

DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM

Interdisciplinary Program

Kim Nielsen, Chair and Undergraduate Advisor

BA to MBA program

Students interested in completing both the BA in Disability Studies and an MBA in 5 years should meet with the Director of Disability Studies in their first year. Students admitted into this program complete their BA in Disability Studies with a minor in Business by the end of their 7th semester, and complete the MBA in three additional semesters.

Degrees Offered

- Disability Studies Minor (<https://catalog.utoledo.edu/undergraduate/arts-social-sciences-education/interdisciplinary-studies/disability-studies/disability-studies-minor/>)

DST 2020 Introduction to Disability Studies

[3 credit hours]

An overview of the key debates, conversations, and ideas about disability in the United States. This course features perspectives from the social sciences on topics such as activism, representation, society, and culture.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

Core Social Sciences, Multicultural US Diversity

DST 2980 Special Topics in Disability Studies

[1-4 credit hours]

Special topics in Disability Studies. Topics vary by instructor; may be repeated for credit.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

DST 3030 Disability Culture

[3 credit hours]

An interdisciplinary exploration of disability culture and its relationships to the dominant culture.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

DST 3040 Disability, Technology, and Society

[3 credit hours]

Interdisciplinary investigation of the relationship between disability and technology, focusing on the social and political dimensions of designing and using technology with, for, and by disabled people.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

DST 3060 U.S. Disability History

[3 credit hours]

This course provides a historical overview of the lived experiences of people defined as disabled and changing historical definitions of disability in the region that became the United States of America. We will consider how major historical forces such as capitalism, industrialization, colonialism, and democratic ideals have impacted and been shaped by people with disabilities.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

DST 3090 Disability in American Literature

[3 credit hours]

Disability In American Literature addresses a wide range of contemporary literary productions, including novels, graphic novels, plays, short stories, poetry, memoir, and personal essays, connecting these productions to an American literary genealogy and recognizing the deployment and resistance to ableism in American Literature. At the course's conclusion, students will be able to understand how literature interacts with cultural stereotypes, ultimately understanding how literature can be utilized for disability justice and social change.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

DST 3250 Disability and Life Narratives

[3 credit hours]

This course will examine a diverse selection of disability life narratives and consider what they reveal about disability and the dominant culture.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

DST 3600 Feminist Health Humanities

[3 credit hours]

This 15-week course will be taught from intersectional, feminist, health humanities perspectives. We will use the arts and culture in combination with humanistic social theory, to examine the following: gendered and racialized health disparities; gendered and racial constructions in the history of science/medicine; illness and disability life writing; biomedical ethics; the feminist health movement; grassroots community health organizing and feminist conceptualizations of wellbeing and radical self-care. Throughout the semester, there will be a sustained emphasis on health justice and the experiences of marginalized communities (women, people of color, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, etc.). Participants will leave the course more aware of important discussions in the health humanities and more fully prepared to apply inclusive knowledge practices within majors and career paths involving "health" – broadly defined. The course fulfills core curriculum requirements for Multicultural U.S. Diversity & Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC).

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

Multicultural US Diversity

DST 3700 Disability and Communication

[3 credit hours]

This course uses the tools and perspectives of communication studies to examine how human beings make sense of the range of human circumstances that in this time and place we call disability. We will investigate the many ways disability is socially constructed – that is, constructed through communication – considering how we perceive and understand disability and the communication behaviors that shape disability discourse within society.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

DST 3980 Special Topics in Disability Studies

[1-4 credit hours]

Special topics in Disability Studies. Topics vary by instructor, may be repeated for credit.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall

DST 4000 Global Issues in Disability Studies

[3 credit hours]

In this course students will learn about perspectives on and contemporary issues about disability around the world. We will explore the cultural differences, power imbalances, and politics in the global disability landscape, thinking through disability's relationship to topics such as war, industrialization, colonialism, development, and immigration. Geopolitical area of focus may vary based instructor expertise. *Writing Across the Curriculum

Term Offered: Spring, Fall**DST 4100 Disability and Sexuality**

[3 credit hours]

Utilizing a cultural studies approach, this course investigates complex questions of how someone becomes understood as abnormal in contemporary culture. The course looks at the disability justice and LGBTQA+ justice; trans studies and disability studies; public health and private rights. The course uses interdisciplinary texts including memoir and life writing, philosophy, history, public health and sexuality studies to address questions central to disability justice and lived experience.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall**DST 4200 Crip Arts, Crip Culture**

[3 credit hours]

This course uses art-making as a principal driver of its exploration of disability culture and the disability arts movement across media. Students take on the responsibilities and challenges of artists concerned with the ongoing making of culture in real time.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall**DST 4300 Disability and Children's Literature - WAC**

[3 credit hours]

Disabled characters and disability themes abound in texts presented to young readers. This course explores the use of disabled characters in a variety of nonfiction and fiction for young through young-adult readers.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall**DST 4400 Gender and Disability**

[3 credit hours]

This course examines gender and disability from both theoretical and lived perspectives, particularly as intersecting with other structures of power such as race, nationality, sexuality, and rights. Recommended: DST 2020, DST 3020.

Term Offered: Spring**DST 4500 Asylums, Prisons and Total Institutions**

[3 credit hours]

Institutionalization has been a major factor in the daily experiences and understandings of disability in U.S. culture. This course will reevaluate all assumptions about institutions by analyzing when and why these spaces of containment and enclosure, such as prisons and institutions, arise. We will explore how disability and madness are defined, by whom, and for what purposes. The course concludes by analyzing how some ways activists and scholars combat traditional notions of crime, punishment, disability and incarceration.

Term Offered: Fall**DST 4640 Disability Law and Human Rights**

[3 credit hours]

Explores the intersections between disability rights and human rights by examining the development, the ideological framework, and the legal contexts of disability law in the U.S. and global contexts. Recommended: DST 2020, 3020, 3030, or 3060.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall**DST 4800 Autism and Culture**

[3 credit hours]

This course examines the ongoing construction of autism and the autism spectrum, exploring the many controversies around this remarkable range of human conditions.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall**DST 4940 Internship In Disability Studies**

[3 credit hours]

This course is a service learning model internship with on-campus and/or community agencies addressing disability studies issues. Sites must be approved by the instructor.

Prerequisites: DST 2020 with a minimum grade of D-**Term Offered:** Spring, Summer, Fall**DST 4950 Independent Study**

[1-4 credit hours]

Students engage in independent research projects with the supervision of a faculty member.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall**DST 4960 Honors Thesis and Capstone Project**

[1-4 credit hours]

Independent study projects for students seeking departmental honors.

Term Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall**DST 4980 Special Topics in Disability Studies**

[1-4 credit hours]

Special topics in Disability Studies. Topics vary by instructor; may be repeated for credit.

Term Offered: Spring, Fall

Qualified juniors and seniors are invited to work for the citation "honors in Disability Studies."

1. Admission: The Honors Program is open to all undergraduate Disability Studies majors whether or not they are enrolled in College Honors. Students who have shown superior ability in their freshman and sophomore years and who show promise of continuing good performance in the major should apply to the Disability Studies Program for enrollment in the DST Honors Program. Ordinarily, the student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
2. Requirements: To be awarded honors in Disability Studies, the student must complete a senior thesis and must take nine of the 33-hour major requirements in the honors and honors recognition courses offered by the department. Every regularly scheduled 3000- or 4000-level course can be given honors recognition by assigning readings and research in addition to the normal requirements of the course. To remain in the program, the student ordinarily must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 in the major.