

CORE 510
Critical Disability Theory

Instructors:

Meaghan Edwards PhD



meaghan.edwards@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours/Policy on Answering Student Emails

Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email.

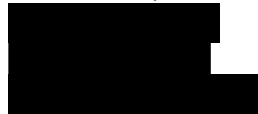
I will respond to emails sent via student's @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.

Teaching Assistant:



Time and Location:

In Person, Synchronous



Prerequisite/Co-Requisite:

54 units including Community Rehabilitation 209, or enrolment in the BCR two-year program.

Course Description:

An overview of advanced disability theory. Topic will be explored through disability theory, social and political understandings of disability, power relations and the centrality of the experience of people with disabilities in the study and implementation of theory and advocacy.

Overarching Theme

This face-to-face course is delivered using flipped classroom elements as well as discussion groups and lectures. The course uses a transformative learning approach in which students take a leadership role in their own learning eventually choosing a topic of interest, leading class discussions, and facilitating peer learning. The course complements and builds upon previous theory courses, especially CORE 209, to connect critical theory to professional life and “real world” context. The Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies’ BCR program prepares students to occupy the space of tension at the intersection of critical theory and professional practice and this course offers opportunities to explore various critical disability theory models and frameworks. Students will have a chance to examine how these frameworks might be put into practice and used to promote equity and positive social change outside of the classroom.

Global Objectives

This course aims to centre advanced critical disability theory in an accessible manner that is relevant to students while offering opportunities and creating intentional space for students to lead their own learning and support each other in their explorations of varying ways of viewing disability, marginalization, and inequality.

The objectives are:

- To foster students' ability to **identify** key foundational and contemporary theories related to disability studies specifically and equity more generally.
- To **cultivate** a practice of considering the theoretical underpinnings of historical and contemporary disability movements and policy and applying these to an area of interest and to the larger community context.
- To explore paths to **translate** theory to professional practice and social climate.
- To **apply** learnings in a structured, student-led discussion aimed at collaborative, peer supported learning.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Identify and recognize** major models and frameworks of critical disability theory.
- **Understand** the application of theory to social issues, professional practice, and social change.
- **Apply** theoretical frameworks to social issues and professional practice.
- **Analyze** scholarly papers and other media based on critical disability theory and apply this theory to a practical issue or practice.
- **Evaluate** the applicability of a theory and critique and reflect upon an article of the student's choosing.
- **Create** a discussion-based activity based upon a scholarly theory article and lead the discussion of this article.

Transferable Skill Development:

Many of the skills and abilities that you are developing in your coursework are transferable to the workforce, graduate and professional studies and other facets of life. Employers seek applicants with transferable skills because they can be an asset in the workplace, regardless of industry or sector. Transferable skills are core skills for your success in building your future career.

The work that you will do in CORE 510 will help you build the following transferable skills:

- **Collaboration:** Work respectfully with others from different backgrounds, cultures, and countries.
- **Verbal Communication:** Learn and share information by presenting, listening, and interacting with others.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Find different and better ways to do things, being curious, thinking imaginatively.
- **Critical Thinking:** Actively and skillfully conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information (data, facts, observable phenomena, and research findings) to make a reasoned judgement or draw a reasonable conclusion.
- **Digital Skills:** Use digital technologies like computers, social media, and the internet.
- **Problem solving:** Identify an issue, find and implement a solution, and assess whether the situation has improved.
- **Project Management:** Conceptualize, initiate, plan and execute a plan to achieve a predetermined goal (project) by effectively prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines.
- **Written Communication:** Share ideas and information by using words, images, and symbols.

Learning Resources

A list of required readings will be outlined on D2L and links and documents will be made available.

A Note regarding readings

Required readings have been chosen carefully to inform you and enhance the lecture material. **Students are REQUIRED to complete assigned readings BEFORE each lecture.** Instructors will proceed in class on the assumption that students have read the assigned readings. Students should be aware that many of the readings they will be assigned may be of an unfamiliar nature and style. Students should plan sufficient time to allow for the possibility of several reads of the assigned material.

