

CDIS 239:
Introduction to Disability
Studies
Professor Linett
Fall 2025
MWF 1:30 - 2:20



Have you ever thought about disability as a social and political category? This class invites students to think about cultural understandings of the body and of "normal" and "abnormal," and to learn how we might think of disability as a "body of knowledge" that informs lived and artistic practice.



Students who take Introduction to Disability Studies can, with three additional classes, add a minor in **Critical Disability Studies**, housed in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Learning Outcomes: After successfully completing this course, students should be able to articulate how ideas of normalcy are socially constructed; discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different models for understanding disability; describe key events in the history of the disability rights movement; understand the trajectory from movements for disability rights to movements for disability justice; understand some of the ways disability intersects with other identity categories such as race, gender, and sexuality; identify cultural practices and attitudes that exclude disabled people.