Disability Studies

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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 a variety of fields. 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 for 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:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

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 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.

DST:1200 Disabilities and Inclusion in Writing and Film Around the World 3 s.h.

DST:3200 Bioethics, Health, and Disability 1-3 s.h.
There is always room for learning to think more carefully about any ethical dilemmas that might be encountered in potential future roles as health care or social service professionals; students take a more fundamental look at issues affecting health care and social services access for people with disabilities than presently occurs.

DST:3201 Advanced Disability Studies: Contemporary Issues and Research Methods 3 s.h.
Advanced exploration and discussion of contemporary issues, concepts, and research in disability studies; investigation of domains of disability in society (i.e., history, politics, health care, housing, recreation, media); engagement with disability related organizations; application of a global social justice perspective to disability rights and equity; exploration of disability as a culture, identity, and variation on the continuum of human existence. Requirements: DST:1101.

DST:4198 Practicum in Therapeutic Recreation 1-3 s.h.
Educational opportunity in inclusive and therapeutic recreation professional settings; development of skills, techniques, and proficiencies under guidance of experienced professionals and academic supervisors; students gain experience with various populations and differing abilities; academic research, in-class preparation, and off-campus work with designated agency. Same as TR:4197.