



CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES MINOR

{ Program Preview }

December 2nd, 2022 }

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CRITICAL DISABILITY
STUDIES





WHAT IS CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES?

- Disability is part of the human experience
- Different communities hold different values about disability
- Disabled people share communities and history
- The world can be designed to promote access and justice

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WHY DO WE NEED A MINOR?

- Building a disability-affirming culture at Western
- Adding a special emphasis to a range of majors
 - Humanities
 - Social Sciences
 - Design
 - Education
 - Laboratory Sciences
- Building a more just and equitable world

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MINOR AT A GLANCE

- Approximately 24-30 credits
- Three required classes
 - DISA 301 – Fundamentals of Critical Disability Studies (5 credits)
 - DISA 302 – Topics in Critical Disability Studies (5 credits)
 - DISA 401 – Capstone in Critical Disability Studies (5 credits)
- Three additional electives
 - Ranging from 3-5 credits each

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DISA 301 - FUNDAMENTALS OF CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES

- Study the key concepts of Critical Disability Studies
- Learn about the history of disability communities
- Practice universal design principles

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DISA 302 - TOPICS IN CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES

- Apply fundamental principles to various sub-topics:
 - Film studies
 - Dance and performing arts
 - Comic books
 - Greek mythology
 - Sexuality
 - Recreations
 - Politics
- Can be repeated as elective

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THREE ELECTIVES (UP TO 15 CREDITS)

- Communication, Identity, and Difference (Comm 260)
- Accessible Computing (CSEC 497T/597T)
- Disability and Access in the Sciences (CSEC 397)
- Cultural Disability Studies (ENGL 397K)
- Disability in Literature (ENGL 497)
- Disability, Diversity, and the Mass Media (EXCE 205)
- Elementary American Sign Language sequence (EXCE 101, 102, and 103)
- Disability, Individuals, and Systems (HSP 443)
- Religion and Disability (REL 330)

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ALTERNATIVE ELECTIVES

- Repeat DISA 302 with a different instructor
- Take an independent study
- Do an internship (coming soon)
- Take another class not on our list (with approval)



DISA 401: CAPSTONE IN CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES

- Small cohort of Critical Disability Studies minors
- Reflect on previous course work and personal experiences
- Design a research study on a particular topic
- Create a multimedia project based on your research

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GOALS FOR MINOR GOING FORWARD

- Minor begins in fall 2023
- New courses will be added over the coming years:
 - Disability and Access in the Sciences
 - Disability in Fine and Performing Arts
 - Disability in Law and Politics
 - Internship in Critical Disability Studies

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WHAT TO DO NOW?

- Reach out to the Institute for Critical Disability Studies co-directors to discuss the minor at icds@wwu.edu
- Take courses from our electives list or other courses on disability-related topics
 - Make sure to check with the co-directors to find out if outside courses count for credit in the minor
 - All valid courses will recognize these courses once you declare your minor

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GET INVOLVED

- Join the Disability Studies and Action Collaborative (open to everyone)
 - If you want to help developing the minor, join the curriculum committee
- Join our mailing list (see below)

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GIVE US FEEDBACK

- What excites you about the minor?
- What questions do you have?
- What problems do you notice?

We will take your feedback and incorporate it into our final proposal for the minor or build it into our program development going forward.

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