

## 16:224 History of Disability

Spring 2013

Wednesday 2:30-4:20

176 Schaeffer Hall

[douglas-baynton@uiowa.edu](mailto:douglas-baynton@uiowa.edu)

**Douglas Baynton**

Office: 322 SH

Office phone: 335-2300

Office hrs: TWTh 10:30-11:30

& by appointment

The first half of the semester is dedicated to reading major texts in disability history; the second, to individual projects. Because this course attracts students from a variety of disciplines, the paper requirements—topic, types of evidence, citation style, methodology—are flexible. I want the class to be useful to your work in your own field and to contribute to your progress. As long as you make use of historical evidence, address change over time and historical context—in other words, incorporate a historical dimension into your work—you may write the paper on a topic and in a manner appropriate to your discipline.

Graduate students in history have the choice of counting the class as either a research seminar or a readings course. If the former, you will produce original scholarship using both primary and secondary material. If the latter, you will write an historiographical essay on the literature around a particular topic, period, theme, or methodology, along with an annotated bibliography. Final papers in both cases should be 20 to 30 pages.

Janalyn Moss is the Reference Librarian for American History, African American Studies, American Studies, American Indian and Native Studies Program, Anthropology, and Museum Studies. I encourage you to meet with her for consultation on your research.

Contact: [janalyn-moss@uiowa.edu](mailto:janalyn-moss@uiowa.edu) 335-5698

### Weekly assignments

- Come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. For each reading, write a concise description of the argument and the types of evidence used. Half a page or so (dbl sp) for each should be sufficient.
- For two classes of your choice, write a brief description of a potential research project related to the topic for that week, appropriately limited and defined for a semester project, including the kinds of source material you could use and where you would look for them. A page or two is sufficient.
- All readings can be accessed via ICON, library reserve, and/or electronically via InfoHawk.

### Reading Schedule

1. **January 23** Introduction to the course

2. **January 30** Introduction to the field

#### **Read**

- Shapiro, *No Pity*, 1-40. Icon & Reserve
- Longmore & Umansky, *New Disability History*, 1-29. Icon & Reserve
- Longmore, *Why I Burned My Book*, 32-39, 230-259 Icon & Reserve
- Thomson, *Extraordinary Bodies*, 5-51. Electronic & Reserve

**Look over** the following—useful for considering research projects and secondary sources:

- Susan Burch, "Disability History: Suggested Readings," *Public Historian* 27:2 (2005): 63-74. Icon
- Catherine Kudlick, "Disability History," *American Historical Review* 108 (June 2003): 763-793. Icon

#### Further Reading

- Susan Burch, ed., *Encyclopedia of American Disability History*. Facts On File, 2009.
- Harlan Hahn, "Antidiscrimination laws and Social research on Disability: The Minority Group Perspective." *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* 14 (1996): 41-59.
- Harlan Hahn, "The Politics of Physical Differences: Disability and Discrimination," *Journal of Social Issues* 44, no. 1 (1988): 39-48.
- Simi Linton, *Claiming Disability: Knowledge and Identity*. NYU Press 1998.
- Paul Longmore, "A Note on Language and the Social Identity of Disabled People," *American Behavioral Scientist* 28 (Jan./Feb. 1985): 419-23.
- Michael Oliver, *Politics of Disablement: A Sociological Approach*. St. Martin's Pr. 1990.
- Michael Oliver, *Understanding Disability: From Theory to Practice*. Palgrave 2009.
- Kim E. Nielsen, *A Disability History of the United States*. Beacon Press 2012.
- Martin Norden, *The Cinema of Isolation: A History of Disability in the Movies*. Rutgers UP 1994.

