



History 668 A History of Disability

Professor Walt Schalick

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays,

1:00-2:00 pm & by appointment,

Medical Sciences, 1440

Class: Monday / Wednesday, 2:30-3:45p, Engineering
Hall 1227

Welcome to our class! Disability is a word which surrounds us. From debates about end-of-life issues to Social Security from test-taking 'allowances' to Not-Dead-Yet, from Medicaid cutbacks to Terry Schiavo, disability is in the media, on our lips and in our ears. What is disability? How has disability changed over time and in different cultures? Where does such an idea come from? What social, cultural, and political assumptions is it based upon? Examining a wide range of historical arguments about the nature and purpose of disability, from pre-history to Plato, to medieval theologians, to more contemporary works, we will approach the history of disability in Western thought and social practice in terms of its relation to arguments about the role of human development and the formulation of personhood, citizenship, and social well being. The readings will include a thick mixture of primary sources in translation and secondary sources, both classic and newly published. We will encounter a variety of techniques and tools used by historians and other scholars as we course through the sessions. The emphasis of our discussions will be the characteristics of disability in a variety of centuries and cultures as well as lacunae in our understanding and debates in the literature.

Course Organization:

There are 14 class weeks, numbered 1-14 in the *Prospectus*. Each class session will be divided into two parts: a) a lecture on the topic being covered and b) a discussion of the material from the readings and the lecture. Each reading assignment is approximately 100-150 pages of text, including primary and secondary sources, the latter both survey and specialized. The goal of the readings is to provide you with a summary of the subject we're covering that week as well as detailed scholarly insights and primary documents relating to childhood from the time period considered.

Assignments:

◆ Class Participation (Attendance is mandatory)	20%
◆ Paper 1: 5 pp., due 2/22 *	20%
◆ Paper 2: 5 pp., due 3/22 *	20%
◆ Paper 3: 10 pp., due 5/14 *	40%

Readings:

One book may be found at the Campus Store:

Henri-Jacques Stiker, A History of Disability, translated by William Sayers (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000). ISBN-13: 978-0472086269

We will also use articles scanned in through Library, which are referred to as *Reader*. The *Reader* is on:

<https://mywebspace.wisc.edu/schalick/668/>

If you have any trouble accessing the articles, please contact me.

Accommodations:

If you need accommodations because of disabilities, please contact me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity:

As per the Statement of Student Academic Integrity, plagiarism, copying from other students, and other forms of cheating are not tolerated. Violations of standard rules of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean and may lead to disciplinary action which could result in expulsion from the University.

Prospectus:

The two "texts" for this class are indicated as follows:

Stiker = Henri-Jacques Stiker, A History of Disability, translated by William Sayers (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000).

Reader = online-based web reading packets, available online.

All readings not indicated as **Stiker** are in **Reader**.

Week 1: Introduction, Wednesday, 1/20

Week 2: Prehistory – Disability at the Limits of Biology and Socioculture, Monday/Wednesday, 1/25 and 1/27

Catherine J. Kudlick, "Disability History: Why We Need Another 'Other'," *American Historical Review* 2003: 763-93.

Daniel Lord Smail, "Introduction," in his On Deep History and the Brain (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), pp. 1-11.

Erik Trinkaus, "Pleistocene Disability" in Albrecht GA, Bichenbach J, Mitchell D, Schalick WO, Snyder S, eds. Encyclopedia of Disability (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Press, 2005)pp. 873-4

Walt Schalick, "Xenodisability" in Albrecht GA, Bichenbach J, Mitchell D, Schalick WO, Snyder S, eds. Encyclopedia of Disability (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Press, 2005), pp. 1655-6.

Stiker, pp. 23-38.

Week 3: Antiquity, Monday/Wednesday, 2/1 and 2/3

Martha L. Edwards, "Constructions of Physical Disability in the Ancient Greek World," in David T. Mitchell and Sharon L. Snyder, eds., The Body and Physical Difference: Discourses of Disability (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1997), pp. 35-50.

Martha L. Rose, The Staff of Oedipus: Transforming Disability in Ancient Greece (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003), pp. 29-49.

Stiker, pp. 39-65.

Primary Source: "The Sacred Disease" in Lloyd, G.E.R. (ed.), Hippocratic Writings, J. Chadwick et al. (trs.) (London: Penguin, 1983), pp. 237-51.

Week 4: The Middle Ages and Renaissance, Monday/Wednesday, 2/8 and 2/10

Irina Metzler, Chapter 3, "Medieval Theoretical Concepts of the (Impaired) Body", Disability in her Medieval Europe: Thinking about Physical Impairment during the High Middle Ages, c. 1100-1400 (London: Routledge, 2006), pp. 38-64.

