

SOCI304: Special Topic: Exploring Neuro-Disability in Health, Welfare and Justice Systems

Course Leader – Professor Anita Gibbs

Criminology and Social Work, FASD researcher, Registered Social Worker and Disability Advocate

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Course Details and Outline

Available Semester 2 2024 and the University of Otago – on campus in Dunedin and via Distance Learning

NOTE: This course can be completed as a stand-alone [Certificate of Proficiency](#) or alongside other degree courses at the University of Otago.

Commitments

- Semester Dates: 15 July 2024 to 18 October 2024
- Lectures: Weekly on Thursdays 3pm-5pm on-campus in-person but recorded for distance students
- Tutorials: Weekly on Mondays 2pm-2.50pm on zoom and Tuesdays 4-4.50pm on zoom. Tutorials are not recorded.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, learners will have:

- Developed a broad knowledge of key frameworks, and concepts when studying neurodisability and neurodiversity, in health, welfare and justice systems.
- Identified and understood the definitions of neurodisability and neurodiversity, in health, welfare and justice systems.
- Applied critical disability lenses to discourse and texts exploring neurodisability and neurodiversity, in health, welfare and justice systems.
- Demonstrated knowledge of key issues facing individuals, children, young people, families, and whānau, as they manage living with a neurodisability, and neurodiversity.
- Awareness of the range of interventions, strategies, and systems-wide practices that lead to successful outcomes for people managing and living with neurodisabilities, and neurodiversity.
- Knowledge of key roles of, and challenges faced by, professionals working with people with neuro-disabilities, and neuro-diversity, in the health, welfare and justice systems, and how to implement best practice in research, policy and practice for people managing and living with neuro-disabilities, and neuro-diversity.
- Communicated critical and theoretical ideas through written skills and oral presentation.

Weekly Seminar / Tutorial Content

Week	Topic
1	Introduction, key terms and definitions, key concepts and critical issues in the study of neuro-disability and neurodiversity in social systems.
2	Prevalence, screening, assessment, diagnosis and categorization of neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in social systems.
3	Key frameworks, models and concepts in understanding neurodisability/ neurodiversity - Critical disability studies, social model, disability rights/human rights, eco-systems, lived experiences, lifecourse. Part 1.
4	Key frameworks, models and concepts in understanding neuro-disability/ neurodiversity - Critical disability studies, social model, disability rights/human rights, eco-systems, lived experiences, lifecourse. Part 2.
5	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in health and mental health. Part 1.
6	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in health and mental health. Part 2.
7	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in welfare. Part 1.
8	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in welfare. Part 2.
9	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in Justice. Part 1.
10	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity in Justice. Part 2.
11	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity and the family/whānau.
12	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity and race, gender and intersectionality.
13	Neurodisabilities/ neurodiversity across the lifecourse and course conclusion

Seminars/Lectures will consist of talks, audio-visual content, guest speakers, case studies, reviews of research and practitioner and learner reflections. Throughout the course Treaty-based processes will be offered and each topic will consider issues for tangata whenua/Māori in terms of concepts, relevance, impact, interventions, and systemic change.

Assessments

Oral Presentation (during Zooms or tutorials, 10 minutes each)	30%
Essay (2,500 words)	50%
Blackboard/Lecture Responses	20%