

CHST/DBST 3304A

This interdisciplinary course examines the discursive and material constructions of disabled youth and childhood in transnational contexts. It aims to investigate the cultural, historical, and structural conditions that shape disabled children's experiences through different critical theoretical lenses. Drawing on theory and research in disabled children's childhood studies, sociology of childhood, disability studies, and girlhood studies, the course explores the debates over disability and childhood in relation to emerging neo-colonial, neo-imperialist, and neo-liberal ideologies. We will discuss how these intersectional systems of oppression have shaped disability and childhood, in relation to other aspects of children's identities. We will focus on disability and childhood as a way of tackling their invisibility within dominant discourses on children and childhood. Students will explore the ways disabled childhood and girlhood are discursively shaped in historical and contemporary social relations, as well as the intersection among disability, class, race, gender, and sexuality in shaping disabled children's identities. The course will also help students to begin framing their course of action in working with, and advocating for, disabled youth and children through critical approaches to children's rights advocacy.