

# SYLLABUS

## EDCP 462 – Disability in American Society

**Instructor:** Kim MacDonald-Wilson  
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3234 Benjamin Building

Spring, 2006  
Wed. 1:00 – 4:00

Ofc Hrs: Tues 11-1, Wed, 12-1, by appt.

### Course Description:

A critical analysis of personal, historical, political, and societal perspectives on people with disabilities. Material will include an exploration and evaluation of diverse personal and public attitudes, parallels with other minority groups, and advocacy efforts for implementing changes. This is an interactive class with activities that include guest speakers, films, discussions, exercises, and readings of personal accounts of disability.

### Course Goals:

1. Develop a deeper awareness of disability from the perspectives of people with disabilities, families, ourselves, and society.
2. Understand the influence of historical and legislative contexts on the cultural and social problems of people with disabilities in the U.S.
3. Analyze the relationships between concerns of people with disabilities and the issues of people in other minority groups in the U.S.
4. Evaluate current approaches, advocacy efforts, and proposed solutions for overcoming barriers experienced by people with disabilities in the U.S.

### Course Readings:

Smart, J. (2001). *Disability, society, and the individual*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers. ISBN: 0-8342-1601-9.

Shaw, B. (ed.) (2001). *The ragged edge: The disability experience from the pages of the first fifteen years of the Disability Rag*. Louisville, KY: The Advocado Press. ISBN 0-9627064-5-0

Readings posted online and handouts

### Course Format:

EDCP 462 is designed to be an interactive course. Class attendance and participation in discussions, films, speakers, and in-class exercises is important in learning about the experience of disability. Personal exploration of attitudes, reactions, and experiences are an essential part of this learning. Students will participate in discussions on the WebCT course site (<http://www.courses.umd.edu/>) and participate in a project addressing

disability on the college campus. Course materials – overheads, assignments and instructions, and web links can be accessed at the course website. Readings, class lectures, and quizzes are designed to provide knowledge and background for understanding disability in American society.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
January 25 <i>Class 1</i>	Course Overview Language & Labels	Smart Ch1	Class Exercise
February 1 <i>Class 2</i>	Social Construction of Disability	Smart Ch 2 Shaw- 44-52	<b>First Journal Entry</b> Class Exercise
February 8 <i>Class 3</i>	Societal Response to Disability	Smart Ch 3 Shaw- 26-28, 53-55	Class Exercise
February 15 <i>Class 4</i>	Stigma and Discrimination	Smart Ch 4 Shaw- 22-25	<b>Movie Analysis</b> Class Exercise
February 22 <i>Class 5</i>	More on Attitudes & Societal Responses	Shaw –120-141	Class Exercise
March 1 <i>Class 6</i>	Social Policy & Disability	WebCT	<b>Journal Entry 2</b> Class Exercise
March 8 <i>Class 7</i>	Accessibility and Universal Design	Web CT -	Class Exercise
March 15 <i>Class 8</i>	Advocacy and Disability Rights	Shaw - 142-171	Class Exercise
March 29 <i>Class 9</i>	Images of Disability in the Media	Smart Ch 6 Web CT –	<b>Journal Entry 3</b> Class Exercise
April 5 <i>Class 10</i>	Disability and Employment	Shaw- 60-67	Class Exercise
April 12 <i>Class 11</i>	Disability and Education	WebCT	<b>Take Home Project</b> Class Exercise
April 19 <i>Class 12</i>	Individual Experience of Disability	Smart Ch 7 Shaw- 35-43	Class Exercise
April 26 <i>Class 13</i>	Topic TBA, Possible visit to FDR memorial		<b>Advocacy Project</b> <b>Individual Reports</b> Class Exercise
May 3 <i>Class 14</i>	Health Issues, Right to Die v. Right to Life	Shaw- 194-245	Class Exercise
May 10 <i>Class 15</i>	<b>Advocacy Project</b> <b>Presentations</b> Wrap Up		Class Exercise <b>Final Journal Entry</b> due May 15

## Requirements

Class Exercise Weekly (15, 5 pts each)

## Total Points

75

Journal Entry (3, 15 pts each; last at 30 pts)	75
Movie Analysis	25
Advocacy Group Project Individual Reports	50
Advocacy Group Project Presentation	25
Take Home Project	40
Discretionary Exemplary Participation	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>

## Grades

A+ 294-300	B+ 264-269	C+ 234-239	D+ 204-209
A 279-293	B 249-263	C 219-233	D 189-203
A- 270-278	B- 240-248	C- 210-218	D- 180-188

## Policies

- 1. Academic Integrity** - All students are expected to abide by the Code of Academic Integrity. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html> This means that each student should do original work on one's own, cite sources in any assignments for material obtained elsewhere, and avoid use of unauthorized aids in completing assignments and exams.
- 2. Disability** - Any student with a disability that may affect course performance and may require reasonable accommodation should discuss the matter privately with the instructor in advance. It is recommended that students also contact the Disability Support Services (301-314-7682 v/tty) for additional assistance. Any such disclosures and arrangements will be treated confidentially.
- 3. Confidentiality** – An important component of this course is the freedom of students to discuss issues or share personal information that may be sensitive in nature, either in class or in journals/discussions groups in the course website. It is expected that sensitive information revealed in this manner is not to be shared with others outside of class. If any student has a concern about information heard or revealed, please feel free to discuss it privately with the instructor.
- 4. Participation** – Students are expected to attend and participate in each class during

which exercises and discussions earning points will be conducted. If you are unable to attend class, ***please notify the instructor by email in advance***. However, makeup assignments for class participation are not available, with the exception of student observation of religious activities, when arranged with the instructor in advance.

5. **Due Dates** – Assignments are due by 4 pm on the assigned date unless negotiated with the instructor ***IN ADVANCE and IN WRITING*** (exception journal entries, which must be completed as scheduled). Otherwise, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be taken off for the first week late, and then additional points accordingly.