Disability: History and Theory  
HSSC 561  
Fall 2014  
Tuesday, 1:30-4:30pm  
Cohen Hall, Room 337

Professor Beth Linker  
Cohen Hall, Rm. 322  
Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00, or by appointment  
Email: linker@sas.upenn.edu

Course Description:
Deemed “the next academic frontier,” disability studies is a vibrant and growing field of inquiry. When used as an analytic tool, disability destabilizes our understanding of traditional analytical categories such as race, class, sexuality, and gender. The purpose of this course will be to explore recent literature in the history and theory of disability. Throughout the semester, we will approach this literature with an eye to how disability studies can push the fields of the history of science, medicine, and technology in new directions. Topics will include: the pathological and the normal, the history of the body, the sociology of deviance, medicalization, chronic illness and disease, genetics and disability, war and disability, the role of disability in health care policy, as well as the politics of design and assistive technologies.

Course Assignments and Grading:
1. Short Museum Reaction Paper, Due Oct. 13th, 9AM in Professor Linker’s mailbox, 303 Cohen. (details to be discussed in class)
2. Expert for the Day. Come prepared to lead class discussion on an assigned day and submit a 3,000 word review of the required and supplemental readings.
3. Final 20-page paper (details to be discussed in class)

Schedule of Readings:
*Books marked by an asterisk are available for purchase at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street, 215-222-7600.

Sept. 2 Introduction

Definitions and Theories

Sept. 9 (part 1)
*Irving K. Zola, Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability

Suggested Supplemental Readings:
• Catherine J. Kudlick, “Disability History: Why We Need Another Other” The American Historical Review 108, no. 3 (June 2003): 763-93.
• Georges Canguilhem, On the Normal and the Pathological
Sept. 16 (part 2)
*Tobin Siebers, *Disability Theory
  * Erving Goffman, *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*

Synthetic Histories and Pre-Modern Analytics

Sept. 23
*Kim Nielsen, *A Disability History of the United States
  * Rosemary Garland Thompson, *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature*

Monsters and Freaks

Sept. 30--FIELD TRIP TO THE MÜTTER MUSEUM
*Robert Bogdan, *Freak Show: Presenting Human Oddities for Amusement and Profit
  * Lorraine Daston and Katherine Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750*

Sense and Disability

Oct. 7
*Susan Burch, *Signs of Resistance: American Deaf Cultural History, 1900 to World War II
  * Lennard Davis, *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body*
  * Kim Nielsen, *The Radical Lives of Helen Keller*

Disability and Technology

Oct. 14 (Part 1)
*Stuart Blume *The Artificial Ear: Cochlear Implants and the Culture of Deafness
  * “Sound and Fury,” documentary and “Sound and Fury, Six Years Later,” documentary

Oct. 21 (part 2)

Chronicity, Debility, and Time
Oct. 28
*Julie Livingston, Debility and the Moral Imagination in Botswana
• Douglas Baynton, “These Pushful Days”

Disease and Disability
Nov. 4
*Daniel J. Wilson, Living with Polio: The Epidemic and Its Survivors
*Hugh Gregory Gallagher, FDR’s Splendid Deception
• idem, “Teaching Disability History,” OAH Magazine of History 23, no. 3 (June 2009): 7-8, 7.
• Naomi Rogers, Polio Wars: Sister Kenny and the Golden Age of American Medicine

Disability, Genetics, Parenting, and Ethics
Nov. 11
*Martin Pernick, The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of Defective Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures
• Alexandra Stern, Telling Genes: The Story of Genetic Counseling in America
• Leslie Reagan, Dangerous Pregnancies: Mothers, Disabilities, and Abortion in Modern America

“Invisible”/Intellectual Disabilities (or NO CLASS)
Nov. 18
• Chloe Silverman, Understanding Autism: Parents, Doctors, and the History of a Disorder
• Rachel Adams, Raising Henry: A Memoir of Motherhood, Disability, and Discovery
• Steven Noll, Feeble-Minded in Our Midst: Institutions for the Mentally Retarded in the South, 1900-1940

Nov. 25 NO CLASS (Thursday/Friday classes scheduled for Tuesday/Wednesday)

War, Rehabilitation, Masculinity, and Disability
Dec. 2
* Henri-Jacque Stiker, A History of Disability
• Beth Linker, *War’s Waste: Rehabilitation in World War I America*
• David Gerber, Preface and Introduction to *Disabled Veterans in History*

**Disability, Policy, and Lived Experiences**

**Dec. 9**

*Paul Longmore, *Why I Burned My Book and Other Essays on Disability*, selections*
  - Richard Scotch, “American Disability Policy in the Twentieth Century” in *The New Disability History*

**For Reference:**

- H-Disability/H-Net