

Carleton University
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology 3060/DBST 3060
Fall 2023
Critical Disability Studies

Instructor: Kelly Fritsch

Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4 pm or by appointment

Email: kellyfritsch@cunet.carleton.ca

Course Schedule: Tuesday 2:35-5:25 pm

Method of Delivery: In-person

Course Description: Drawing on contemporary disability theory, culture, and activism, this course engages bodily difference and variation to consider competing definitions, conceptions, and social relations of disability, madness, neurodivergence, chronic illness and episodic illness, as well as health and wellness. 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, neurodivergent and other 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 intersecting categories such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, and more. 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 disrupt contemporary ableist relations of disability and raise questions about the limitations, contradictions, and directions of future research and for disability justice.

Prerequisites: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, and third year standing.

Reading (s)/Textbook (s): Readings available on Brightspace

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Show up, dig in	30%
Research Essay Proposal	25%
Research Essay	45%