

Sociology 3060/ DBST 3060
Critical Disability Studies
Professor Kelly Fritsch
Fall 2020

Course Description: Drawing on contemporary disability theory, culture, and activism, this course engages bodily difference and variation to consider competing definitions, conceptions, and relations of disability, madness, neurodiversity, chronic illness, and episodic conditions. Taking up critical academic scholarship as well as cultural and activist contributions, we will investigate the workings of power and social control, access and accessibility, norms and normalization, ableism, sanism, and medicalization, as well as explore crip, mad, and disabled identity formation, art and culture, and political agency. We will approach disability not as a fixed or singular category but rather as a shifting culturally-specific formation that is entangled with categories such as race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and citizenship. Students in this course will gain an understanding of the current debates, concepts, theories, and methodologies within the field of critical disability studies. Together we will work to crip and disrupt contemporary ableist relations of disability and raise questions about the limitations, contradictions, and directions of future research, and for disability justice.

Online format: Asynchronous

Readings: All readings for this course will be available on cuLearn.