Learning Technology Requirements

Brightspace (by D2L) is located on the University of Calgary server and will be used extensively for communication with students. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive emails sent by instructors or fellow students through D2L. Only your @ucalgary.ca email address may be linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

Evaluation

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in Section F of the 2025-2026 Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Assessment *	Weight (% of Grade)		Alignment with course Learning Objectives
Weekly Quizzes	20%		Quizzes will take place each week at the beginning of each class to evaluate your understanding of the required readings for that class (10 quizzes 2 points each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Identify and recognize major models and frameworks of critical disability theory</i>
Discussion Planning Document	10%		Submit a plan for how you will lead a 20 minute in-class discussion based on a policy brief. Apply theoretical frameworks to social issues and professional practice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Analyze scholarly papers and other media based on critical disability theory and apply this theory</i>
Student-Led Discussion	20%		Lead a discussion on a scholarly paper related to critical disability theory as a group. Apply conceptual tools to examine how this theory is related to other scholarly work on disability. Analyze the argument and apply the theory to policy and practice in the field. A policy brief structure will guide the discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Understand the application of theory to social issues, professional practice, and social change</i>• <i>Apply theoretical frameworks to social issues and professional practice</i>• <i>Analyze scholarly papers and other media based on critical disability theory and apply this theory to a practical issue or practice.</i>• <i>Evaluate the applicability of a theory and critique and reflect upon an article of the student's choosing</i>• <i>Create a discussion-based activity based upon a scholarly theory article and lead the discussion of this article</i>

Assessment *	Weight (% of Grade)	Due Date and Time	Alignment with course Learning Objectives
Policy Brief	20%		A completed policy brief document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Understand the application of theory to social issues, professional practice, and social change</i> • <i>Apply theoretical frameworks to social issues and professional practice</i> • <i>Analyze scholarly papers and other media based on critical disability theory and apply this theory to a practical issue or practice.</i> • <i>Evaluate the applicability of a theory and critique and reflect upon an article of the student's choosing</i>
Reflection Uploads	30%		At the end of each week of classes a reflection must be uploaded based on in-class discussions. This will be due each week on the Friday. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Understand the application of theory to social issues, professional practice, and social change</i> • <i>Apply theoretical frameworks to social issues and professional practice</i> • <i>Analyze scholarly papers and other media based on critical disability theory and apply this theory to a practical issue or practice.</i>

Descriptions and rubrics/marking guidelines of each assessment item are posted in D2L.

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

A Note regarding Writing Assignments:

Writing skills are important to academic study in all disciplines. In keeping with the University of Calgary's emphasis on the importance of academic writing in student assignments (Section E.2 of 2025-26 Calendar), writing is emphasized, and the grading thereof in determining a student's mark in this course. The Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation program values excellence in writing. Competence in writing entails skills in crafting logical, clear, coherent, non-redundant sentences, paragraphs and broader arguments, as well as skills with the mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation). Sources used to complete each assessment must be properly documented, unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The University of Calgary offers instructional services through the Students' Success Centre's Writing Support Services (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/writingsupport/>) for students seeking feedback on assignments or seeking to improve their general writing skills. Students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of these programs.

Grading Scheme:

Letter Grade	Description	Percentage
A+	Outstanding performance	96-100
A	Excellent performance	90-95.99
A-	Approaching excellent performance	85-89
B+	Exceeding good performance	80-84
B	Good performance	75-79
B-	Approaching good performance	70-74
C+	Exceeding satisfactory performance	65-69
C	Satisfactory performance	60-64
C-	Approaching satisfactory performance	57-59
D+	Marginal pass	54-56
D	Minimal pass	50-53
F	Does not meet course requirements	0-49

Missed Components of Term Work:

Late assignments will receive a late penalty of 5% per day and will not be accepted after 72 hours and will automatically receive a mark of zero.

As per University Calendar Section G.2.3 students who are absent from an in-class assessment such as a quiz or student-led discussion will receive a mark of zero on the missed component. Students who are absent are responsible for contacting their instructor to discuss the impact of their missed assessment. Alternative opportunities for completing missed assessments or shifting of the assessment weight may be possible but are not guaranteed. Students who are identified as falsifying information related to missed assessments will be subject to investigation for academic misconduct.

