



Disability Studies 3339F (570)
Disability Cross-Culturally
Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Gallinger
Email: kgallin@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description: Explores how different cultures construct disability. Uses cases to examine the way diverse sociocultural norms inform definitions, policies, practices and attitudes towards people with disability and how this varies internationally.

Prerequisite(s): [Disability Studies 1010A/B](#), and 3rd or 4th year standing in a Sociology or Criminology or Disability Studies module, or with permission of the instructor.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 3339F/G](#).

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours. Cross-listed with [Sociology 3339F/G](#).

Course Weight: 0.5

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: DISABST

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course, or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

DISABST 3339F 570 & SOCIOLOG 3339F 570

Disability Cross-Culturally

Fall 2025

Instructor: Katherine Gallinger PhD

Email: kgallin@uwo.ca

Calendar Description:

Explores how different cultures construct disability. Uses cases to examine the way diverse socio-cultural norms inform definitions, policies, practices and attitudes towards people with disability and how this varies internationally.

Office Hours: By email appointment

Prerequisites: Disability Studies 1010A/B, or 3rd or 4th year standing in a Sociology or Criminology or Disability Studies module, or with permission of the instructor.

Antirequisite: Sociology 3339F/G

Details: 3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Course Description:

In this course, students will explore the concept of disability from a cross-cultural perspective, examining how different cultures perceive, experience, and respond to disability. Students will draw from disability studies theories and concepts to examine cultural representations of disability through engagement with various cultural narratives, policies, and practices related to disability.

Mode of Instruction: in-person

Learning Outcomes:

In this course, students will:

- Examine the construction of disability cross-culturally and analyze various cultural perspectives on disability globally
- Explore global disability policies and practices

- Develop critical thinking and empathy towards diverse experiences of disability to understand the meaning and significance of disability cultures
- Examine cultural representations of disability that serve to marginalize and oppress disabled people and alternate empowering representations
- Develop cultural awareness through an understanding cultural competence, the ability to work with people from diverse cultures, and cultural humility, the ability to question one's own cultural biases and limitations
- Develop an awareness of disability culture, including the behaviours, beliefs, ways of living, and material artifacts that are unique to persons with a disability

Required Readings

There is no text to purchase for this course. All required readings are available through the library or will be posted in Owl Brightspace. A full reading list will be posted at the beginning of the course.

Evaluations

In-class Activities **Ongoing 25%**

Students will participate in graded in-class small group discussions and activities throughout the course. Students are able to drop one lowest-graded activity.

Annotated Bibliography of Assigned Readings **Submitted Weeks 5 & 12 20%**

Students will complete an Annotated Bibliography of all required course readings. An annotated bibliography includes a short descriptive text for each source. Each annotation should be 250 words.

Midterm Test **Week 6 15%**

Final test **Exam Period 25%**

Group Research Project and In-Class Presentation **Due Week 12 15%**

In small groups, students will research, explore, and analyze a cultural disability artifact or representation of disability. Students will analyze the representation and significance of disability through a cultural context and examine how the artifact contributes to societal perceptions and awareness of disability.

Academic Paper 2000 words.

In-class presentation of findings

Course Plan:

Course Plan		
Date	Topic	Evaluation
September 10	Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define culture and cross culture • Cultural relativism and ethnocentrism 	
September 17	Historical Perspectives of disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical and social construction of disability cross-culture • Culture and cultural artifacts 	In-Class Activity 5%
September 24	Disability in Western Cultures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stereotypes • Marginalization • Stigma • Cultural Values • Media and Cultural Representations of Disability 	In-Class Activity 5%
October 1	Global Perspectives of Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Disability Policy and Human Rights frameworks 	In-Class Activity 5%
October 8	Indigenous Perspectives on Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional knowledge and healing practices • Indigenous constructs of disability 	In-Class Activity 5% Annotated Bibliography due 10%
October 15		Midterm Test 15%
October 22	Disability and Cultural Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectionality 	In-Class Activity 5%
October 29	Global Disability Advocacy and Activism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Disability Rights Movements • Citizenship 	In-Class Activity 5%
November 5	Fall Reading week	
November 12	Disability Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived experience and personal narrative • Language • Representation • Pride 	
November 19	Disability and Education in Global Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education models 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural barriers to access and equity 	
November 26	Cultural Competence and Humility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural barriers • Strategies for inclusion and respectful engagement 	Annotated Bibliography due 10%
December 3	Group Project Cultural Artifact Presentations	Group Cultural Artifact Analysis 15%
Exam Period		Final Test 25%

Late Assignments:

Penalties will be assessed for late submissions. The penalty is 10% per 24-hour period. That means you lose 10% if your assignment is one day late, 20% if it is two days late, and 30% if it is three days late. After three days, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

Medical, Non-Medical Absences and/or Missed Assignments:

Medical, non-medical absences and/or missed assignments must be addressed through the Academic Dean's Office (ADO). Where ADO approval is provided, extensions, alternative format or reweighing will be granted. Students must consult the Policy on Accommodation for Illness. <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/academicconsideraonrequests/>

NB: It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor after the ADO has granted an extension to discuss when the assignment will be submitted.

Academic Integrity:

Intellectual honesty is expected of all students. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious scholastic offences with penalties at the University. For what constitutes a scholastic offence and penalties, see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholasic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Course policy on use of generative AI, including translation/grammar aids:

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Notice of Turnitin Analysis:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:
https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for

purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials

publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.