INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN DISABILITY STUDIES

The Disability Studies Minor provides an overview of the interdisciplinary study of disability across the domains of human experience. The minor allows students to explore the variety of approaches to understanding disability in personal, social, economic, artistic, and political contexts. The minor focuses on issues in the representation, history, and interpretation of disability as a social category of human difference rather than issues related to the clinical diagnosis and treatment of impairments. Courses available to students as part of the Disability Studies minor cut across traditional academic disciplines and departments, including Political Science, Philosophy, Integrated Educational Studies, Sociology, Peace Studies, History, and the Honors Program. The minor helps prepare students for a variety of possible careers or graduate work in education, human services, public policy, law, medicine, and a multitude of other possibilities.

“I think that disability is as fundamental as race, class, gender and sexual orientation when trying to understand our place in society.”

Phil Ferguson,
Professor, College of Educational Studies

“Disability Studies goes hand-in-hand with civic engagement. It helps all to think about, apply, and improve our assumptions about how we live together.”

Art Blaser,
Professor, Political Science
Number of Units Required

A total of 21 credits are required. At least 12 of these credits must be upper division and at least 6 of those must be completed in residency. There are four courses (12 credits) that all students must take. A total of 9 credits may be chosen from the list of electives.

REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE UNITS

Required Courses (12 credits)

IES 103: Philosophy of Helping
PCST 339: People with Disabilities in Politics and Society
IES 413: Current Issues in Disability Studies and Services
POSC 439: Disability and the Law

Elective Courses
(9 credits, at least 3 credits must be upper division):

PCST 150: Introduction to Peace Studies
PHIL 319: Philosophy of Women/Women of Color
HON 339: Body, Flesh, Subject
HIST 342: History of Everyday Life in America
POSC 354: Nonviolent Social Change
SOC 385: Medical Sociology
EDUC 399: Individual Study
HIST 399: Individual Study and Research
POSC 399: Individual Study and Research

For further information, contact
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“Disability Studies is important because it makes the student more aware of diversity in a minority group and aware of the political, social, and cultural views of the disability community. The student who studies disability studies is more aware of minority groups because they are exposed to a variety of points of views and thoughts in regards to the specific minority group of people with disabilities. It also makes the student aware of the stereotypes and perceptions that society has of people with disabilities throughout history.”

Sarai Urzua
Integrated Educational Studies & Spanish Major
Disability Studies Minor