

University of Oregon
Robert D. Clark Honors College

Prof. Elizabeth Wheeler
UO English Department

**HC 424H Identities Colloquium (IP):
Disability Studies**

ewheeler@uoregon.edu
Office: 238 PLC, 346-3929

TTh 2-3:30 pm CRN 15801 303 Chapman Hall
Office hours: 238 PLC, TTh 4-5:30 pm

Why Disability Studies Change Everything

Welcome! This colloquium explores the growth over the past 15 years of a new academic discipline: disability studies. This new school of thought uses a social model of disability rather than a medical model. Disability appears not as a pathology to be treated but as a form of cultural identity and a source of community. Interdisciplinary to the core, disability studies reevaluate existing fields of knowledge from the perspective of disabled people. Disability studies “change everything” by reassessing mainstream truths from the supposed margins. Each week we will reassess a different area of knowledge from a disability studies perspective. The course invites Honors College students to participate in this process of re-imagination. No previous knowledge of disability is required. Students will talk and write about provocative readings and films and will engage in their own research. **This course satisfies the IP portion of the UO Multicultural Requirement.**

REQUIRED READING

For sale at UO Bookstore:

- Lennard Davis, Editor, *The Disability Studies Reader*. 2nd Edition. Routledge, 2006.
- Terry Trueman, *Stuck in Neutral*. Harper paperback, 2001.
- Articles on eReserve, UO Knight Library. Username: Fall 2007. Password: pumpkin.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 20% First Paper, 3-4 pages, due Tuesday Week 4. Open Topic, on the readings from Weeks 1-3. Also to be included with this paper: a brief paragraph describing your initial ideas for your Final Research Paper.**
- 20% Proposal and Bibliography for Final Research Paper, due Tuesday Week 7.**
- 25% Final Research Paper, 7-9 pp, due at Final Exam, 1 pm on Tuesday December 4.**
- 20% Final Exam, 1 pm on Tuesday December 4 in our classroom, 303 Chapman.**
- 10% Occasional in-class writings, attendance, and bonus points (see below).**
- 5% Due once per term: 2 discussion questions or topics on the day’s readings.**

MORE INFORMATION ON ASSIGNMENTS

Proposal and Bibliography for Final Research Paper, approximately 3 pages, due Tuesday Week 7. This should include:

1. A description of your Final Research Paper, including 3 elements: a specific main

question, an explanation why or for whom this question is important, and a "bold assertion" ("I will argue, design, develop, write, etc....")

2. A description of the independent research you have done and still intend to do.
3. An annotated bibliography that includes at least 5 sources of your own discovery and a minimum of 9 entries total. You may include sources from the course bibliography if they are relevant. Start with a standard MLA bibliographic citation, then annotate the citation in the following format.
 - (1.) Name of author(s) and a brief description of the book, article, website, or interview .
 - (2.) A description of the use you will make of this work in your Final Research Paper.

Final Research Paper, 7-9 pages, due at the Final Exam, 1 pm on Tuesday December 4 in our classroom, 303 Chapman.

A research paper that delves more deeply into authors, themes, or activities from this class, or explores new directions in disability studies not covered in class. The paper should include an (unannotated) bibliography of 9 or more items in MLA format. You may include sources from the course syllabus, but you must also do substantive independent research. **This paper must come in on time.**

Bonus Attendance Points: Equivalent to 2 class sessions' attendance.

Received for attending film and panel discussion at Eugene Public Library: *Through Deaf Eyes*. Sunday, September 30, Downtown Library, 10th Ave. and Olive St. Film 3-5 pm, panel discussion 5-6 pm. Eugene Public Library is right across the street from Eugene Station bus depot.

Due once per term: 2 Discussion Questions or Topics on the day's readings.

For Thursday's class, to be posted to Blackboard by midnight on Wednesday. I will pass around a sign-up sheet, so you can choose which week to do your posting.

POLICIES

Late Paper Policy: I accept only one late paper per term, so please use this option carefully. If you choose to turn in a paper late, you must notify me by phone, e-mail, or in person before class the day the paper is due. Otherwise, I may refuse the paper. Late papers are due the next class session, unless you arrange otherwise. There is one exception to this rule: the Final Research Paper must arrive on time or it will not count. **I DO NOT ACCEPT ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS.**

Participation: I appreciate your well-read, steady class participation, even (especially) if it's an effort for you. If problems interfere with your attendance or writing, please let me know as soon as you can. I'm not fond of mysterious disappearances.

Students with Disabilities: I'll gladly accommodate your needs. Feel free to talk to me about adaptations as early in the term as possible and as often as necessary.

