



**Disability Studies 2023B (670)  
Disability Sports & Recreation  
Fall/Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: Dr. Carla Silva

Email: [csilva42@uwo.ca](mailto:csilva42@uwo.ca)

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**Course Information**

**Calendar Description:**

Explore the dynamic sports and recreation venues where people with and without disability are involved in working towards diverse forms of participation and inclusion. These are crucial spheres of self-expression, sociability, integration and contribution. Recreational and elite sports, youth and adult programs and camp settings are covered.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Antirequisite(s):**

**Extra Information:**

**Course Weight:** 0.50

**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.

## Disability Studies 2023B (670) Disability Sports & Recreation Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Dr. Carla Filomena Silva

Email: [csilva42@uwo.ca](mailto:csilva42@uwo.ca)

Office hours: MS Teams meeting (meeting link available on Owl Bright Space)

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Image by [Pexels](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Richard Whitehead, a British double leg amputee runner competing at Rio 2016

### Course Information

#### Calendar Description:

In this course, you will explore a range of diverse issues as they pertain to the intersection between disability, sport, and recreation. Using a critical disability lens, we will uncover and question normative social and cultural understandings of disability and sport (competitive and recreation), with the goal of contributing towards more inclusive and empowering sport and recreation opportunities for those who experience disability.

#### Prerequisite(s):

#### Antirequisite(s):

**Extra Information:** Mode of delivery is asynchronous online, weekly engagement expected.

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 enroll 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.

## DS2023B Syllabus Disability Sport and Recreation



### Section 670

Image by [Pexels](#) from [Pixabay](#)  
Richard Whitehead, a British double leg amputee runner competing at Rio 2016

### Land acknowledgement

Acknowledging that King's is on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum, we commit to advancing reconciliation. We hope to build relationships with, and respect for the knowledges of, the diverse Indigenous Peoples who are stewards of the land and contributors to our learning. We acknowledge how precious these land and waters, and how precious are the creatures that live upon them.

### Basic course information

**Instructor:** Dr. Carla Silva (she/her)  
Course duration: Jan 5 - April 3, 2026  
Hours of coursework per week: 6-8  
Course URL OWL/Bright Space:

**E-mail:** [csilva42@uwo.ca](mailto:csilva42@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:** virtually through MSTeams.

Padlet wall for all course related questions will be made available in the course OWL Bright Space. Before posting a question, review the syllabus and the course site.

An alternative meeting time can also be booked via email. In email communication, please include in the subject line DS2201 + subject of email (ex: test, deadlines etc) and address me as Professor Carla Silva.

## Course Description

In this course, you will explore a diverse range of issues as they pertain to the intersection between disability, sport, and recreation. Using a critical disability lens, we will uncover and question normative social and cultural understandings of disability and sport (competitive and recreation), with the goal of contributing towards more inclusive and empowering movement opportunities for those who experience disability. Together, we will know about different disability sport and recreation contexts and question established practices, while connecting these with our own personal experience, through reflection and critique.

The critical knowledge and skills gained in this course will help you examine critically practical issues related to sport and recreation programs. Drawing upon diverse knowledge fields (sociology, anthropology, humanities, philosophy, and history) and informed by active, collaborative and reflective learning, the course will help you develop conceptual and practical tools to better understand, communicate, and interact with differently 'abled' moving bodies, especially in sporting spaces. Ultimately, you will develop an empathetic, empowering, and activist mindset regarding dis/ability and movement cultures, with practical usefulness in all movement-centered professional fields.

### Course objectives:

- To develop a critical understanding of the socially constructed nature of understandings on disability and sport.
- To develop, through critical analysis and reflection, empowering personal and professional conceptual frameworks to shape professional practices involving people experiencing disability in sport and recreation contexts.
- To link theory and practice to envision professional practices that align with principles of equity, autonomy and self-determination of people experiencing disability.
- To expand metacognition, the awareness of how one learns and grows.

### Course Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and explain pervasive social cultural understandings of disability and sport;
2. Establish links between historical, social and cultural trends and the development of disability sport opportunities;
3. Reflect on and investigate your own understandings of movement, body and disability and how these were shaped by social cultural conditions;
4. Explain different ways in which societies have responded to the "disability problem" in sport and recreation;
5. Recognise and explain how different sporting cultures have contributed to, reinforced, or challenged wider understandings of disability;



	each.  Note: 1 point will be discounted for each non submitted assignment.	
Mid Term Test in OWL/BrightSpace Format: Short and/or long answers  Those with accommodation for extra time will receive it.	12 Feb.  2 hours between 8 am and 8 pm	20
Individual Case Study Project (must submit formal documentation for academic consideration)	27 Mar.	30
Final Exam in OWL/BrightSpace	Scheduled by Registrar's Office	25

More detailed information on each assignment will be offered timely.

