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Critical Disability Studies

Final Project

Do you see any particular questions or themes that occupied you throughout the semester? Think about your projects and your contributions inside and outside the classroom. You can consider some of the questions below, but you do not need to answer all of them.

How has your understanding of disability been expanded or challenged? In what contexts did learning happen for you, and how did you contribute to others’ learning?  What will you take from this course into your future courses and your future as a human?

Reflection

I found that during my time in this class I continuously found myself making parallels between this class and my political science class on elements of injustice. It happened so much that I decided to write my final paper for political science on the unnoticed injustices that occur to the disabled community.

I believe that my knowledge of disability has expanded. For example, learning about the history of disability provided me with an additional view and understanding of disability that I did not know beforehand. In addition to that, I found one week’s readings in particular was helpful in expanding my knowledge. It was that week where we read articles on neurodiversity and being neurodivergent in a neurotypical community. Before that point I had not heard the language neurodivergent or neurotypical. I found that this course has supplemented my knowledge in a way that even my Abnormal Psychology class failed to do. In addition to that, I found that the discussion of stimming was a good learning experience for me as well. I did not really know much about stimming, or I did and did not know the terminology for it. The idea of stimming and how it is a practice that is not exclusively neurodivergent but is often labeled as so is something that will stick with me.

I would like to believe that I did contribute to the learning of others this past year. I brought the knowledge that I had from my life experiences and from my experience in my writing seminar, Portraits of Disability and Difference. Portraits of Disability and Difference was a good starting block and foundation for introducing and supplementing in class discussions and I feel that information from that class came in handy for Critical Disability Studies.

I have declared Psychology major with a double in chemistry and neuroscience and I feel that these conversations and topics of disability will not end for me, but instead increase as I pursue my future endeavors. This course, and the writing seminar I took prior, I feel will give me a nuance view of disability in my future courses. Instead of looking at disability strictly in a medical sense, I get to bring a more humanistic view to my academic circles and challenge the material that is placed in front of me.