

Carleton University
Health Sciences

**HLTH 3503A: DISABILITY AND CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS
FALL 2026 PUBLIC COURSE INFO**

Official Course Description: HLTH 3503 – Disability and Chronic Health Conditions [0.5 credit]

An interdisciplinary view of disability and chronic health conditions, including risk factors, prevalence, and the trajectory of such conditions. Functional impact based on life stage. Strategies for health promotion, prevention, accommodations, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Prerequisite(s): HLTH 2002 and HLTH 2003 or permission of the department.

Lecture three hours per week

Additional Information about the Course

This course is designed to help students learn about the nature of disabilities and chronic health conditions from a **biomedical, psychosocial, policy, and rehabilitation perspective**. Students will be encouraged to think about the **daily life, healthcare, and community experiences** of individuals who have chronic health conditions and/or disabilities. The course will examine the **functional impact** of disability, and how disability is shaped by **socio-demographic factors, human rights and health/social policies**. The course explores how a better understanding of chronic health conditions and disability may help to facilitate **therapeutic interventions** with persons with disabilities.

Topics Covered

The following are some topics covered in the course: models of disability; human rights and disability; prevalence of disability; International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF); life stage and disability (adults, youth, and children); functional impact of stroke, heart disease, cancer, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, and psychological disabilities; workplace and school accommodations; therapeutic/rehabilitation approaches to care; and regulated health professions.

Course Assignments/Assessments

Students are evaluated through a combination of examinations (approximately 60-65% of final grade) and written case analysis assignments (approximately 35-40% of final grade). Course deliverables aim to assess the student's understanding of important concepts and theories, and the student's ability to apply information to cases/scenarios. Course assessments and weightings may vary from year to year.

Learning Materials, Textbooks, and Resources

*Students are **not** required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.*

****Full course syllabus will be available on Brightspace***