

POLS 4900/6950 Special Topics in Political Science: The Politics of Disability

Credit Weighting:**Pre-/Co-Requisites:****Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Deborah Stienstra**Email:** deborah.stienstra@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** 515 MacKinnon**GENERAL DETAILS**

More than one billion people around the world live with disabilities according to the World Health Organization. Yet they are disproportionately excluded and marginalized in communities, societies, economies, and political systems. Even though more people with disabilities live in the global South, their historic exclusion is virtually universal.

This course will explore why this is so and its causes. We will examine efforts to bring about change and the implications of failing to address these inequities. Drawing on research and experiences from Canada and the global South, the course will help to address the historic neglect of issues of and people with disabilities in politics and policy. We will use an intersectional lens and a cross-disability/impairment approach to consider how various experiences of disability and ableism intersect with other experiences of oppression including gender, race, Indigenouness, class, age, sexuality, among others.

This course will be of particular interest to senior undergraduate and graduate students in Political Science, Sociology, International Development Studies, Justice and Legal Studies, Sexualities, Gender and Bodies, Black Canadian Studies, Social Practice and Transformational Change and many others.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce you to the politics of disability, and enable you think and write critically about them. It takes a broadly comparative approach, drawing on examples from diverse events and societies. It also draws on interdisciplinary insights from disability studies, sociology, history, gender studies and postcolonialism as well as political science.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

This will be a seminar course with opportunities to reflect on the readings, contribute to class discussions and leadership, and develop a final project that can be a traditional essay or an alternative format.

REQUIRED READING

Course readings will be available on-line.