Honors College 424: Identities Colloquium
Why Disability Studies Change Everything
Fall 2007, Professor Elizabeth Wheeler
B=Book; e=eReserves; S=Included with Syllabus

Week 1: We're Here!

Tuesday Sept. 25: Introduction. Movie: *The Real Helen Keller* (50 min)

Thursday Sept. 27:

S Paul Sotoroff, "The Forgotten Casualties of the NFL"

B Simi Linton, "Reassigning Meaning"

e Paul Longmore, "Why I Burned My Book"

B Anne Finger, "Helen and Frida"

Sunday Sept. 30: 3-6 pm, "Through Deaf Eyes": Film and Panel Discussion.
Eugene Public Library downtown, 10th Ave. and Olive St. Not required, but does yield Bonus Attendance Points equivalent to 2 class sessions' attendance.

Week 2: Disability History

Tuesday October 2:

e Rosemarie Garland Thomson, "The Cultural Work of American Freak Shows"

Movie: *Freaks* (66 min)

Thursday October 4:

B Douglas Baynton, "'A Silent Exile on This Earth'"

B David Serlin, "The Other Arms Race"

Week 3: Disability Politics

Tuesday October 9:

S Lisa Chedekel and Matthew Kauffman, "Mentally Unfit and Forced to Fight"

B Tom Shakespeare, "The Social Model of Disability"

B Michael Davidson, "Universal Design: The Work of Disability in...Globalization"

Thursday October 11:

B Bradley Lewis, "A Mad Fight: Psychiatry and Disability Activism"

e Julie Sze, "Gender, Asthma Politics, and Urban...Activism"

Movie (if time allows): *Beyond Disability: The Fe Fe Stories* (30 min)

Week 4: Disability and Culture

Tuesday October 16:

First Paper due, Open Topic, 3-4 pages.

Movie: *Weights* (52 min) and Movie clip of Cheryl Marie Wade from *Vital Signs*

Thursday October 18:

ℬ Poetry by Cheryl Marie Wade, Kenny Fries

© Jim Ferris, selections from *The Hospital Poems*

ℬ Georgina Kleege, "Blindness and Visual Culture"

Week 5: Science and Medical Ethics

Tuesday October 23:

© Alice Domurat Dreger, selections from *One of Us*

ℬ James C. Wilson, "(Re)writing the Genetic Body"

© Anne McDonald, "The Other Story from a 'Pillow Angel'"

Thursday October 25:

ℬ Ruth Hubbard, "Abortion and Disability"

ℬ Marsha Saxton, "Disability Rights and Selective Abortion"

Movie clip from *Stuck on You*

Week 6: What is Personhood?

Tuesday October 30:

© Harriet McBryde Johnson, "Unspeakable Conversations"

© Eva Feder Kittay, "When Caring is Just and Justice is Caring"

Thursday November 1:

ℬ Terry Trueman, *Stuck in Neutral* (young adult novel)

Week 7:

Tuesday November 6:

Proposal and Bibliography for Final Research Paper due.

Movies: *Autism is a World* (40 min) and *Beyond Disability: The Fe Fe Stories* (30 min)

Thursday November 8: Deafness and Identity:

ℬ Emmanuelle Laborit, selections from *The Cry of the Gull*

ℬ Brenda Brueggemann, "Interlude 1: On Almost Passing"

ℬ Carol Padden and Tom Humphries, "Deaf People: A Different Center"

Week 8: Disability and Other Identities: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

Tuesday November 13:

ℬ Susan Wendell, "Toward a Feminist Theory of Disability"

© Eli Clare, "Stolen Bodies, Reclaimed Bodies: Disability and Queerness"

Movie clip from *Murderball*

Thursday November 15:

ℬ Robert McRuer, "Compulsory Able-Bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence"

© Russell Shuttleworth, "Defusing the Adverse Context of Disability..."

Week 9: Disability and Other Identities: Race

Tuesday November 20:

ℬ Chris Bell, "Introducing White Disability Studies: A Modest Proposal"

ℬ Anna Mollow, "'When *Black* Women Start Going on Prozac...'"

Thursday November 22: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10: Conclusions

Tuesday November 27:

Movie: *The Station Agent* (88 min)

Thursday November 29:

Finish watching *The Station Agent*

Exam Review and Discussion of Final Research Papers.

Tuesday, December 4:

Final Exam, 1 pm in our classroom, 303 Chapman.

Final Research Paper, 7-9 pages, due at Final Exam: no late papers will be accepted.