

# Minor in Disability Studies

## About This Program

The interdisciplinary field of disability studies explores the experiences of people with disabilities—one of the largest minorities in the United States and worldwide—as well as the ways in which conceptions and representations of disability and “the normal” have shaped human experiences more generally. Treating disability as a crucial element of human diversity, the Minor in Disability Studies approaches disability as a social, cultural, and political construct rather than just a medical condition (as it is commonly viewed). Taught by faculty from the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Nursing and Health Innovation, Business, and Education as well as the School of Social Work, this flexible and multidisciplinary minor prepares students for a variety of graduate programs and for careers in law, education, public health, engineering, nursing, architecture, medicine, social work, communication, public history and museums, and sports management and coaching, among other fields.

Students seeking to minor in Disability Studies should first consult with advisors in their major departments or programs for approval, then meet with the director and advisor of the Minor in Disability Studies.

## Competencies

1. Upon completion, minors shall demonstrate their ability to use disability studies concepts, frameworks, and/or theories to develop analytical claims within their writing.
2. Upon completion, minors shall demonstrate the ability to apply disability studies concepts to a real-world situation.
3. Upon completion, minors shall demonstrate deep knowledge of the disability history.
4. Upon completion, minors shall demonstrate competency in the basic research and communication skills appropriate to their major discipline, applied to an issue relevant to disability studies.

## Curriculum

A minor in Disability Studies consists of 18 hours, including two required courses: U.S. Disability History (DS 3307/HIST 3307) and Disability Studies Internship (DS 4395). Students also take two to four core disability studies courses and can take up to two approved electives. No more than four courses may be completed in a single discipline.

### Disability Studies Foundations

|                                         |                                                         |   |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---|
| DS/HIST 3307                            | U.S. DISABILITY HISTORY                                 | 3 |
| DS 4395                                 | DISABILITY STUDIES INTERNSHIP <sup>1</sup>              | 3 |
| Select at least two from the following: |                                                         | 6 |
| DS 2301                                 | TOPICS IN DISABILITY STUDIES                            |   |
| DS 3312                                 | DISABILITY & SOCIAL WORK                                |   |
| or SOCW 3312                            | DISABILITY & SOCIAL WORK                                |   |
| DS 3321                                 | CYBORGS AND PROSTHETICS                                 |   |
| DS/PHIL 3322                            | DISABILITY ETHICS                                       |   |
| DS 3327                                 | CYBORGS AND PROSTHETICS                                 |   |
| or HIST 4327                            | CYBORGS AND PROSTHETICS                                 |   |
| DS 3331                                 | RESEARCH IN DISABILITY STUDIES                          |   |
| DS 3346                                 | DISABILITY IN MASS MEDIA                                |   |
| or COMM 3346                            | DISABILITY IN MASS MEDIA                                |   |
| DS 3355                                 | UNIVERSAL DESIGN & ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS |   |
| or THEA 3355                            | UNIVERSAL DESIGN & ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PERFORMING ARTS |   |
| DS 3399                                 | DISABILITY AND ART                                      |   |
| or ART 3399                             | DISABILITY AND ART                                      |   |
| DS 4191                                 | CONFERENCE COURSE                                       |   |
| DS 4291                                 | CONFERENCE COURSE                                       |   |
| DS/HIST 4326                            | TOPICS IN DISABILITY HISTORY                            |   |
| DS 4329                                 | DISABILITY & WORK                                       |   |
| or MANA 4329                            | DISABILITY & WORK                                       |   |
| DS 4391                                 | CONFERENCE COURSE                                       |   |
| DS 4491                                 | CONFERENCE COURSE                                       |   |
| KINE 3304                               | ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT                      |   |
| HIST 4395                               | HISTORY SEMINAR (requires prior approval from director) |   |

**Electives**

Select up to two from the following:

