This course will examine the historical experiences of people with disabilities primarily, but not exclusively, from ancient and medieval European history to twentieth century North American society. Topics to be examined include: pre-industrial interpretations of physical and mental disability; the impact of the industrial revolution on disability as a social category and lived experience; segregation, trans-institutionalization and community living; rehabilitation programs and their critics in the twentieth century; diversity, discrimination and activism within the disability community; the modern development of critical literature on the history of people with disabilities.

The teaching style for CDIS 6150, HIST 5538 will be seminar to allow for extensive discussion of the weekly readings.

**Accommodation:** Students with disabilities who need accommodation are encouraged to contact the course instructor.

**Evaluation and Assignments** (to be discussed in more detail in class):
All assignments must be typed and have one consistent citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago). Composition, spelling, grammar and organization are extremely important in graduate school and this will be reflected in the grading of your assignments. Be sure to paginate your assignments. All assignments must be documented and have proper citation form.

**Plagiarism,** or the submission of work which you did not write, will get a minimum of zero for that assignment and may lead to formal charges of academic dishonesty. This could result in an F in the course, depending on the extent of plagiarism, and it may also lead to expulsion from the university. **It is the sole responsibility of each student to ensure that your work is honest and is not plagiarized.** All students are required to read the full York policy on academic integrity and also to complete the tutorial about how to respect these procedures: [http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity) [http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/](http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/).

Students must save all drafts/revisions of their work – this is done not only in case of suspected loss of academic integrity, but also because it allows you to revisit your thinking on the content you are engaged with, an important scholarly practice.
Maintain a folder with your drafts until after your graded paper has been returned.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1) Book Review, 5-7 double-spaced pages – 30% of mark. Due date: February 27. Students will review the book listed below. It will be due the day the book’s author will give a guest presentation in class. The book review should be a critical analysis taking into account whether or not the book offers a critical disability studies perspective on the historical topic under consideration, as well as the extent to which a book makes a contribution to the history of disability. More details will be provided in class.


This book can be purchased at the York University Bookstore.

Grades and on the above will be provided within two weeks of receiving the assignment on the due date. Late papers may take longer to mark and return.

2) In-Class presentation on one article – 15% of mark. Choose from course reading list at the start of winter term. Students will choose one article to present in class (or two articles if two people choose to present together). Presentations will consist of preparing a summary on one reading, including comments explaining to what extent the article in question illustrates the theme for that particular class. At the end of a presentation students are to prepare two questions to discuss in seminar on a particular article. A presentation on one article should be approximately 15 minutes, followed by questions and discussion. Students can present verbally only, or use power point, as preferred. If a presenter wishes to use power point please let me know at least two days before class. Power point slides should also be available in an accessible format for everyone in seminar. A grade for this assignment and written feedback will be sent by email to each student within one week of an in-class presentation.

4) Research Essay on a Topic in Disability History, 18-20 double-spaced pages (exclusive of notes and bibliography) – 40% of mark. Due date: April 10. This topic will be chosen in consultation with the course instructor by March 6. Your essay should be a critical examination of a particular aspect of disability history, such as are indicated in the themes for the weekly readings in the syllabus. Students are encouraged to go beyond the themes set out in the reading list. Your essay can also focus on providing a critical interpretation of the secondary sources that describe disability history. For example, you may wish to write a critical analysis of the way in which researchers have depicted people with intellectual disabilities in historical studies. There should be a minimum of twenty sources cited for the research essay. Students may wish to consult the Archives of Ontario on campus for primary sources regarding topics on provincial history, though this is not a requirement for this essay.
5) Attendance/Participation – 15% of mark: Students are expected to participate regularly in seminar throughout the course and to come prepared to discuss the readings each week. Students are also expected to attend class, unless there is a good reason to be absent in which case the instructor needs to be informed.

Course readings:

On-line: Journal and book readings indicated in course outline.

On reserve: Two readings (one each in Class 2 and 5) at York University Scott Library.

For book review and in-class discussion with the author, due on February 28, students will need to purchase:

Dustin Galer, *Working Towards Equity: Disability Rights Activism and Employment in Late-Twentieth Century Canada* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018). This book will be available at the York University Bookstore.

If you have any difficulty accessing any of the above readings please contact me.

Contact information:

Instructor: Geoffrey Reaume, PhD
Associate Professor
Critical Disability Studies, Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University
Office: Health, Nursing and Environmental Studies Building, Room 416
Phone 416-736-2100, extension 22058 ; Fax: 416-736-5227
Email: greaume@yorku.ca

Office hours, CDIS 6150 HIST 5538:

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30, 2:30-3 or by appointment.
CDIS 6150 Course Outline and Readings:

Unless otherwise indicated, all below required readings for Classes 1 – 12 are available on-line and can be downloaded from the York University Library web site.

Class 1. January 9 – Introduction: Historiography and Methodology


Class 2. January 16 – Disability in Ancient Biblical, European and Egyptian History


Class 3. January 23 – Disability in Medieval Europe and North America


Class 4. January 30 – Slavery, Race and Disability


Class 5. February 6 –Staring and “Repairing”: Charity, Disabled People as “Exhibits” and the Emergence of Rehabilitation


Class 6. February 13 – Disability Histories in Asia and Africa


February 20 - NO CLASSES due to READING WEEK
Class 7. February 27 – Class and Labour in Recent Canadian Disability History

Guest Speaker: Dustin Galer will present on his new book (book review due today):

Galer, Dustin. Working Towards Equity: Disability Rights Activism and Employment in Late-Twentieth Century Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

Class 8. March 6 – People with Intellectual Disabilities: From Eugenic Persecution to Deinstitutionalization


Class 9. March 13 – War and Disability


Class 10. March 20 – Accommodation Struggles of Deaf and Blind People since the 18th Century


Class 11. March 27 – Disabled Activists, 18th to mid 20th Centuries


Class 12. April 3 – Disability Activism from the Mid to Late 20th Century


