SOCIAL DISABILITY STUDIES
at
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

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.

Class activity – role play to empathize with the visually impaired.

SOCIAL DISABILITY STUDIES
(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.

This course has no prerequisites

Teaching:

Semester II
Tuesdays: 3 – 5 pm

Semester III
Tuesdays 3 - 6pm

No. of Credits: 3

Special Awards

The Wayne Naranjit Disability Studies Prize

This prize is awarded annually to the best performing student in the Semester II class.

This prize is in honour of Wayne Naranjit (1978–2005) who attended The University of the West Indies during the period 2000-2005.

Website:

(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 broken 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.

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STAFF

Coordinator
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Social Policy Coordinator
Social Policy Programme

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