Disability Studies

Chair, Department of Health and Human Physiology
  • Warren G. Darling

Coordinator, Disability Studies
  • Kenneth E. Mobily (Health and Human Physiology)

Undergraduate certificate: disability studies
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/hhp/undergraduate/disability-studies-certificate

Disability studies examines disability as a social, cultural, historical, and political phenomenon rather than focusing on its clinical, medical, or therapeutic aspects. It is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary field that draws on scholarship from diverse disciplines, including anthropology, architecture, the arts, communication and media studies, cultural studies, economics, gender studies, geography, global studies, history, law, literature, medicine, nursing, philosophy, policy studies, political science, religious studies, social work, and sociology.

The certificate program helps students expand their knowledge and awareness of disability issues and prepare for careers in public life. Its multidisciplinary nature makes disability studies a good complement to a broad range of undergraduate majors.

Students who complete the certificate develop:
  • understanding of the history of disabilities in America;
  • awareness of how culture and society define disability;
  • the ability to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds;
  • a personal philosophy of treating people fairly, equitably, and thoughtfully; and
  • greater understanding of and concern with public policy issues and active citizenship.

The certificate program in disability studies is administered by the Department of Health and Human Physiology.

Programs

Undergraduate Program of Study

Certificate
  • Certificate in Disability Studies

Courses

Disability Studies Courses

DST:1101 Introduction to Disability Studies 3 s.h.
Introduction and overview of important topics and discussions that pertain to the experience of being disabled; contrast between medical and social construction models of disability; focus on how disability has been constructed historically, socially, and politically in an effort to distinguish myth and stigma from reality; perspective that disability is part of human experience and touches everyone; interdisciplinary with many academic areas that offer narratives about experience of disability. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.