

**DBST 2001**  
**Introduction to Disability Studies**  
**Dr. Fady Shanouda**  
**Fall 2021/Winter 2022**

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the major theories, concepts, and criticisms in the field of Disability Studies. Students will be invited to challenge dominant conceptions of disability and reimagine ideas around independence and capacity. Together we will map the construction of disability as an unwanted and tragic body-mind state and discuss the consequences of this conception by examining past and current events. We will explore the history of the disability rights and Independent Living movements and trace some of the criticisms that have since emerged. We will also analyze the intersections between disability and other social categories such as gender, race, class, sexuality, size, and indigeneity and understand their relationships through the grassroots theoretical framework of disability justice. Together, we will recognize how ableism operates in our everyday lives and understand it as a far-reaching belief system interconnected and sustained by other systems of oppression. We will discuss global understandings of disability and many ways around the world communities resist ableism and desire disability differently.

**Assignments and Participation**

Students will be asked to demonstrate their learning through traditional written assignments and non-traditional arts-based and creative projects. In addition, students will be asked to determine one or two of the learning objectives for the course. Participation is defined broadly and will take multiple forms, including in-class and online discussions and drawing, doodling, and other creative forms of expression.

**Events**

Students will be invited to attend events scheduled throughout the term as part of their participation grade. These events will either be in-person and within the Ottawa area or online. Students will be only be asked to attend events that are accessible.