

ANTHROPOLOGY 3354F-200/9230A

Department of Anthropology

Disability and Health in Local and Global Worlds

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2026

Date: July 18, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Pamela Block

Office: SSC-3425

Office hours: TBD

Email: pblock@uwo.ca

Method of delivery: Blended

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Registration in third or fourth year in any Anthropology module or Disability Studies module or instructor permission.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

This is a course about intersections. Disability cuts across age, gender, class, caste, occupation, religion- or does it? By some measures, people with disabilities are the largest minority group in the world today. In this course, we critically examine both the experiences of people with experiences with disability or chronic health conditions as well as the politics and processes of writing about such experiences through an anthropological lens. Indeed, questions of representation are perhaps at the core of this course. Is there such a thing as an international or universal disability experience? What does it mean to be disabled or have a chronic health condition in different social, economic, and political contexts in today's world?

In the beginning of the course, we will develop an anthropological foundation from which to talk about local and global contexts as well as disability. We will consider issues of local development, globalization, and transnationalism (Note: of specific relevance to MER students). We will ask whether disability is a universal category, and we will consider how experiences of health, illness, disability, and debility vary over temporal and spatial contexts. We will engage in "concept work" by analyzing the relationships between disability and impairment and we will critically evaluate the different models employed to think about disability. In doing so, we will rethink (perhaps) previously taken for granted understandings of disability and health and we will also engage with broader

questions about international development, human rights, the boundaries of the nation, the family and other kinship affiliations, and identity and community formation (Note: Of specific relevance to MER students). How is occupying and decolonizing health and disability both a productive analytic and a lens for thinking about pressing questions and concerns in today's world?

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

No textbook. Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Collective Access Engagement	25%
Discussion Leadership	25%
Essay	25%
Alternate Format Assignment	25%

If you are comfortable with a grade between passing and 75% you may opt to skip one of the non-essay assignments. If you are seeking an A or are in danger of failing, all four assignments should be completed.

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