Disability is a feminist issue. Most women will be disabled at some time in their lives. Over 16 percent of women in Canada have disabilities now. In addition, most women will spend part of their lives giving care to people with disabilities. We will explore disability issues by focussing on the thoughts and experiences of women with disabilities and of women who provide care to people with disabilities.

Topics covered in the course will include: Defining disability; how disability is socially constructed from difference; cultural attitudes towards the body, including the quest for perfection and control; the ‘Otherness’ of people with disabilities and its consequences; violence against women with disabilities; the cognitive and social authority of medicine over our experiences of our bodies; how disability and gender affect education, training and employment; sexuality and friendship for women with disabilities; reproductive issues; mothers with disabilities; women’s experiences of caring for people with disabilities, including disabled children; dependency/independence/interdependence; and disability cultures and politics.

**Required readings:**


An additional package of readings will be available for purchase from the bookstore.

**Course Requirements:**

All students will be required to write two short (2 pages at 250 words/page) discussion papers on assigned readings (for 20% of the final mark), one take-home mid-term exam (4-5 pages at 250 words/page) on the lectures and readings (for 30% of the final mark), and one research/analysis paper (at 250 words/page, approximately 10 pages for undergraduates and 20 pages for graduate students, for 35% of the final mark), and to attend class, present a discussion paper and participate in class discussions (for 15% of the final mark). Graduate students will meet together with the instructor for one additional hour per week.