Disability is unlike other “others” (race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, etc.). Learning to think historically, critically, intersectionally about this important marker of difference (10-15% of the world’s population is estimated to have some type of disability, even as boundaries and identities are constantly fluid) can enrich research on many geographic and topical themes. This seminar course will introduce students to a variety of conceptual approaches (from history of medicine and history of eugenics to cultural history, histories of care, and anti-ableist social movements and human rights activism to cripp theory in its overlap with queer theory), drawing also on adjacent disciplines (e.g., anthropology), and considers disabilities in their broadest sense: from madness to sensory differences to physical and cognitive impairments and chronic illnesses. Students working on any part of the globe, 19th-20th century, are welcome.

In addition to close reading and active discussion (and critical summaries of 2 week’s readings, sent to instructor and rest of class by the Sunday night before our discussion), students will be expected to develop an independent research project grounded in primary sources that advances their own ongoing scholarly agenda. Instructor permission required. dherzog@gc.cuny.edu

**Aug 29 Introductory Meeting**

**Sep 5 Classics and Basics**

* Johanna Schoen, “Life and Death in the Nursery” (lecture and PPT, Yale U, March 2023)

**VIDEO:** Stella Young, “I’m not your inspiration” (2014), [https://www.ted.com/talks/stella_young_i_m_not_your_inspiration_thank_you_very_much?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/stella_young_i_m_not_your_inspiration_thank_you_very_much?language=en).
**Sep 12 US Policy and Activism**

**FILM:** *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* (dir. Nicole Newnham and Jim LeBrecht, 2020), [https://cripcamp.com/](https://cripcamp.com/).

**Sep 19 Ravaged Landscapes**


**Sep 26 Reconsidering Madness**

Oct 3 Neurodiversity

Oct 10 No class. FILM: *Her Socialist Smile* (dir. John Gianvito, 2020) [on Helen Keller]

Oct 17 Eugenics and Euthanasia
*Critic of Eugenics: Rudolf Kraemer” (1929, 1933), in Carol Poore, “Recovering Disability Rights in Weimar Germany,” *Radical History Review* 94 (Winter 2006), 48-56 only!.
*Ernst Klee, “‘Turning the Tap On was no Big Deal’ - The Gassing Doctors during the Nazi Period and Afterwards,” *Dachau Review* 2 (1990), 46-66.

Oct 24 Queering Disability


**Oct 31** Students bring in their primary sources (in translation).


**Nov 14** Student choice 2ndary scholarship: key texts with which you are in conversation.

**Nov 21** No class. Work on your final projects.

**Nov 28** Student conference-paper presentations with PowerPoint.

**Dec 5** Student conference-paper presentations with PowerPoint.