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Dec. 16 '11



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

EDUCATION

*Community Rehabilitation  
and Disability Studies*

CORE 425(Van)

*Half (3-0)*

New Psychologies of Disability

### Calendar Description

This course is an exploration of disability as a social construction that emerges in linguistic practices and other forms of representation. Postmodern/post-structural approaches to meaning and identity will be applied to understand how self, subjectivity and disability are located and experienced within public spaces (i.e. social/cultural contexts).

### Content/Objectives

- Role of language and representation in constructing disability
- Overview of historical and contemporary conceptions of disability
- The “problematizing” of disability in contemporary discourses
- The relationship between meaning and one’s experience of the body, illness, and disability
- Social problem theory and an analysis of power, social policy and empowerment.

### Outcomes/Competencies

The student will demonstrate competence in:

- Articulating the social/cultural frameworks that have influenced one’s own values and beliefs about disability
- Identifying and critiquing representations of disability in public discourses
- Analyzing how public and personal power constructs and maintains conceptions of disability

### Assignments

For your chosen topic/condition:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Critical analysis of a chapter or article from required reading | 25% |
| 2. Critical analysis of cultural representation of disability      | 25% |
| 3. Term Paper  | 50% |

### Resources

Readings will be posted on Blackboard at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or handed out in class.

*Details for current course offerings are available at: [www.crd.s.org](http://www.crd.s.org)*

## Instructor and Course Information

**COURSE:** Core 425

**INSTRUCTOR:** Wendy Parry

**TERM:** Winter 2012

**TELEPHONE:** (604) 527-5813

**SECTION:** L01

Fridays 1630-2100

Jan 13, Feb 3, 17, Mar 2

**TIME/DATE:** Saturdays 0900-1600

Jan 14, Feb 4, 18, Mar 3

**EMAIL** [parryw@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:parryw@douglas.bc.ca)

**LOCATION:** Douglas College, Room 2680 - Jan  
269A, Feb & Mar

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

## Course Content

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room</i>	<i>Topic and work to be done</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
January 13, 14	TBA	TBA	Review syllabus and course assignments. Who is disabled? Defining disability.	
			Postmodernism and the deconstruction of knowledge, truth and rationality. The construction of meaning and the world.	
			Situating disability in language: constructing disability in historical and contemporary discourses.	
Feb. 3-4			Situating disability in the body: the emergence of the "abnormal"/"defective" and the social response. A deconstruction of "normalcy."	
			Social problem theory and the "problematizing" of disability. Case Study: Down Syndrome, pre-natal testing, and the human genome project.	
			The body as cultural text: disfigurement, difference and the emergent sense of self.	
Feb 17-18			Theoretical frameworks for the study of disability issues: social and biomedical models, theories of difference.	Assignment 1
			Theoretical frameworks for the study of disability issues: Feminist theories and disability studies, queer theories and some 'post' theories.	
			Situating disability in cultural representation: constructing disability in historical and contemporary media representation.	
March 2-3			(Cont').	Assignment 2
			Subjected bodies and subjected minds; the power of institutions to shape identity.	
			Ethical challenges: disability and abortion.	
			Life experiences and perspectives of people with disabilities/their families	
March 2,3				Assignment 3

## Details of Assignments

### 1. Critical Analysis of Reading

VALUE 25%

A 750 word analysis of a chapter or article from the required texts. The analysis must demonstrate a critical understanding of both the issue under discussion and the author's presentation of it. The assignment is required to be submitted prior to being covered in class.

### 2. Critical Reflection of Cultural Representations of Disability

VALUE 25%

A 750 word analysis of a film, book, or other cultural product. Consider how disability is presented and what underlying assumptions are present (tragedy, hero, 'innocent', threat, moral depravity, etc.) and what theoretical assumptions underpin these representations. How does this contribute to the social construction of disability and what messages about disability are conveyed? This is not a research assignment but an analytic/reflective assignment designed to help you learn to analyze the way disability is constructed and the different messages that seemingly benign cultural products may carry.

### 3. Term Paper

VALUE 50%

A 2000 word analysis of a topic of interest related to issues emerging from the course themes or material.

\*Late marks will be deducted from assignments which are not submitted on time, provided there is no prior agreement with the instructor. 5% will be deducted on the first late calendar day, 10% on the second, and 15% on the third, and so on.

## Marking Scheme

95 – 100	A+	80 – 84	B+	65 – 69	C+	50 – 54	D+
90 – 94	A	75 – 79	B	60 – 64	C	45 – 49	D
85 – 89	A-	70 – 74	B-	55 – 59	C-	Below 44	F

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR WINTER 2012

The last day to change or drop a course - **January 20, 2012**

The last day to pay balance of fees – **January 27, 2012**

The last day to withdraw – **April 13, 2012**

All assignments will be held at the Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies office for only one (1) year after the last day of term.

**Academic Accommodation:** Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre <http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC> MC 295, telephone 220-8237. Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

**IMPORTANT:** Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/and Other Academic Misconduct.

## Purchasing a Textbook from the University of Calgary Bookstore:

- Shop On-line [www.calgarybookstore.ca/](http://www.calgarybookstore.ca/) Click on --> Shop On-line; Click on --> Textbooks; Follow the directions.
- Order by Phone: (403) 220-5937; Toll Free: 1-877-220-5937
- In Person: Go to the University of Calgary Bookstore, MacEwan Student Centre, Room 155, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4