### **Academic Considerations for Absences, Late Submissions**

For the weekly task submissions, which are worth 1 point, the deadline is each Friday 11.59 pm, but exceptionally (no more than twice in the term), the assignment can be posted by Sunday, 11.59 pm, the latest. Because of this flexibility, no accommodations for weekly assignments will be accepted.

For assessments worth more than 10% of the course grade, students must submit an academic consideration request with medical or other supporting documentation to Academic Advising if they wish for accommodations to be made.

In the case of a missed midterm exam, the final exam will be reweighted to 45% of the course grade. There will be no midterm makeup exams offered.

For the Individual Case Study Project, if not being able to respect the deadline, you must submit formal documentation with your request for academic consideration. Alternatively, it may be easier for you to skip the process of organizing documentation and submitting a request for academic consideration and simply take the daily penalty, as it is quite low. Without any academic consideration, a penalty of 1 point per day (including weekends) will be applied to a maximum of 7 days. After 7 days, the assignment will be marked 0. In this case, students do not need to email the professor to explain why it's late or ask for permission.

For more information go to <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/academic-consideration-requests/>.

### **Academic Integrity**

Within this course, generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are permitted exclusively for: information-gathering; preliminary research purposes and proofreading. If AI tools are used, students must acknowledge use and state which and how the tool was used. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Within this course, use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted for the **writing** of any work submitted for evaluation, including the weekly tasks (except for the purposes stated above).

Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. All required assignments 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>).

## Course outline

The following table offers a provisional thematic/ activity map for our weekly lessons. A lesson is composed of all the activities around the weekly theme. Note that this plan will be updated weekly with more detailed information and may change.

Be aware that effective engagement in the course requires between 6 - 8 hours weekly (including your own study time). This number really depends on you being able to set up a study environment free of distractions and interruptions. At the start of the term, make sure you schedule these hours on your personal weekly calendars.

Week	Themes
Week 1. Jan 5 - 9  Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 9)	<b>Setting the foundations</b> Ways of working together. Presentations and getting to know one another. Planning and preparing the ground for a successful course. <b>Focusing question:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why do I want to learn about disability and movement from a socio-cultural perspective?</li> </ul>
Week 2. Jan 12- 16 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 16)	<b>Introduction to Disability Sport:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Models;</li> <li>Disability as a personal and contextual experience;</li> <li>Disability sport contexts, settings and approaches</li> </ul>
Week 3. Jan 19- 23 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 23)	<b>Disability, Sport and Recreation: a difficult marriage?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Disability Sport Paradox” and its manifestations</li> </ul>

Week 4. Jan 26- 30 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 30)	<p><b>Disability, Sport and Recreation: intertwined history and potential pitfalls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Adapted Physical Activity in connection to social understandings and responses to disability matters;</li> <li>• The Social Construction of Disability in a society of normalization: challenges and possibilities</li> </ul>
Week 5. Feb 2- 6 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 6)	<p><b>Introduction to the Paralympics and Paralympic sport;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Classification</li> </ul>
Week 6. Feb 10-14	<p>Feb 13: MIDTERM – any 2 hours within the allotted time (8 am- 8 pm) (All themes up to and including week 5)</p>
Week 7. Feb 16- 20	<b>Reading week</b>
Week 8. Feb 23- 27 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 27)	<p><b>Key issues in disability sport:</b> Pitfalls and Opportunities of the Paralympic Movement for personal and social empowerment of people with disabilities</p>
Week 9. Mar 2- 6 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 6)	<p><b>Disability, Physical Education and Sport in School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key issues</li> </ul>
Week 10. Mar 9- 13 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 13)	<b>Practical approaches to creating more inclusive opportunities in sport and recreation</b>
Week 11. Mar 16- 20 Students: Complete lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 20)	<b>Meaningful Disability Sport and Recreation: Challenges and Barriers</b>
Week 12. Mar 23- 27 Submit final assignment (27 <sup>th</sup> March, 11.59 pm)	<b>Assignment Development</b>
Week 13. Mar 30- April 3 Students: Complete	<b>Are Special Olympics truly "Special"?</b>

lesson tasks (Deadline: Friday 3)	
Final Exam	Scheduled by the Registrar

# 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/S\\_MC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/S_MC-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](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

##### **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/](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](mailto: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](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](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 you 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.