

WGSS 3322
(class number: 20332)

Intersectionalities: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Disabled Lives

INSTRUCTOR: JESS WAGGONER TIME: MW 1-2:30 PM PLACE: CV N106

FALL 2017

This course pursues questions of “Who is disabled and what are the processes of determining disability? What is the relationship between disability, illness, and race? Does disability have a gender? And why is it so difficult to conceptualize a sexual life for people with disabilities?”

We will move through the legacy of freak shows, sterilization laws, medical racism, and the institutionalization of the “unfit” into the present day. Students will explore literary and cultural representations of queer, straight and kink sexualities that are all, in one way or another, informed by illness and disability. Alongside developing analytical and critical thinking skills through academic discussion and writing, students will also be asked to engage in multiple hands-on activities that facilitate more accessible spaces on campus and in the community, including a group project that examines the gender and disability accessibility of campus bathrooms.

Note: *This course requires students to engage with strong language, graphic and violent material in visual and textual form.*