### **3. February 6 Disability, Race, Gender, Sexuality** **Read**

- Douglas Baynton, "Disability and the Justification of Inequality in American History," in *New Disability History*, 33-57. Icon
- John Williams Searle, in *The New Disability History*, 157-186. Icon
- Susan Schweik, *The Ugly Laws*, 1-88, 141-206. Reserve and electronic
- Elizabeth Reis, *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex*, Johns Hopkins UP, 2009, Intro and chapters 1-3. Electronic

#### Further Reading

- Sarah Chinn, "Gender, Sex, and Disability from Helen Keller to Tiny Tim," *Radical History Review* 94 (2006): 240-248.
- Alice D. Dreger *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex*. Harvard UP, 2000.
- Rosemarie Garland Thomson, "Feminist Disability Studies: A Review Essay." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 30, 2 (Winter 2005): 1557-87.
- Rosemarie Garland Thomson, *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature*. Columbia UP, 1997.
- Alison Kafer, "Compulsory Bodies: Reflections on Heterosexuality and Able-bodiedness," *Journal of Women's History* 15.3 (2003) 77-89. ICON
- Robert McRuer, "Compulsory Able-bodiedness and Queer/Disabled Existence," in *Disability Studies: Enabling the Humanities*, ed. Sharon L. Snyder, Brenda Jo Brueggemann, and Rosemarie Garland-Thomson. MLA, 2002.
- David Serlin, "Crippling Masculinity: Queerness and Disability in U.S. Military Culture, 1800-1945," *GLQ* 9 (1/2) (2003): 149-179. ICON

- Barbara Young Welke, *Law and the Borders of Belonging in the Long Nineteenth-Century United States*. University of Minnesota Press, 2010.
- Susan Wendell, *The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability*. Routledge, 1996.

#### 4. February 13 Eugenics, euthanasia, assisted suicide

##### Read

- Philip Reilly, *The Surgical Solution*, 30-127. Reserve
- Paul Longmore, *Why I Burned My Book*, 149-212. Icon, Reserve & Electronic
- James Trent, *Inventing the Feeble Mind*, 131-166. Icon & Reserve
- Martin Pernick, "Defining the Defective: Eugenics, Aesthetics, and Mass Culture in Early-Twentieth Century America," in Mitchell, *The Body and Physical Difference: Discourses of Disability*, 1997, 89-101. Icon

##### Further reading:

- Elof Axel Carlson, *The Unfit: A History of a Bad Idea*. Cold Spring Harbor Press, 2001.
- Harlan Hahn, "Public Policy and Disabled Infants: A Sociopolitical Perspective," *Issues in Law and Medicine* 3, No. 1 (Summer 1987).
- Jay Joseph, "The 1942 'Euthanasia' Debate in the American Journal of Psychiatry," *History of Psychiatry*, 16(2): 171-179.
- Stefan Kuhl, *The Nazi Connection: Eugenics, American Racism, and German National Socialism*. Oxford UP, 1994.
- Mark A. Largent, *Breeding Contempt: The History of Coerced Sterilization in the United States* / Rutgers UP, 2008.
- Paul A. Lombardo, *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court, and Buck V. Bell*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2008.
- Martin Pernick, *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of "Defective" Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures since 1915*. Oxford UP, 1996.
- Joseph Shapiro, "No Less Worthy a Life," *No Pity*, chapter 9 (pp 258-288).

#### 5. February 20 Normality and Freakery

##### Read

- Dreger, *One of Us*. Reserve
- Ian Hacking, *Taming of Chance*, 1-10, 160-179. Icon
- Thomson, *Extraordinary Bodies*, 55-80. Reserve and Electronic
- James Cook, "Of Men, Missing Links, and Non-Descripts," in Thomson, *Freakery*, 139-157. Icon and Reserve
- Lennard Davis, *Enforcing Normalcy*, 1-49. Reserve and Electronic

##### Further Reading

- Rachel Adams, *Sideshow USA: Freaks and the American Cultural Imagination*. University of Chicago Press, 2001.
- Lois Bragg, "Planet of the Normates," book review essay in *American Anthropologist* 100 (March 1998): 177-180.
- Georges Canguilhem, *The Normal and the Pathological*. Zone Books, 1989.
- Francois Ewald, "Norms, Discipline, and the Law," *Representations* 30 (Spring 1990): 138-161. ICON
- Leslie Fiedler, *Freaks: Myths and Images of the Secret Self*. Simon and Schuster, 1978.
- Rosemarie Garland Thomson, *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body*. NYU Press, 1996. (Bogdan and Gerber on ICON)

- Bogdan, Robert. *Picturing disability: Beggar, Freak, Citizen, and Other Photographic Rhetoric*. Syracuse UP 2012.

