The minor in Disability Studies focuses on disability as a social and cultural phenomenon, identity, social construct, and metaphor. Disability Studies applies social, cultural, historical, legal, philosophical, and humanities perspectives to understanding disability in society. Topics covered in Disability Studies include disability law and policy, the sociology, anthropology, geography, and history of disability, the intersection between disability and race, gender, sexuality, and class, the representation of disability in literature, the media, and popular culture, advocacy and self-advocacy, and assistive technology and accommodations for people with disabilities. The Disability Studies minor does not focus on instructional or clinical approaches to disability, but can complement the studies of students in these programs.

The minor is an 18 credit requirement, with 12 credits in Disability Studies courses and 6 credits in electives. At least 12 credits must be taken in 300 level or above courses. Courses must be approved by the student’s advisor in Disability Studies. Courses in the minor may be able to be used to fulfill requirements in students’ home schools and colleges, at their discretion. A 2.8 grade point average is required for admission to the minor in Disability Studies. Although the minor is offered through the School of Education, it is open to any undergraduate students at Syracuse University.

Sample undergraduate courses in Disability Studies include:

- DSP 200: Introduction to Disability Studies
- DSP/SOC/WSP 432: Gender and Disability
- DSP/SOC/WSP 438: Disability & Popular Culture
- DSP/SOC 426: Representations of Ability & Disability
- DSP/SOC 440: Sociology of Disability
- DSP/SPE 357: Deafness and Disability
- DSP 475: Internship in Disability Policy

Faculty associated with the Disability Studies program include: Christine Ashby, Ph.D. (Teaching & Leadership); James Bellini, Ph.D. (Counseling and Human Services); Douglas Biklen, Ph.D. (Dean, School of Education); Julie Causton-Theoharis, Ph.D. (Teaching & Leadership); Beth Ferri, Ph.D. (Teaching & Leadership, Women’s Studies); Alan Foley, Ph.D. (Instructional Design, Development & Evaluation); Wendy Harbour, Ed.D. (Cultural Foundations of Education, Teaching & Leadership); Perri Harris, Ph.D. (Adjunct, Cultural Foundations of Education); Arlene Kanter, J.D. (Law); Nancy Mudrick, Ph.D. (Social Work); Diane Murphy, Ph.D. (Dean, Human Ecology); Michael Schwartz, Ph.D., J.D. (Law); and Steven J. Taylor, Ph.D. (Cultural Foundations of Education).

For more information on the minor in Disability Studies, contact Steven J. Taylor, Centennial Professor and Coordinator of Disability Studies (staylo01@syr.edu).

http://disabilitystudies.syr.edu