

**SOCIAL DISABILITY STUDIES
AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Behavioural Sciences
Social Work Unit**



Social Disability Studies - A vehicle for empowering the collective voices of the diverse community of persons with disabilities through the creation of allies for informing others of the real world needs for disability policy.

These studies have reframed disability as a social phenomenon and social construct with a view of developing anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory social environments that are more inclusive of the person with disabilities.

**SOCIAL DISABILITY STUDIES
SW 24A (SOWK 2007)**

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to Social Disability Studies for students of The University of the West Indies who wish to examine disability using theoretical frames and to understand policy development in this area.

The Social Disability Studies course is designed to sensitize students to the marginalization and discrimination experienced by the disabled within an unadaptive society. It examines the interaction of persons with disabilities within the existing political, social, cultural and legal system.

The class also caters for students with disabilities where it provides the forum for them to have a voice and participate in the discourse on disability. It therefore follows the philosophy of "Nothing about us without us".

All students of the University are eligible to undertake this course of study.

Teaching:

- Semester II

Tuesdays: 3 – 5 p.m.

- Summer School Programme

No. of Credits: 3

Prerequisites - None

Special Awards:

The Wayne Naranjit's Disability Studies prize is awarded annually to the best performing student in the class. This prize is in honour of Wayne Naranjit (1978–2005), a student with a disability who attended The University of the West Indies during the period 2000-2005.

Website:

The Centre for Disability Studies is a website that provides a forum and focal point for Disability Studies at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.



The website is very useful for students as it serves as the public information component of the embryonic unit for Disability Studies within the Department of Behavioural Sciences.

(<http://sta.uwi.edu/disabilitystudies/>)

In 2004 the Social Work Unit of the Department of Behavioural Sciences held a Think Tank on the integration of persons with disabilities into the education system. This project began the development of Social Disabilities Studies at The University of the West Indies. The first activity was the introduction of a Social Disability Studies Course as a new elective to the Social Work Unit.

The second activity relates to the establishment of a research agenda. Beginning with a partnership with the Leonard Cheshire Home, the Social Disability Class hosted a “National Seminar on Disability”.

This has been followed up with a workshop and presentation on research and persons with disabilities which have set the ground for the development of a research agenda for disability studies at the University.

Aims of the programme:

1. To promote inclusiveness amongst our diverse population.
2. To assist in helping others appreciate the range of abilities that we all possess.
3. To assist in helping the University campus to be better prepared for students with disabilities who are currently part of the student body and the anticipated increase in such students on the campus.

STAFF

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