

Disability Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles

Disability Studies: l'esperienza dell'UCLA

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The field of Disability Studies is more interested in unsettling the meaning of disability than defining it. Reorienting a marginalized phenomenon at the center of our experience, Disability Studies offers a new lens for thinking about the body, society, and culture; its goal is not an answer to the question of disability but rather a critical framework that questions and connects established disciplines.

This field of inquiry has a long history at UCLA. For over two decades, administrators and faculty on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability (CACD), now called the University Committee on Disability, have advocated the inclusion of disabilities-related topics as part of UCLA's core academic mission, and urged UCLA to take a leading role in the development of scholarship on Disability Studies. In 2007, UCLA launched an undergraduate minor in Disability Studies with enthusiastic support from faculty and administrators throughout the College of Letters and Science, School of Arts & Architecture, and professional schools.

Through a core course, carefully selected electives, a required two-quarter internship or research apprenticeship, and a senior capstone project, students in UCLA's Disability Studies minor obtain both breadth and depth in their understanding of the conceptual and practical implications of disability. The program includes extensive collaboration with community partners and supports undergraduates with a wide range of academic interests and career goals. Those interested in teaching, social work, public health, nursing, medicine, architecture, and law find that the challenges Disability Studies poses to the medical model of disability (which understands disability as pathology to be cured rather than as social construction) transform their sense of what it means to work with disabled populations. Students interested in interdisciplinary academic work find rich avenues of new scholarship in fields throughout the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

Indirizzo per la corrispondenza
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