Lois Bragg, "From the Mute God to the Lesser God: Disability in Medieval Celtic and Old Norse Literature," *Disability and Society* 1997; 12: 165-77.

Stiker, pp. 65-90.

Primary Source: "The Miracles of St. Ithamar at Rochester," in Irina Metzler, Medieval Europe: Thinking about Physical Impairment during the High Middle Ages, c. 1100-1400 (London: Routledge, 2006), pp. 205-7.

Primary Source: Ronald C. Finucane, The Rescue of the Innocents: Endangered Children in Medieval Miracles (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997), pp. 169-206.

Primary Source: Girolamo Cardano, "Concerning My Health," in his The Book of My Life (New York: New York Review Books, 2002), pp. 20-4.

Week 5: The Early Modern Period, Monday/Wednesday, 2/15 and 2/17

Geoffrey Hudson, "Disabled Veterans in Early Modern England" in Disabled Veterans in History, edited by David A. Gerber (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000), pp. 117-144.

Stiker, pp. 91-120.

Primary Source: "Poor Law Act (1601)"

Primary Source: Francis Bacon, "Of Deformity"

Week 6: The Eighteenth Century, Monday/Wednesday, 2/22 and 2/24

****February 22 PAPER 1 DUE****

Winzer, Margaret A., "Universalizing Marginality: Disability and Society Before the Eighteenth Century" in Lennard J. Davis, ed., The Disability Studies Reader (New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 75-109.

Louise Gray, "The Experience of Old Age in the Narratives of the Rural Poor in Early Modern Germany" in Susannah R. Ottaway, L.A. Botelho, and Katharine Kittredge eds.,

Power and Poverty: Old Age in the Pre-Industrial Past (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood, 2002), pp. 107-23.

Lennard J. Davis, "Dr. Johnson, Amelia, and the Discourse of Disability in the Eighteenth Century" in Helen Deutsch and Felicity Nussbaum, eds., Defects: Engendering the Modern Body (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000), pp. 54-74.

Primary Source: William Hay, "Deformity: an Essay," 1754

Primary Source: Excerpts from Boswell's Life of Samuel Johnson

**Week 7: Modern Disability in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,
Monday/Wednesday, 3/1 and 3/3**

Stephen P. Dunn and Ethel Dunn, "Everyday life of the disabled in the USSR" in William O. McCagg & Lewis Siegelbaum (eds.) The Disabled in the Soviet Union: Past & Present, Theory & Practice (Pittsburgh: U. Pittsburgh, 1989), pp. 209-32.

Stiker, pp. 121-190.

Paul K. Longmore and Lauri Umansky, eds., The New Disability History: American Perspectives (New York: NYU Press, 2001), pp. 133-86.

Primary Source: Excerpts from Barker, Roger G.; Beatrice A. Wright & Mollie Gonick. Adjustment to Physical Handicap & Illness [1946] (NY: Social Science Research Council, 1953).

Optional Reading: Silla, Eric. People Are Not the Same: Leprosy & Identity in 20th-C. Mali (Portsmouth NH, 1998), pp. 1-28 and 135-52.

Week 8: Medicine and Disability, Monday/Wednesday, 3/8 and 3/10

Glenn Gritzer and Arnold Arluke, The Making of Rehabilitation: A Political Economy of Medical Specialization, 1890-1980 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), pp. 1-37.

Anne Waldschmidt, "Who is Normal? Who is Deviant? "Normality" and "risk" in Genetic Diagnostics and Counseling" in Shelley Tremain, ed., Foucault and the Government of Disability (Ann Arbor: U Michigan Press, 2005), pp. 191-207.

Wilson, Daniel J. "A Crippling Fear: Experiencing Polio in the Era of FDR," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 1998; 72: 464-495.

Paul K. Longmore and Lauri Umansky, eds., The New Disability History: American Perspectives (New York: NYU Press, 2001), pp. 236-67.

Primary Source: Gordon C. Zahn "Abandon Hope" *The Catholic Worker* October 1946 vol.13, no.8, pp.1,4,6.

Primary Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt "An Address On Rehabilitation Of The Mentally And Physically Handicapped July 13, 1929," Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Speech #334, Master Speech File, Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers as President (Box 7).

Optional Reading: Martin Sullivan, "Subjected Bodies: Paraplegia, Rehabilitation, and the Politics of Movement" in Shelley Tremain, ed., Foucault and the Government of Disability (Ann Arbor: U Michigan Press, 2005), pp. 27-44.

