

DBST 3001A

This course examines the complex legal, policy and discursive frameworks that shape the lives of persons with disabilities in Canada and in international contexts. Students will be introduced to the history of the emergence of the disability rights movement as a scholarly and activist challenge to, and renegotiation of, those frameworks. We will critically analyze the ways in which policies at international, federal, provincial, and municipal levels organize and/or impede social life and participation for people with disabilities, and ways in which the enactment of policies excludes some and leads to surveillance for others. Some policy sectors, such as education, employment, health care, and development, will be discussed. We will highlight the contradictions between written, enacted, and de facto policies; between formal rights and lived reality for disabled people; and how the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have unveiled structural inequalities in different parts of the world. Through investigating these policy issues, we will learn about a range of current issues and challenges in disability policy as well as the role of disability advocacy in the development and implementation of more inclusive policies to promote inclusion and social justice.