

Carleton University

Fall 2019

Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies

DBST 2001 [0.5 credit]: *Disabling Society*

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Spagnuolo

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is dedicated to exploring the diverse ways in which disability and impairment are conceptualized along with the theoretical and methodological choices available to critical disability scholars. Students will consider perspectives and experiences emerging from Mad and disability communities that are attentive to race, gender, sexuality, Indigeneity and intellectual disability status, for example. Over the course of the term, students will encounter different ways of enacting and articulating disability politics, including through performance art, photography, film, and poetry.

An important aim of this course is to support students in reflexively engaging with a range of intersectional and embodied disability realities. In this way, students will develop a critical understanding of various manifestations of disability oppression and responses to problems confronting diverse disability communities. Through key readings, arts-based works, class discussions and assignments, students will further their appreciation of pressing disability issues – including custodialism, (neo)colonialism and neoliberalism – in nuanced ways. Students will consider the historical dimensions of some of these experiences and encounter examples of resistance and critique. Simultaneously, students will be invited to critically reflect upon key challenges and tensions in disability research and advocacy in order to deepen their understanding of the politics of disability engagement and representation.