**Course Proposal: Ethics of Disability**

Historically, humans have treated people with disabilities, mental illness and chronic health conditions horribly. Persons labeled as ‘abnormal’ been subject to systematic stigmatization, discrimination, persecution and violence. In the 20th century a whole series of interesting new philosophies of disability have worked to identify, articulate and criticize traditional attitudes towards disability. This class introduces the student to contemporary philosophical work on disability with the aim of answering certain central ethical questions surrounding the treatment of the disabled. Topics covered include: What does it mean to be disabled? How important are the unique experiences of the disabled for understanding disability? Are the disabled worse off? How can we know? What do we owe to the disabled? Should society cure or eliminate disabilities, if it can? Is it permissible to cause your future children to be disabled?

**Course Bibliography**

**Selected Books**

Barnes, Elizabeth. *The Minority Body: A Theory of Disability*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Foucault, Michel. *Abnormal: Lectures at the College de France*, 1974-1975. Trans. Graham Burchell. New York: Picador, 2003.

Hacking, Ian. *Making up people*. 1986.

Hunt, P. (Ed.). (1966). *Stigma: The experience of disability*. London; Dublin [etc.]: G. Chapman.

Licia Carlson, *The Faces of Intellectual Disability: Philosophical Reflection,* Indiana, 2009.

Magee, B. & Milligan, M. *On blindness : letters between Bryan Magee and Martin Milligan*. Oxford New York: Oxford University Pres., 1995.

Wendell, Susan (1996). *The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability*. Routledge.

**Selected Journal Articles**

Becker, Lawrence C. (2005). Reciprocity, justice, and disability. *Ethics* 116 (1):9-39.

Andrić, Vuko & Wündisch, Joachim (2015). Is It Bad to Be Disabled? Adjudicating Between the Mere-Difference and the Bad-Difference Views of Disability. *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 9 (3):1–16.

Campbell, Stephen M. & Stramondo, Joseph A. (2017). The Complicated Relationship of Disability and Well-Being. *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 27 (2):151-184.

Couser, G. Thomas (2011). What Disability Studies Has to Offer Medical Education. *Journal of Medical Humanities* 32 (1):21-30.

Cureton, Adam (2006). Some advantages to having a parent with a disability. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 42 (1):31-34.

E. F. Kittay, and L. Kittay, “On the Expressivity and Ethics of Selective Abortion for Disability: Conversations with My Son”

Greene, Mark & Augello, Steven (2011). Everworse: What's Wrong with Selecting for Disability? *Public Affairs Quarterly* 25 (2):131-140.

Gill, Carol J. (2004). Depression in the context of disability and the “right to die”. *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 25 (3):171-198.

Gyngell, Christopher & Douglas, Thomas (2016). Selecting Against Disability: The Liberal Eugenic Challenge and the Argument from Cognitive Diversity. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*.

Kahane, Guy & Savulescu, Julian (forthcoming). Disability and Mere Difference. *Ethics*.

Harris, J. (2001). One principle and three fallacies of disability studies. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 27 (6):383-387.

Nussbaum, Martha (2009). The capabilities of people with cognitive disabilities. *Metaphilosophy* 40 (3-4):331-351.

Rudnick, Abraham (2013). What is a Psychiatric Disability? *Health Care Analysis* (2):1-9.

Siebers, T. (2003). What can disability studies learn from the culture wars?. *Cultural Critique*, *55*(1), 182-216.

Shoemaker, David (2010). Responsibility, Agency, and Cognitive Disability. In Eva Feder Kittay & Licia Carlson (eds.), *Cognitive Disability and its Challenge to Moral Philosophy*. Wiley-Blackwell. pp. 201--223.

Shoemaker, David (2009). Responsibility and disability. *Metaphilosophy* 40 (3-4):438-461.

Schroeder, S. Andrew (2016). Health, Disability, and Well-Being. In Guy Fletcher (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being*. Routledge.

Tremain, Shelley (2013). Introducing Feminist Philosophy of Disability. *Disability Studies Quarterly*.

Zohny, Hazem (forthcoming). Enhancement, disability and the riddle of the relevant circumstances. *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