Week 9: The ADA (Disability and Law), Monday/Wednesday, 3/15 and 3/17

Gallagher, Hugh Gregory. FDR's Splendid Deception: The Moving Story of Roosevelt's Massive Disability & the Intense Efforts to Conceal It from the Public (Arlington VA, 1994), pp. 28-53, 207-16.

Samuel R. Bagenstos, "The Americans with Disabilities Act as Risk Regulation" *Columbia Law Review*, 2001; 101: 1479-1513.

Douglas C. Baynton, "Defectives in the Land: Disability and American Immigration Policy, 1882-1924", *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 2005; 24: 31-44.

Primary Source: ADA at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pubs/ada.txt>

Optional Reading: Greg Eghigian, Making Security Social: Disability, Insurance, and the Birth of the Social Entitlement State in Germany (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000), pp. 233-270.

Week 10: Rehabilitation, Technology and War, Monday/Wednesday, 3/22 and 3/24

****March 22 PAPER 2 DUE****

Cohen, Deborah. The War Come Home: Disabled Veterans in Britain & Germany, 1914-1939 (Berkeley: U. California, 2001), pp. 61-97.

Roxanne Panchasi, "Reconstructions: Prosthetics and the Rehabilitation of the Male Body in World War I France," *Differences* 7 (1995): 110-2.

Anderson, Julie, "War and Technology" in Albrecht GA, Bichenbach J, Mitchell D, Schalick WO, Snyder S, eds. Encyclopedia of Disability (Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Press, 2005), 1602-3.

Joel Howell, "'Soldier's Heart:' The Redefinition of Heart Disease and Specialty Formation in Early Twentieth-Century Great Britain." *Medical History* 1985; Supplement No. 5: 34-52.

Paul K. Longmore and Lauri Umansky, eds., The New Disability History: American Perspectives (New York: NYU Press, 2001), pp. 83-106.

Primary Source: Joseph K. Barnes, The Medical And Surgical History Of The War Of The Rebellion, Part 1, vol.2 (Wilmington, N.C. : Broadfoot Pub. Co., 1870), pp.206-207.

Primary Source: William B. Townsend, "The Physically Handicapped On The Industrial Home Front," *Crippled Child Magazine*, June, 1942, pp. 64-66.

Optional Reading: Srinivasan, Raman, "Technology Sits Cross-Legged: Developing the Jaipur Foot Prosthesis" In Katherine Ott, David Serlin and Stephen Mihm, *Artificial Parts, Practical Lives: Modern Histories of Prosthetics* (NY: NYU Press, 2002), pp. 327-48.

3/29-4/3 SPRING BREAK

Week 11: The Child, Disability and Disease, Monday/Wednesday, 4/5 and 4/7

Richard Meckel, Save the Babies: American Public Health Reform and the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 1850-1929 (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990), pp. 159-219.

Seth Koven "Remembering and Dismemberment: Crippled Children, Wounded Soldiers, and the Great War in Great Britain, *American Historical Review* 99 (October 1994): 1167-1202.

Brad Byrom, "The Progressive Movement and the Child with Physical Disabilities" in Philip L. Safford and Elizabeth J. Safford, eds., Children with Disabilities in America: A Historical Handbook and Guide (Westport: Greenwood, 2006), pp. 49-64.

Primary Source: L. Emmett Holt, The Diseases of Infancy and Childhood for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine (New York: D. Appleton, 1898), pp. 30-66.

Primary Source: Frank Oski et alia, Principles and Practice of Pediatrics (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1994), pp. 29-44.

Optional Reading: Sydney A. Halpern, American Pediatrics: The Social Dynamics of Professionalism, 1880-1980 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988), pp. 35-56.

****Week 12: Researching for Final Papers, Monday/Wednesday, 4/12 and 4/14**

NO READING at Ebling Library

Week 13: Disability in Culture, Monday/Wednesday, 4/19 and 4/21

Adams, Rachael. Sideshow USA: Freaks & the American Cultural Imagination (Chicago: U. Chicago, 2001), pp. 25-59.

Paul K. Longmore and Lauri Umansky, eds., The New Disability History: American Perspectives (New York: NYU Press, 2001), pp. 335-74

Primary Source: Christy Brown, My Left Foot (London: Martin, Secker & Warburg, 1954), pp. 9-89.

Optional Reading: Baynton, Douglas C. Forbidden Signs: American Culture & the Campaign Against Sign Language (Chicago: U. Chicago, 1996), pp. 132-63.

Week 14: Disability in the Movies, Monday/Wednesday, 4/26 and 4/28

NO READING

Week 15: The Disability Experience and Conclusion, Monday/Wednesday, 5/3 and 5/5

NO READING

PAPER 3 DUE: 5/14 by email