The purpose of this course is to introduce students to international perspectives on disability. This course will discuss conceptualization of disability across diverse cultures, laws and social policies that affect the lives of people with disability, and systems of support for people with disabilities across the globe. There will be a focus on human rights for people with disabilities, as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This course will involve a weekly one hour meeting on the UMass Amherst campus throughout the Spring 2017 semester, additional online content, and two weeks (June 9-24, 2017) in Ireland.

Required Readings


   This book is available for purchase on Amazon and other booksellers (used and new, electronic or print copies are acceptable)


   The document is available for download here as well as Moodle.

Online Lectures

In addition to our regularly schedule spring seminar, you will be required to watch two, one hour lectures from past International Disability Law Summer Schools. These videos will be available for streaming through Echo360. These lectures should be streamed by class 11 at the latest, but you are encouraged to watch them earlier in the semester.

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction

In this class, we will review the syllabus, expectations for the course, and plans for the
study abroad component. You will hear from a panel of students who have experience studying and working abroad in the disability field.

**Week 2: Definitions of Disability**

*Reading:* Chapter 1: What is Meant by Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

*Due before class:* Quiz 1

*Country profile:* begin outlining *Definition and meaning of disability*

**Week 3: History of Disability Rights in the United States**

*Reading:* Chapter 2: “Historical Overview of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

*Due before class:* Quiz 2

*Country profile:* begin outlining *History*

**Week 4: International Trends in Disability**

*Reading:* Chapter 4: “Trends and Issues in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

*Due before class:* Quiz 3

**Week 5: Human Rights**

*Reading:* Chapter 5: “International Human Rights and Intellectual Disability”; the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

*Due before class:* Quiz 4

*Country profile:* begin outlining *Quality of Life*

**Week 6: International Advocacy**

*Reading:* Chapter 6: “Role of Advocacy in Ensuring Disability Rights and Entitlements”

*Due before class:* Quiz 5

*Country profile:* begin outlining *Advocacy*

**Week 7: Self-Determination**

*Reading:* Chapter 22: “Person Centered and Family Centered Approaches”
Due before class: Quiz 6

Country profile: begin outlining Self-Determination

Week 8: Education

Reading: Chapter 31: “Education for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

Due before class: Quiz 7
Country profile: begin outlining Education

Week 9: Employment

Reading: Chapter 33: “Work and Employment for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

Due before class: Quiz 8
Country profile: begin outlining Employment

Week 10: Community Inclusion

Reading: Chapter 34: “Lifestyles of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

Due before class: Quiz 9
Country profile: begin outlining Community Inclusion

Week 11: A Focus on Ireland

For this week, you will be expected to review the background materials provided by the sites we will be visiting in our second week in Ireland: UCD, Trinity College and Inclusion Ireland. All materials will be posted to the Moodle page. You should prepare 2-3 questions for each site visit.

Due before class: Quiz 10, Online Content (must watch both lectures prior to this class)

Country profile: begin outlining Comparison

Week 12: Orientation to the Study Abroad Component

A representative from IPO will provide an orientation to the study abroad program. Faculty leaders will be present to clarify the plans for the two weeks in Ireland.
Week 13: Student Presentations

This class will be dedicated to presentations of students’ country profiles.

*Country profile:* presentation slides and paper due before class.

Course Requirements

**Attendance**

This is a seminar, therefore your attendance is necessary for the success of the course. Absences will result in insufficient preparation for the study abroad component of the course. You will have the opportunity to make up any absences due to significant health or life issues, if proper documentation is provided. Documentation should be emailed to the instructor. Any unexcused absence will result in a grade penalty of 5%. During the study abroad component of the course, you are expected to be on time and present for all of the scheduled activities.

**Participation**

You are expected to actively contribute in class. You will be graded based on your contributions to small and whole class discussion as well as your attentiveness and appropriate reactions to others’ comments. Your grade for participation will reflect instructor and peer ratings. During the study abroad component of the course, you are expected to be attentive to the presentations and actively contribute to discussion. You are expected to act professional at all times. Participation is worth 10% of your final grade.

**Reflections**

Students will complete a reflection (2-3 pages each) at the start and finish of the course. In the first reflection, students will reflect on how their cultural and personal backgrounds have shaped their views on disability. The second reflection will be due within two weeks of returning from Ireland. This reflection will focus on how the experiences abroad potentially challenged or confirmed your views on disability. Reflections will be worth 10% of your grade.