6

|              |                                            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
| ART 4304     | ART AND THE HUMAN CONDITION                |
| ASL 1441     | BEGINNING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I         |
| ASL 1442     | BEGINNING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II        |
| ASL 2313     | INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I      |
| ASL 2314     | INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II     |
| ANTH 3369    | MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY                       |
| CTEC 3323    | USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN PROCESS             |
| COMM 3350    | HEALTH COMMUNICATION                       |
| COMM 4352    | COMMUNICATION AND HEALTH DISPARITIES       |
| DS 4100      | WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL                      |
| HEED 3330    | CONSUMER HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS  |
| HIST 3308    | HISTORY OF MADNESS                         |
| HIST 4307    | HISTORY OF MEDICINE                        |
| HIST 4309    | SOCIAL DARWINISM AND EUGENICS              |
| HIST 4333    | COMPARATIVE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY           |
| HUMA 3300    | MEDICAL HUMANITIES                         |
| HUMA 3350    | CLINICAL MEDICINE AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE |
| HUMA 3360    | AMERICAN HEALTHCARE THROUGH FILM           |
| KINE 3307    | SPORT AND SOCIETY: ISSUES AND DEBATES      |
| LING 2371    | LANGUAGE IN A MULTICULTURAL USA            |
| MANA 4326    | DIVERSITY IN ORGANIZATIONS                 |
| MODL 4310    | GRAPHIC NOVELS AND THE MEDICAL WORLD       |
| PHIL 3319    | BIOMEDICAL ETHICS                          |
| POLS 3309    | HEALTH POLITICS, POLICY, AND ADVOCACY      |
| POLS 4340    | FEDERAL SOCIAL POLICY                      |
| POLS 4350    | HEALTH POLITICS AND POLICY                 |
| SOCI 3318    | SELF AND SOCIAL IDENTITY                   |
| SOCI 3342    | SOCIOLOGY OF THE HUMAN BODY                |
| or KINE 3342 | SOCIOLOGY OF THE HUMAN BODY                |
| SOCI 4320    | MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY                          |
| SPAN 3308    | SPANISH FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES      |
| THEA 3351    | ROBOTS, DIGITAL HUMANITIES, AND THEATRE    |

The follow require prior approval from director:

|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| ANTH 3330 | CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND IDENTITY                         |
| ART 4396  | SPECIAL STUDIES IN ART HISTORY                          |
| ECON 3301 | THE ECONOMICS OF HEALTH                                 |
| ENGL 3347 | TOPICS IN MULTICULTURAL AMERICAN LITERATURES            |
| ENGL 4345 | TOPICS IN CRITICAL THEORY                               |
| HIST 3330 | U.S. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, COLONIAL TO 1877 |
| HIST 3331 | U.S. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, 1877 TO PRESENT  |
| HUMA 3340 | TOPICS IN MEDICAL HUMANITIES                            |
| KINE 2351 | HEALTH ISSUES IN DIVERSE & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS       |
| KINE 3350 | URBANIZATION AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS                 |
| PHIL 3341 | TOPICS IN BIOETHICS                                     |
| SCIE 4304 | DIAGNOSIS OF HUMAN DISEASE                              |
| SOCI 3336 | SOCIAL INEQUALITY                                       |
| SOCW 3307 | DIVERSE POPULATIONS                                     |
| SPED 4304 | ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY                                    |

SPED 4307

SPECIAL EDUCATION LEGAL AND POLICY ISSUES

**Total Hours****18**

Note that some electives change focus from term to term and may therefore not be relevant to the minor during a particular semester. Credit will only be given when the topic of the course (or a substantial portion) focuses on issues related to disability. Other relevant courses not listed may also be used to fulfill the minor, with approval from the director of the Minor in Disability Studies. For that reason and for the purposes of planning the internship, it is important that students consult with the advisor for the minor before registering each semester.

- <sup>1</sup> DS 4395 is a supervised internship/capstone course through which students apply the academic skills they have acquired in Disability Studies courses. Interns work at an approved business, academic, or non-profit site that focuses on adapted sports, disability history, assistive technology, disability rights and policy, or universal design and accessibility; they also complete a capstone essay. Students should complete this course as one of their final courses for the minor and must have already taken or be taking DS 3307/HIST 3307.