

The Disability Studies Workshop

In the ASC 800 Disability Studies Workshop may come from either inside Ohio State (with varying areas of expertise and research related to disability) or they may also come from other institutions. We intend that the students involved in the GIS-DS will be given at least three opportunities to interact with and learn from the "visiting" scholars:

1. A special 2-3 hour workshop that involves only the graduate students enrolled in it with the scholars leading it; this workshop would center around texts or issues proposed in advance by the visiting scholar;
2. An opportunity to meet individually with the visiting scholar for a brief period (30-60 minutes, approximately) to discuss their own projects and research related to disability studies; and
3. Attendance at a public lecture the visiting scholar would give.

Students would also write a brief response paper (1000 words, 4 pages) about the workshop experience—perhaps in relation to prompts or issues offered by the visiting scholar; these response papers would be read and responded to by the visiting scholar and by the graduate faculty member who is coordinating that particular workshop in any given quarter.

ASC 800 is designed to enrich the GIS-DS curriculum by facilitating dialogue between students, faculty and scholars outside of OSU. The committee believes that this is a particularly important addition to the GIS-DS curriculum because Disability Studies is a new and emerging academic field; therefore, ASC 800 gives students and faculty a real opportunity to help shape and add to the field. We also believe this workshop format is important because it will allow graduate students -- who are in advanced study and from quite diverse professional and disciplinary fields and approaches related to disability (Law, Education, Psychology, Medical Sciences, the Arts and Humanities, etc.) -- to interact with each other in an academic setting that does not make them uncomfortable (due to their lack of professional expertise in any particular area). A non-threatening opportunity to engage in the study of disability from a perspective outside one's own professional and disciplinary specialization will, we believe, enhance their abilities to share broader-based knowledge about disability, people with disabilities, the disability experience.

Students enrolled in ASC 800 will read texts assigned by either the faculty coordinator or invited speaker. Prior to the public event, students will meet with the invited speaker and faculty coordinator to discuss the readings and the speaker's own scholarly work. Students are expected to prepare for the scholarly dialogue by bringing questions and points of discussion to the meeting. Students enrolled in ASC 800 are expected to attend the public event, and may on occasion be asked to participate. Finally, students submit a final paper summarizing their thoughts on the speaker's work and the impact of the opportunity for direct dialogue. This paper will be evaluated by the faculty coordinator.

The faculty coordinator will assign grades of "S" (satisfactory) or "U" (unsatisfactory) for ASC 800.