

Carleton University  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

**Sociology 5401W/ WGST 5901D**  
**Critical Disability Studies**  
**Winter 2023**

**Instructor:** Kelly Fritsch

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**Course Schedule:** Monday 11:35-2:25 pm

**Method of Delivery:** In person

**Course description:** Drawing on contemporary disability theory, culture, and activism, this seminar engages bodily difference and variation to consider competing definitions, conceptions, and relations of disability, impairment, madness, neurodivergence, chronic illness, and episodic conditions. Drawing on 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, and nation. Students in this seminar will gain an understanding of the current debates, concepts, theories, and methodologies within the field of critical disability studies, and will engage with this broad understanding through presentations, class discussion, and written work. Together we will work to disrupt contemporary ableist relations of disability and raise questions about the limitations, contradictions, and directions of future critical disability studies research.