**Course Outline**

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| Week | Topics | Readings |
| 1 | Introduction – overview of the course, topic, questions.  The Status of the Body in Western Culture and Western Philosophy | Aristotle Excerpts Nicomachean Ethics, Book One, §§1-5 and part of §6 Politics, Book One (all)  Short Video: [Reading Aristotle](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Dgtozw64eI&feature=youtube_gdata_player), 2013.  Descartes, René Excerpts from Meditations on First Philosophy, Meditation I (all), Meditation II (all)  Short Video: [Three Minute Philosophy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHihkRwisbE&feature=youtube_gdata_player): Rene Descartes, 2009. |
| 2 | The Experience of being Disabled | Goffman, Erving (1986), Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity (New York: Simon & Schuster).  Joan, & Susman. (1994). Disability, stigma and deviance. Social Science & Medicine, 38(1), 15-22. |
| 3 | Eugenics & The Medicalization of Stigma | Kevles, D. J. (1985). In the name of eugenics : genetics and the uses of human heredity (1st ed.). New York: Knopf.  Wright, D. (2001). Mental disability in Victorian England : the Earlswood Asylum, 1847-1901. Oxford ; New York: Clarendon Press. |
| 4 | Defining Disability & The Role of the Body | An Example of the “Medical Model” of Disability Boorse, Christopher. 1977. “Health as a Theoretical Concept.” Philosophy of Science 44 (4): 542–73.   “Social Models” of Disability Shakespeare, T, and N Watson. 1997. “Defending the Social Model.” Disability and Society 12 (2): 293– 300. |
| 5 | The Social Model of Disability (extended) | Olkin, R. “The Minority Model of Disability” (Chapter 2), What Psychotherapists Should Know about Disability. New York: Guilford Press.  Tremain, Shelley. 2001. “On the Government of Disability.” Social Theory & Practice 27 (4): 617–36. |
| 6 | Criticisms of the social model of disability | Bickenbach, Jerome E, Somnath Chatterji, E.M Badley, and T.B. 1999. “Models of Disablement, Universalism and the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps.” Social Science & Medicine 48 (9): 1173–87. doi:10.1016/S0277-9536(98)00441-9.  Thomas, Carol. 2004. “How Is Disability Understood? An Examination of Sociological Approaches.” Disability & Society 19 (6): 569–83. |
| 7 | The problem of adaptive preferences | Nussbaum, M. (2001). “Adaptive Preferences and Women's Options.” *Economics and Philosophy* 17: 67-88.  Barnes, E. (2009). Disability and adaptive preference. *Philosophical perspectives*, *23*(1), 1-22. |
| 8 | Disability and Human Flourishing | Barnes, Elizabeth. ‘Valuing Disability, Causing Disability’ Ethics 125 (1), p. 88-113.  Kahane, Guy & Savulescu, Julian (forthcoming). ‘Disability and Mere Difference.’ *Ethics*.  Optional:  Barnes, Elizabeth ‘[Reply to K&S’](http://elizabethbarnesphilosophy.weebly.com/uploads/3/8/1/0/38105685/reply_to_k_s__revised_.pdf) |
| 9 | Physician-Assisted Suicide | Dworkin, Ronald, Thomas Nagel, Robert Nozick, John Rawls, and Judith Jarvis Thomson. 1997. “Assisted Suicide: The Philosophers’ Brief.” The New York Review of Books, March 27. http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/1997/mar/27/assisted-suicide-the-philosophers-brief/  Longmore, Paul K. 2005. “Policy, Prejudice, and Reality: Two Case Studies of Physician-Assisted Suicide.” Journal of Disability Policy Studies 16 (1): 38–45.  Vacco v. Quill. 1997, 521 US 793. Supreme Court. Silvers, A. 1997.  “Protecting the Innocents. People with Disabilities and Physician-Assisted Dying.” The Western Journal of Medicine 166 (6) (June): 407–409 |
| 10 | Prenatal Screening & Abortion | Madeo, Anne C., Barbara B. Biesecker, Campbell Brasington, Lori H. Erby, and Kathryn F. Peters. 2011. “The Relationship between the Genetic Counseling Profession and the Disability Community: A Commentary.” American Journal of Medical Genetics Part A 155 (8): 1777–1785.    Madeo, Anne C., Barbara B. Biesecker, Campbell Brasington, Lori H. Erby, and Kathryn F. Peters. 2011. “The Relationship between the Genetic Counseling Profession and the Disability Community: A Commentary.” American Journal of Medical Genetics Part A 155 (8): 1777–1785.    Bauer, Patricia E. 2011. “Reaching across the Disability Divide: The Case for Collaboration with the Disability Community to Construct a Robust Informed Consent Process around Prenatal Screening and Diagnosis.” American Journal of Medical Genetics Part A 155 (8): 1788–1790.  E. F. Kittay, and L. Kittay, “On the Expressivity and Ethics of Selective Abortion for Disability: Conversations with My Son” |
| 11 | Disability & Responsibility | Shoemaker, David (2010). Responsibility, Agency, and Cognitive Disability. In Eva Feder Kittay & Licia Carlson (eds.), *Cognitive Disability and its Challenge to Moral Philosophy*. Wiley-Blackwell. pp. 201--223.  Shoemaker, David (2009). Responsibility and disability. *Metaphilosophy* 40 (3-4):438-461 |
| 12 | Selecting for Disability | Greene, Mark & Augello, Steven (2011). Everworse: What's Wrong with Selecting for Disability? *Public Affairs Quarterly* 25 (2):131-140. |
| 13 | Student Presentations |  |
| 14 | Student Presentations |  |
| 15 | Review |  |
| 16 | Final Exam |  |