its Intersections

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Lecture: Thursdays 8:30 – 12:20, AQ5039
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“Disability Studies recognizes that disability is a key aspect of human experience, and that the study of disability has important political, social, and economic implications for society as a whole, including both disabled and nondisabled people.”

Mission statement, Society for Disability Studies

Course Description:
This course provides an overview of critical feminist disability studies, as well as considering its relation to disabled experience, embodiment, and activism. Students will examine the intersection of disability with other social categories, such as gender, race, sexuality, and class, drawing on feminist theories of the body, critical race studies, poststructuralism, queer and transgender theory and political science. As well as theoretical perspectives, students will also engage with disability in autobiography, media, policy, law, and art.

Learning Outcomes:
Students can expect to:
- Gain a comprehensive overview of contemporary theoretical perspectives on disability and connect these issues to their 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 class exercises and discussions, group project work and assignments
- Develop creative thinking and intellectual curiosity

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Sienstra, Deborah, About Canada: Disability Rights (Fernwood Publishing, 2012)
- Ryan Knighton, Cockeyed: A Memoir (Public Affairs, 2006)
- Course Reader

Film/Video Screenings
- No Apologies (Wry Crips Disabled Women’s Theatre Group)
- want (dir. Loree Erickson, 2006)
- Untold Desires (dir. Eva Orner and Sarah Stephens, 1994)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Short Paper: 20%
- “Accessible Date” assignment: 10%
- Creative/Community Group Project: 15%
- Final Paper Proposal: 5%
- Final Paper: 30%

Prerequisite: 15 units.

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)