## 6. February 27 Disability Rights

### Read

- Shapiro, *No Pity*, 41-73. Icon and Reserve
  - Ruth O'Brien, *Crippled Justice*, 63-136. Reserve
  - Paul K. Longmore, *Why I Burned My Book*
    - "The League of the Physically Handicapped, 53-101 Icon and Reserve
    - "The Disability Rights Moment: Activism," 102-115. Icon and Reserve
    - "The Second Phase," 215-224. Icon and Reserve
  - UC Berkeley website on the Disability Rights Movement. Icon
- Read "Introduction," browse "The Collection," look over "Timeline" (in Related Resources), and read or watch any parts of the Symposium that look interesting (you might watch the short clip of Longmore, since we're reading several of his articles). <http://tiny.cc/NYjvK>

### Further reading:

- James Charlton, *Nothing About Us without Us: Disability Oppression and Empowerment*. U of California Press, 1998.
- Fred Pelka, *ABC-Clio Companion to the Disability Rights Movement*, ABC Clio, 1997.
- Fred Pelka, *What We Have Done: An Oral History of the Disability Rights Movement*, U of Massachusetts Press, 2012.
- Doris Zames Fleischer and Frieda Zames, *The Disability Rights Movement: From Charity to Confrontation*. Temple UP, 2001.
- Richard Scotch, *From Good Will to Civil Rights: Transforming Federal Disability Policy*. Temple UP, 2001.
- Sharon Barnartt and Richard Scotch, *Disability Protests: Contentious Politics 1970-1999*. Gallaudet UP, 2001.

## 7. March 6 Meanings of disability: deafness and blindness

### Read

- Douglas Baynton, *Forbidden Signs*, Introduction, 1-14, 36-55. Icon
- Ernest Freeburg, "Meanings of Blindness in 19th-Century America," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* 110, 2002): 119-152. Icon
- Ernest Freeburg, *Education of Laura Bridgman, First Deaf and Blind Person to Learn Language*, 1-28, 173-191. Reserve and Electronic
- Longmore & Umansky, eds. *The New Disability History*:
  - Cathy Kudlick, "The Outlook of *the Problem*, and the Problem with the Outlook," 187-213.
  - Kim Nielson, "Helen Keller and the Politics of Civic Fitness," 268-290.
  - David Gerber, "Blind and Enlightened," 313-334.Icon & Reserve

### Further Reading:

- H-Dirksen L. Bauman, ed. *Open Your Eyes: Deaf Studies Talking*, Minnesota UP, 2008.
- Robert Buchanan, *Illusions of Equality: Deaf Americans in School and Factory*. Gallaudet UP, 1999.

- Susan Burch, *Signs of Resistance: American Deaf Cultural History, 1900 to World War II*. NYUP, 2002.
- Susan Burch, Hannah Joyner, *Unspeakable: The Story of Junius Wilson*, UNC Press, 2007.
- R. A. R. Edwards, *Words Made Flesh: Nineteenth-Century Deaf Education and the Growth of Deaf Culture*, NYUP, 2012.
- Elizabeth Gitter, *The Imprisoned Guest: Laura Bridgman, The Original Deaf-Blind Girl*. Picador, 2002.
- Nora Groce, *Everyone Here Spoke Sign Language: Hereditary Deafness on Martha's Vineyard*. Harvard UP, 1985. (Excerpts on ICON)
- Frances Koestler, *The Unseen Minority: A Social History of Blindness in America*. D. McKay Co, 1976.
- Floyd Matson, *Walking Alone and Marching Together: A History of the Organized Blind Movement in the US, 1940-1990*. Nat'l Federation of the Blind, 1990.
- Kim E. Nielsen, *The Radical Lives of Helen Keller*, New York UP, 2004.
- Carol Padden, Tom Humphries, *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture*. Harvard UP, 1988.
- Carol Padden, Tom Humphries, *Inside Deaf Culture*. Harvard UP, 2006.
- John Van Cleve and Barry Crouch, *A Place of Their Own: Creating the Deaf Community in America*. Gallaudet UP, 1989.

