



FACULTY OF ARTS

DISABILITY STUDIES

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, and gender issues.

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

Students taking an undergraduate degree in another Major may choose to add a Minor in Disability Studies as a secondary area of interest.

SAMPLE CAREERS

Opportunities are available in a wide variety of areas, such 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.

Disability Studies Seminar I This 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 knowledge. While the focus of the course may vary from year to year, a common theme will be the consideration of the socio-political meanings of non-conformist bodies. The theoretical questions that will guide us include: “Who counts as disabled?” and “Do intersections of difference (eg., gender, race, sexuality, class) matter?”

Disability Studies Field Research Placement This course provides students with the opportunity to work in a disability-related setting and reflect upon the experience. Students will apply their research skills in an organization that does disability research, lobbies for disability rights, works for and with people with disabilities, etc. The placement is an opportunity to gain work experience and make contacts.

MORE SAMPLE COURSES

- Introduction to Disability Studies II
- Disability Studies Seminar II
- Disabilities, Sexualities, and Rights
- Theorizing Disability

SAMPLE FIRST YEAR (AT UWINNIPEG)

DIS-1003(3) Introduction to Disability Studies I

DIS-1004(3) Introduction to Disability Studies II

DIS-2100(3) Theorizing Disability

RHET-1102(3) Academic Writing: Social Sciences or any other section of Academic Writing (if required)

6 credit hours Humanities

12 credit hours Electives

***NOTE:** This sample first year is representative of the courses you may take. For many of our programs, you may choose another set of courses and still be well on your way to a degree. Also, for most programs you do not have to take 30 credit hours (five full courses) in your first year.*

“The Disability Studies program is so community-based, open and welcoming, as well as educational and inspiring, that it’s 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

REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

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

HOW TO APPLY

For details on application requirements and deadlines, and to apply online, please visit: uwinnipeg.ca/apply. You may also enter the DS Program through the Disability and Community Support Program at Red River College.

For more information contact a student recruitment officer at welcome@uwinnipeg.ca or 204.786.9844. In any case where the University’s Academic Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.

CONTACT US

Dr. Michelle Owen, Coordinator

P 204.786.9973

E m.owen@uwinnipeg.ca

Nyala V. Ali, Department Assistant

P 204.786.9878

E nv.ali@uwinnipeg.ca