Extensions will NOT be granted on any assignment or quizzes in CORE 510. The only exceptions to this are those in keeping with the University Calendar (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or severe domestic affliction) that are received in writing and with supporting documentation. Traffic jams and late or full buses are common events in Calgary and are NOT acceptable reasons for late arrivals to class, meetings and examinations. Please note that while absences are permitted for religious reasons, students are responsible for providing advance notice and adhering to other guidelines on this matter, as outlined in the University Calendar

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/02ffccb6b1a541db880fe4223d122b5e>

Course Evaluations and Student Feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the new UCalgary Course Experience Survey and a qualitative student evaluation. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor. Students may also address any concerns they may have with

Associate Dean

Attendance

Regular attendance is advised in order to succeed in CORE 510. Students are expected to take notes during class and should not rely solely on material supplied by the instructors. Instructors may or may not post lectures notes to D2L, at their individual discretion. In-class discussion and all content presented in class, including concepts and examples, can constitute substantial learning and can be considered for assessment.

Conduct During Lectures and/or Seminars

The classroom should be respected as a safe place to share ideas without judgement - a community in which we can all learn from one another. Students are expected to frame their comments and questions to lecturers in respectful and appropriate language, always maintaining sensitivity towards the topic. Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment.

As members of the University community, students, employees and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-conduct/policy>

Use of Internet and Electronic Communication Devices in Class

The Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation program aims to create a supportive and respectful learning environment for all students. The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. However, research studies have found that inappropriate/off-topic use of electronic devices in the classroom negatively affects the learning of others during class time.

Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), and specifically foundational models that can create writing, computer code, and /or images using minimal human prompting includes not only GPT-4 (and its siblings ChatGPT and Bing), but many writing assistants that are built on this or similar AI technologies.

You may use generative artificial intelligence tools and apps for learning course material, but their use **is strictly prohibited in all course assignments** unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor in this course. This includes ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants. Use of generative AI in this course may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of cheating and a breach of academic integrity subject to Academic Misconduct procedures. You could be asked to provide evidence of your own work. While we appreciate that the use of AI tools is appropriate in some contexts in this course we will be focusing on building your own critical thinking, foundational knowledge and writing skills, which could be compromised by a reliance on AI tools.

Students are not allowed to upload class slides, assignment instructions, or other course materials to AI tools or platforms. These are the intellectual property of the course instructor (IP); uploading these to and AI platform may breach IP rules since some of these sites may use these as training/output data.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

Copyright

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences

of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may **NOT** be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. **The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited.** Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course **at the same time** may be allowed under fair dealing.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>. Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a Protected Ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Associate Dean [REDACTED]

Academic Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. The University of Calgary has created rules to govern all its members regarding the creation of knowledge and the demonstration of knowledge having been learned.

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour that compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes (but is not limited to): cheating, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses, and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar. **It also includes using of third party websites/services to access past/current course material, essay/assignment writing services, or real-time assistance in completing assessments, seeking answers to assessment questions and similar, whether paid, bartered or unpaid.**

For information of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures, please visit; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>.

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity website at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures (or similar) by students is prohibited except where explicit permission has been received from the instructor.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Appeals

If there is a concern with the course, academic matter or a grade, first communicate with the instructor. If these concerns cannot be resolved, students can proceed with an academic appeal, as per Section I of the University Calendar. Students must follow the official reappraisal/appeal process and may contact the Student Ombuds' Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds>) for assistance with this and with any other academic concerns, including academic and non-academic misconduct. Students should be aware that concerns about graded term work may only be initiated **within 10 business days** of first being notified of the grade.

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/e31a7115dca740ec83579e946d4a4193>

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Resources for Support of Student Learning, Success, Safety and Wellness

Student Success Centre	http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/
Student Wellness Centre	http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/
Student Advocacy and Wellness Hub (CSM)	https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/mdprogram/current-students/student-advising-wellness
Distress Centre	http://www.distresscentre.com/
Library Resources	http://library.ucalgary.ca

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth>)

Student Ombuds' Office

The Student Ombuds' Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; the SU representatives for the Cumming School of Medicine can be reached at medrep1@su.ucalgary.ca or medrep2@su.ucalgary.ca.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

As part of the University of Calgary Emergency Evacuation plan, students, faculty, and staff should locate the closest Assembly Point in case of Fire Alarm. Safety signage is posted throughout the campus showing the locations and the possible route to these locations. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to promptly make their way to the nearest Assembly Point if the Fire Alarm is activated. No one is to return into campus facilities until an all clear is given to the warden in charge of the Assembly Area. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/drills/assembly-points-and-evacuation-maps>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.