## 8. March 13 Cognitive and Psychiatric Disability

### Read

- Joshua Wolf Shenk, *Lincoln's Melancholy*. Reserve
- Andrew Lakoff, "Adaptive Will: The Evolution of Attention Deficit Disorder," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 36 (Spring 2000):149–169. Icon
- Rick Mayes and A. Rafalovich, "Suffer the Restless Children: The Evolution of ADHD and Paediatric Stimulant Use, 1900–80," *History of Psychiatry*, 18(4): 435–457. Icon
- Amy Harmon, "Neurodiversity Forever; The Disability Movement Turns to Brains," *New York Times*, May 9, 2004. Icon
- Jane E. Brody, "Quirks, Oddities May Be Illnesses," *New York Times*, February 4, 1997. Icon

### Further Reading

- T. J. Brown, *Dorothea Dix: New England Reformer*. Harvard UP, 1998.
- Ellen Dwyer, *Homes for the Mad: Life Inside Two Nineteenth-Century Asylums*. Rutgers UP, 1987.
- Sander L. Gilman, *Disease and Representation : Images of Illness from Madness to AIDS*. Cornell UP, 1988.
- David Gollaher, *Voice for the Mad: The Life of Dorothea Dix*. Free Press, 1995.
- Gerald Grob, *Mental Illness and American Society, 1875-1940*. Princeton U. Press, 1983.
- P. McCandless, *Moonlight, Magnolias & Madness: Insanity in South Carolina from the Colonial Period to the Progressive Era*. University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
- Roy Porter, *Madness: A Brief History*. Oxford UP, 2002.

- Edward Shorter, *A History of Psychiatry: From the Age of the Asylum to the Age of Prozac*. John Wiley & Sons, 1997.
- James Trent, *Inventing the Feeble Mind: A History of Mental Retardation in the United States*. University of California Press, 1994.
- Steven Noll and James W. Trent, Jr., eds. *Mental Retardation in America: A Historical Reader*, NYUP, 2004.
- David Wright, *Downs: The History of a Disability*, Oxford UP, 2011.

### Spring break

- 9. March 27** \*Due today: paper proposals (2 pg) with an annotated bibliography of sources you have so far identified.  
\*Bring copies for everyone.\*
- 10. April 3** No class: individual conferences as needed.
- 11. April 10** No class: individual conferences as needed.
- 12. April 17** No class: individual conferences as needed.
- 13. April 24** First drafts due -- bring three copies to class, two to exchange with other students for critique, and one for the instructor.  
Progress reports and problem solving.
- 14. May 1** Critiques of drafts due – bring two copies.  
Presentations.
- 15. May 8** Presentations.
- May 15** Final papers due.

### Assigned Books

- Lennard Davis, *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body*. Verso 1995. Reserve and electronic.
- Alice D. Dreger, *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of Normal*. Harvard 2004. Reserve.
- Ernest Freeburg, *Education of Laura Bridgman, First Deaf and Blind Person to Learn Language*. Harvard UP 2001. Reserve and Electronic.
- Paul Longmore, *Why I Burned My Book, and Other Essays on Disability*. Temple 2003. Reserve and electronic.
- Paul Longmore, Lauri Umansky, eds. *The New Disability History: American Perspectives*. NYUP 2000. Reserve.
- The Body and Physical Difference: Discourses of Disability*, David Mitchell, ed. University of Michigan Press 1997. Reserve.
- Ruth O'Brien, *Crippled Justice: The History of Modern Disability Policy in the Workplace*. University of Chicago Press 2001. Reserve.



Elizabeth Reis, *Bodies in Doubt: An American History of Intersex*, Johns Hopkins UP 2009. Electronic.

Susan Schweik, *The Ugly Laws: Disability in Public*. NYUP 2009. Reserve and electronic.

Joshua Wolf Shenk, *Lincoln's Melancholy*. Houghton Mifflin Co. 2005. Reserve.

Rosemarie Garland Thomson, *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature*. Columbia UP 1997. Reserve and electronic.

Rosemarie Garland Thomson, *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body*. NYU Press 1996. Reserve.

### **Web resources**

- Disability History Museum <http://www.disabilitymuseum.org/>
- Museum of Disability History <http://www.museumofdisability.org/>
- Disability History Association <http://www.dishist.org/>
- Society for Disability Studies <http://www.disstudies.org/>
- Disability Studies in the Humanities <http://tiny.cc/JpoMk>
- H-Disability <http://www.h-net.org/~disabil/>
- Encyclopedia of Disability <http://www.sage-ereference.com/disability/>
- UC Berkeley-Disability Rights & Independent Living Movement <http://tiny.cc/NYjvK>