**Reading Quizzes**

Each week, students will complete a reading quiz on Moodle before coming to class. The quiz will consist of 8-10 multiple choice and short answer questions covering the readings assigned for that week. The quizzes will be timed, so you should complete the assigned reading before starting the quiz. Students will have the opportunity to take each quiz twice, with the grades for the first and second attempts averaged. Late quizzes will not be accepted without documentation of a valid excuse. There will be 10 quizzes over the course of the semester, each counting toward 5% of your final grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
**Discussion Questions**

Students will take turns leading discussion. As discussion leader, you are expected to prepare questions for small group and/or whole class discussion. You are welcome and encouraged to prepare a video or an activity for the class. During class time, the discussion leader will be responsible for starting the discussion, keeping the discussion on track, and stimulating new topics of discussion. Please type your prepared questions and bring a second copy for the instructor. You will be graded based on your prepared outline, your performance in class, and the feedback from your classmates.

**Country Profile**

Each student will develop expertise on disability related issues in their country of choice. You will be encouraged to select a country based on the list of presenters at the International Disability Law Summer School, so that you could meet a representative from that country during the conference. Please do not select the U.S. or Ireland, as we will be discussing these countries in great detail throughout the spring seminar and trip to Ireland.

You will develop your country profile over the course of the semester. The content of your profile will largely mirror the topics we are discussing in class. For instance, when we are discussing definitions of disability used worldwide, you will begin outlining the definitions of disability used in your country of choice.

You will present your country profile on the last day of the spring seminar, so that other students can learn about disability related issues in a variety of countries. You will also submit a written version of your country profile by the last day of class. This paper is expected to be 12-15 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font with 1” margins (APA style). All in-text and reference list citations should conform to APA style.

Your country profile should include the following:

- **Definition and meaning of disability:** definitions of physical, sensory, intellectual and developmental disabilities used in that country (either by residents or policymakers); the meaning ascribed to various categories of disability (with a consideration of cultural differences even within the country)
- **History:** historical treatment of people with disabilities; important laws or social policies relevant to people with disabilities
- **Quality of life:** quality of life for people with disabilities; presence or absence of human rights violations; extent of stigma, discrimination and prejudice toward people with disabilities; health care for people with disabilities
- **Advocacy:** presence or absence of disability rights movement; major advocacy organizations; current advocacy initiatives
- **Self-determination:** extent of person-first planning; extent of choice for people with disabilities in provision of services
- **Education:** opportunities and expectations for people with disabilities; educational settings (e.g., inclusive vs. segregated) for people with disabilities; access to higher education; emphasis on academic vs. vocational skills
g) **Employment:** presence or absence of vocational training or job support; prevalence of employment for people with disabilities; employment settings; discrimination in the workforce; wages for people with vs. without disabilities

h) **Community Inclusion:** residential options for people with disabilities; funding for housing; extent of community inclusion for people with disabilities; recreational and leisure activities available to people with disabilities

i) **Comparison:** comparison of selected country to the United States and other countries; ratification status of the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Summary of Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Contribution toward final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>5% each (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflections</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country profile presentation and paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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### Class Policies

*Email policy.* Effort will be made to respond to emails within one weekday. You are encouraged to come to office hours with your questions and concerns. If your question requires more than a short response of a few sentences, then you will be expected to come to office hours or schedule an appointment to meet with me.

*Academic honesty:* All students are expected to adhere scrupulously to the University policy concerning academic honesty. For more information on the University’s academic honesty policy, view this web site: [http://www.umass.edu/honesty/](http://www.umass.edu/honesty/)

*Accommodations:* If you have a documented learning disability and need accommodation, please contact me within the first two weeks of class.

*Professionalism.* You are expected to act professionally when we meet scholars, service providers, people with disabilities, and family members during the study abroad component of the course. Professional behavior includes:

a) **Appropriate attire:** Business casual is expected during the conference and site visits. Ireland is a more conservative country overall, so please dress accordingly. Remember, your attire reflects on you as well as our university as a whole.

b) **Expression:** Verbal expression is a clear indicator of professionalism. Please be thoughtful in your speech as we interact with others - person first language is expected.

c) **Demeanor:** We are judged by our appearance and actions. The people we will be visiting in Ireland have volunteered their time to give you a rich educational experience. Please show your respect by demonstrating your interest and reducing distractions (absolutely no cell phone, tablets or laptops will be permitted during the conference and site visits).