

Disability Studies (DSST)

Course information contained within the Bulletin is accurate at the time of publication in June 2025 but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date course information, please refer to the Course Catalog.

DSST 5401. Disability Rights and Culture. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

This course provides a socio-historical survey of the political, economic, social and cultural relations between disabled and non-disabled society in America. Topics such as the social construction of disability and the changing experiences of persons with disabilities are discussed in the context of other civil rights movements and the broader evolution of social policy.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

DSST 5402. Action Modes of Research. 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores the foundations of collaborative and action research. There will be a strong focus on the sets of beliefs that lead to and underlay action research, and how these beliefs are different from traditional paradigms. Students will also work on the practical means by which those affected by research are included in its design. Readings and discussion will focus particularly on disabilities, but will also include considerations of gender, race, class and sexual orientation.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

DSST 5403. Disability and Social Policy. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

This course examines public policy in the U.S.; particularly the influence of recent Congressional actions and judicial decisions in the areas of education, health care, human development, rehabilitation and employment of individuals with disabilities. Will examine the origins, goals and target populations for these policies and the extent to which policies are consistent with each other, and will assess the effectiveness of policies and the impact they have on people's real lives, including people with disabilities, family members and professionals. Note: Cross-listed as SOC ADMIN 0654.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

DSST 5404. Health and Wellness for Persons with Disabilities. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is designed to introduce students to the meaning of health and wellness for individuals with disabilities. A biopsychosocial model will be used to examine the various dimensions of health. Students will examine the role(s) that theoretical understandings of health behaviors, societal values and systems, and demographic factors have in facilitating or inhibiting wellness. The course will also explore the supports people with disabilities may require in order to achieve and maintain health and wellness. Note: Cross-listed as THER REC 0521.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

DSST 5405. Disability Studies in the Humanities. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

Interest in Disability Studies is exploding in the humanities disciplines. The focus and content of this course will depend upon the interests of faculty and graduate students. Possibilities include: Health and Disability in American History; Disability and Performance Studies; Disability in American Literature; Imaging Bodies World Film' Cross-Cultural Disability Studies.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

DSST 5501. Introduction to Disability Studies. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

Only available to students who are research assistants and externs of the Institute on Disabilities. Special authorization required.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

DSST 9489. Field Work in Disability Studies. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.

This course provides experiential learning in the experiences of persons with disabilities. Students are assigned to work with and be mentored by persons with disabilities and their families. Sites will be selected in collaboration with each student's development.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.