



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

For more information visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca) or contact a student recruitment officer at [welcome@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:welcome@uwinnipeg.ca) or 204.786.9844. In any case where The University of Winnipeg Course Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.

## Disability Studies 2012 - 2013

*Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary program focused on the critical analysis of disability in society which includes the study of disability as a social, scientific, cultural, historical, and political construction.*

Disability Studies will challenge you to think about “disability” and “ability” in a new way. Using a social model lens, the problem becomes a lack of ramps rather than the fact that someone uses a wheelchair. In this program students will begin from an examination and critique of the bio-medical model of disability. Topics to be considered include human rights, ethics and accountability, adaptive physical activity, sport and recreation, social movements, normalcy, eugenics, genetic engineering, family, sexuality, employment, socialization and development, aging, education, adaptive and universal design, international development, and gender issues. In addition to being cross-disability (all disabilities rather than one), Disability Studies is situated within a framework of intersectionality. From this perspective “disability” becomes a contested category like “gender” or “race,” and is situated within a web of interlocking identities.

This program leads to a **Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree (3-year, 4-year, or Honours) with a Disability and Community Support Diploma from Red River College.**

### SAMPLE CAREERS

There are currently jobs in a variety of fields for those with a Disability Studies undergraduate education. Opportunities are available in such areas as teaching, research, policy analysis in various levels of government, the non-profit sector, the health care sector, the tourism sector, etc.

### SAMPLE COURSES

#### Introduction to Disability Studies I

This course addresses definitions of and approaches to disability, and the differences as a result of history and cultures. In addition, the course examines the ways in which disability is constructed in societies - including the media, workplaces, service provision, families, and environmental barriers. This course is designed to be of particular interest to people with disabilities, people with interest in providing disability services, educators, caregivers, therapists, and all people with an interest in disability issues.

#### Introduction to Disability Studies II

This course examines social change in terms of disability rights movements. It looks at innovative contemporary as well as historic approaches of social change in the community and within wide-ranging institutions within the disability rights movement in a Canadian context. A specific focus is on daily and institutional sites where disability is visible including particular federal and provincial policies, social service provision and programming, and regulated local and community-based responses. Regional variations of social change within a Canadian context are fully explored. This online course is of particular interest to people with disabilities, people with interest in providing disability services, educators, caregivers, therapists, and all people with an interest in disability issues.

#### Theorizing Disability

Prior to the 1970s, the concept of disability was centred on individual impairments and people with disabilities were “others” because of their difference from ableist norms. Over the last three decades disability activists and theorists have sought to shift the focus from a medical model to a social model. Within the social model external obstacles are regarded as disabling, rather than non-conformist bodies. This move has had a powerful impact on disability theorization and political action. The social model of disability has much in common with critical analyses that deconstruct and denaturalize race and gender.

**DIS-3000/3 Disability Studies Field Placement I and DIS-4000/3 Disability Studies Field Placement II** The field placement course provides students with the opportunity to work in a disability-related setting and reflect upon the experience.

Prerequisites: SOC-2125(3) or SOC-2126(3) or any introductory social science qualitative research methods course.

**DIS-3001/3 Disability Studies Seminar I and DIS-4001/3 Disability Studies Seminar II** The seminar course provides students with the opportunity to study disability-related topics in some depth. The small group setting is designed to

facilitate discussion and the exchange of ideas. Prerequisites: SOC-2100(3) or permission of the Program Coordinator.

**DIS-4900/6 Honours Research Paper\*** In their fourth year Honours students will write a major research paper. Each student will pick an area of interest relevant to the field of Disability Studies, and work under the guidance of a supervisor.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Manitoba is the base for many national and international disability centres.
- There is a Masters Program in Disability Studies at the U of M for students continuing in this field to the graduate level.

#### **STUDENT QUOTES**

“Disability Studies classes will shock, appal and excite! Astonishing stories of what still happens today, what happened before and what can change for the future of people with disabilities. Investigating our own judgements and predispositions within this course, helps to change a person’s perspective not just on disability but on all stereotypes, judgements and systems of classification. Manitoba is a hub of activism for disability rights internationally and so many of the critical people involved in this fight for equality were guest lecturers and speakers! It was great to hear from the mouths of people affected, and fighting against ableism. Whether it was activists for people with disabilities in general, activists for people with mental health issues, activists for people living with chronic illness, etc. if they weren’t teaching these classes they were lecturing as a guest or taking it. This program is so community based, open and welcoming as well as educational and inspiring that its sure to keep the interest of students as the battle continues for equality for all.” - *Tessa Blaikie, Honours Sociology Student who has taken Disability Studies I and Theorizing Disability.*

#### **SAMPLE FIRST YEAR**

**Disability and Community Support Diploma from Red River College (2 years).**

*NOTE: This sample first year at University of Winnipeg is representative of the courses you may take, however it is not required that you take a full 30 credit hours in one year.*

SOC-1003(3) Introduction to Disability Studies I

SOC-1004(3) Introduction to Disability Studies II

SOC-2100(3) Theorizing Disability

RHET-1105(3) Academic Writing

6 credit hours Humanities

12 credit hours Electives, depending on interest. Examples are first-year courses in Anthropology, Conflict Resolution Studies, Criminal Justice, Environmental Studies, Geography, International Development Studies, Politics, Psychology, or Women’s and Gender Studies.

#### **REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

You must meet The University of Winnipeg’s general admission requirements. No specific courses are required.

#### **HOW TO APPLY – Domestic Student**

Apply online at [uwinnipeg.ca](http://uwinnipeg.ca) or pick up an Application for Admission from your high school counsellor’s office or the Admissions Office at The University of Winnipeg. To meet Scholarship deadline submit your application and \$80 application fee.

#### **HOW TO APPLY – International Student**

Apply online at [uwinnipeg.ca/index/intl-apply](http://uwinnipeg.ca/index/intl-apply) and submit all official documents by mail. To meet Scholarship deadline submit application, fee, and documents by March 1st. International application fee is \$100, which includes a one-time courier fee.

You may also enter the DS Program through the Disability and Community Support Program at Red River College.

#### **CONTACT US**

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