

**First Year Seminar (FYS) CRN 6976**  
**Disability and Culture**  
**3 credits Fall 2019**  
**Robert Stensrud, Ed.D. Drake University**

**Tues:** 12:30 - 1:45

**Thurs:** 12:30 - 1:45

**Room:** Collier-Scraps 207

**Professor:** Robert Stensrud, Ed.D.

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**Office Hours:** Before class and by appointment, as needed during the semester.

**Course Description:** This course will engage students in exploring how different cultures perceive and interact with individuals with disabilities. It will examine how education, employment, and community engagement vary across cultures for individuals with disabilities. Students will engage in research and critical thinking regarding different academic topics including: (1) analysis of data, (2) verbal and written expression skills, (3) contextual understanding, (4) self-reflection.

**Course Goals:** Students will study how to conceptualize disability and diversity from a multicultural and systems perspective.

**Audience:** First Year Students.

**About the Instructor:** Dr. Robert Stensrud teaches classes on disability, mental illness, and counseling in the School of Education Department of Leadership and Counseling.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### READING:

#### Required Text:

Bauman, Z. (2007). *Liquid times: Living in an age of uncertainty*. Malden, MA: Polity Press. ISBN-13: 978-0745639864.

Charlton, J. (2000). *Nothing about us without us: Disability oppression and empowerment*. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press. ISBN-13: 978-0520224810

Hall, E. (1976). *Beyond culture*. New York: Anchor Books. ISBN: 0-385-12474-0

### WRITING:

1. In class free writing (1 page, 10 points)
2. Critique of Hall text (3 pages, 30 points)
3. Critique of Bauman text (3 pages, 30 points)
4. Critique of Charlton text (3 pages, 30 points)
5. Responses to Class Discussions (1 page, 10 points)
6. Final Exam/Advocacy Plan (4 pages, 40 points)

### SPEAKING and LISTENING:

1. Presenting personal culture (20 points)
2. Presenting Bauman text (20 points)
3. Presenting systemic conclusion (20 points)
4. Discussion, professional behavior, and sharing in class (40 points)

**Course content** This course will challenge you to:

- Think critically about how cultures vary and assign value to individuals
- Increase your capacity for collecting and analyzing data
- Research and understand problems and critical issues related disenfranchised populations
- Become proficient at systemic thinking
- Prepare and submit responses to readings and class discussions
- Develop an advocacy plan to promote inclusion

**Grading criteria:** Papers and presentations will be graded on the basis of the following criteria:

**Specifically develop speaking and writing skills to:**

- a. Clearly define a question or problem.
- b. Gather information that is relevant to that problem.
- c. Rigorously identify assumptions and preconceptions, including your own, that may influence your analysis of that problem.
- d. Organize and prioritize your information to develop a rational argument that states a clear thesis, provides reasons for holding that thesis, provides relevant evidence to support each reason, and considers alternative explanations in reaching a conclusion.
- e. Communicate that reasoned argument effectively in writing, presentations, and discussions.
- f. Demonstrate your understanding that results are tentative and open to revision based on new information.

<b>Course Grading Scale</b>	244-250 pts	<b>A</b>	97%
	238-243	A-	95%
	232-237	B+	92%
	225-231 pts	<b>B</b>	90%
	219-224	B-	87.5%
	188-218	C+	75%
	181-187 pts	<b>C</b>	72%
	175-180	C-	70%
	169-174	D+	
	163-168 pts	<b>D</b>	
157-162	D-		
156 and below	F		

Date	Topic	Oral Assignment Due	Writing Assignment Due	Activity Purpose
8/27	Intro Review Syllabus			Get Acquainted
8/29	Purpose of Class			General Discussion
9/3	Discuss Hall's Culture Text & Disability			Hall Summary & Discussion
9/5	Outline Assignments			Presentation Preparation
9/10	Personal Culture Presentation	Presentation 1	Writing Assignment 1	Description of Personal Culture
9/12	Personal Culture Presentation	Presentation 1		Description of Personal Culture
9/17	Personal Culture Presentation	Presentation 1		Description of Personal Culture
9/19	Personal Culture Presentation	Presentation 1		Description of Personal Culture

9/24	Discuss Bauman's Culture Text & Social Capital			Discussion of Liquid Modernity
9/26	Discuss Hall & Bauman Texts & Disability		Writing Assignment 2	
10/1	Liquid Culture	Presentation 2		Analysis of Liquid Culture & Disability
10/3	Liquid Culture	Presentation 2		Analysis of Liquid Culture & Disability
10/8	Liquid Culture	Presentation 2		Analysis of Liquid Culture & Disability
10/10	Liquid Culture	Presentation 2		Analysis of Liquid Culture & Disability
10/15	<b>FALL BREAK</b>			
10/17	Discuss Disability, Empowerment, & Culture		Writing Assignment 3	
10/22	Systems Theory Basics			Conceptual Understanding
10/24	Systems Theory & Culture			Application to Culture
10/29	Systems Interventions			Strategies for Change
10/31	Social Theory of Disability			Conceptual Understanding
11/5	Disability Employment			Conceptual Understanding
11/7	Disability & Data Analysis			Integration of Information
11/12	Disability & Technology			Application of Information
11/14	Physical Accessibility			Application of Information
11/19	Community Inclusion			
11/21	Culture, Inclusion, & Data	Presentation 3	Writing Assignment 4	Integration of Course Material
11/26	Culture, Inclusion, & Data	Presentation 3		Integration of Course Material
11/28	<b>Thanksgiving</b>			
12/3	Culture, Inclusion, & Data	Presentation 3		Integration of Course Material
12/5	Culture, Inclusion, & Data	Presentation 3	Writing Assignment 5	Integration of Course Material
12/10	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>		Writing Assignment 6	
12/12	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>			

## **Writing Assignment Grading Criteria**

1. In class free writing (1 page, 10 points)
  - a. Spelling and grammar
  - b. Sentence structure
  - c. Paragraph structure
  - d. Paper structure, organization, impact
2. Critique of Hall text (3 pages, 30 points)
  - a. Spelling and grammar
  - b. Sentence structure
  - c. Paper structure, organization, impact
  - d. Description of context continuum
  - e. Analysis and synthesis of implications
3. Critique of Bauman text (3 pages, 30 points)
  - a. Spelling and grammar
  - b. Sentence structure
  - c. Paper structure, organization, impact
  - d. Description of liquid culture
  - e. Analysis and synthesis of implications
4. Critique of Charlton text (3 pages, 30 points)
  - a. Spelling and grammar
  - b. Sentence structure
  - c. Paper structure, organization, impact
  - d. Description of disability empowerment and culture
  - e. Analysis and synthesis of implications
5. Responses to Class Discussions (1 page, 10 points)
  - a. Spelling and grammar
  - b. Sentence structure
  - c. Paper structure, organization, impact
  - d. Description of personal contribution
  - e. Summary of what you learned from class
6. Final Exam/Advocacy Plan (4 pages, 40 points)
  - a. Spelling and grammar
  - b. Sentence structure
  - c. Paper structure, organization, impact
  - d. Synthesis of data on disability
  - e. Discussion of implications
  - f. Synthesis of readings, presentation, and research

## **Speaking Assignment Grading Criteria**

1. Presenting personal culture (20 points)
  - a. Organization
  - b. Content
  - c. Audience engagement
2. Presenting Bauman text (20 points)
  - a. Organization
  - b. Content
  - c. Audience engagement
3. Presenting systemic conclusion (20 points)
  - a. Organization
  - b. Content
  - c. Audience engagement