Critical Disability Studies Seminar  
Dancing Disability Lab at UCLA, 2019

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Professor of English and Bioethics  
Emory University

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>becoming</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>access</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>essence</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>exceptional, special</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>costume</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dancing Disability Inclusion Lab @ UCLA
Performing Disability
Day 1

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson
Professor of English & Bioethics
Emory University
becoming
becoming a dancer
becoming disabled
gestural narrative
Catherine Cole in "Five Foot Feat"
Leroy F. Moore Jr., poet, creator of the Krip Hop movement, and co-founder of the disability performance art collective Sins Invalid
"Crutchman," Bill Shannon
Claire Cunningham, *Unlimited UK Program* (2012)
David Toole, Legless Dancer

Homer Avila, One Legged Dancer
Mouth stick poet
Paul Guest
Disabled comedian Maysoon Zayid, at a TED talk in 2013
Peter Dinklage as Tyrion Lannister in HBO’s “Game of Thrones” (above) and on Esquire (left)
Catherine Cole in “Five Foot Feat”
Catherine Cole in “Five Foot Feat”
Homer Avila in *Phoenix Dance* (trailer)

https://vimeo.com/63475130
Homer Avila *Solo*
Choreographed by Victoria Marks

https://vimeo.com/100284864
Alice Sheppard’s & Homer Avila’s Covers from Dance Magazine Magazine
Alice Sheppard
from Diverseability Magazine
the politics of self naming
identifying
identification
hailing
achieved identity
ascribed identity
acquire
early onset
late onset
intersectionality
The human variations we think of as disabilities are part of the human condition that occur in every life and family and are a theme in all art and culture.

Funerary statue of Dwarf Seneb and his family, from Giza, c. 2456-2323 BCE
Disability is a record written on the body of our encounters between flesh and world.
The lived experiences of disability give people and communities opportunities for expression, creativity, resourcefulness, relationships, and flourishing.
Disability is everywhere, once you know how to look for it.
Dancing Disability Inclusion Lab @ UCLA
Performing Disability
Day 2

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson
Professor of English & Bioethics
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access
the politics of self naming
identity
identifying
identification
becoming
hailing
acquiring
achieved identity
ascribed identity
intersectionality
The human variations we think of as disabilities are part of the human condition that occur in every life and family and are a theme in all art and culture.

Funerary statue of Dwarf Seneb and his family, from Giza, c. 2456-2323 BCE
“Writing this book made me blind”
Georgina Kleege
Georgina Kleege Dancing
from New York Times
Ameila Cavallo blind burlesque dancer
Ameila Cavallo from Blind in Theatre festival in Zagreb

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAeJWxDh7fE
John Lee Clark performing protactile poetry at the Center for Humanities
John Lee Clark interview on protactile workshop

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRC3WQdqah
Can you read my lips?

based on Rachel Kolb’s ASL performance

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1jLkYyODsc
marked & unmarked categories
weak and strong constructivism
multimodal formats
multiple communication/
aesthetic modes
description
protactile
tactile art
Dancing Disability Inclusion Lab @ UCLA
Performing Disability
Day 3

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson
Professor of English & Bioethics
Emory University
Disability is a record written on the body of our encounters between flesh and world.

“Shayla” from Doug Auld’s series State of Grace: Portraits of Burn Survivors (2005)

Vincent van Gogh, Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear (1889)
"A faculty member who has a disability needs to accomplish the essential functions of his or her position, either with or without an accommodation."

“The Changing Profession,” in MLA Profession  
“Faculty Members, Accommodation, and Accessing Higher Education”
“The Suttons claimed that they were disabled within the meaning of the ADA because they suffered from a physical impairment that substantially limits... major life activities" or because they were regarded as having such an impairment.”

“Congress found that approximately 43 million Americans were disabled, a number that would be far too low if Congress had meant to include all those with correctable impairments.”

Sutton v. United Air Lines, Inc.
US Supreme Court Case
Argued Apr 28, 1999, Decided Jun 22, 1999
David Toole and Dancers in DV8’s Film *The Cost of Living*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EayAmhSsBZI
Simona Atzori Italian dancer & painter,
Casatenovo, 16 November 2018
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR2nGPHX84Q
Jerron Herman performing at CreativeMornings in New York on May 2018

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zeyg7Rkj8Y
Christine Sun Kim and Thomas Mader exhibit *Tables and Windows, 2016* @ SFMOMA

CONFERENCE TABLE AT A FINANCIAL FIRM
TINY WINDOW INSIDE
A MASSIVE DOOR
FOR BOUNCER TO
LOOK OUT INTO THE
STREET
“Need” by Peter Cook and Kenny Lerner *Flying Words Project*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luyHHReNiI4
Microsoft’s Super Bowl ad for the Xbox adaptive controller

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YISTzpLXC
Y&t=2s
essential functions of the job
capabilities theory
essentialism
expectations
Dancing Disability Inclusion Lab @ UCLA
Performing Disability
Day 4

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson
Professor of English & Bioethics
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The lived experiences of disability give people and communities opportunities for expression, creativity, resourcefulness, relationships, and flourishing.
exceptional
sentimental

Little Eva in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriett Beecher Stowe
March of Dimes
Poster Child, 1946

1946

Bethany Hamilton in For a Better Life Foundation campaign, 2000s
special
Coca-Cola Ad featuring Special Olympics Athletes (2013?)
National Portrait Gallery

Eunice Kennedy Shriver with artist David Lenz (rear) and Special Olympics athletes (left to right) Katie Meade, Airika Straka, Loretta Claiborne, Andy Leonard, and Marty Sheets.
inspiration

inspiration porn
virtuosity
Christopher Reeve’s Superbowl Commercial (2000)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1zE5f_A5sY
Visa Ad featuring Bill Shannon (2009)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6RGyJirL3g
Outside In
Choreographed by Victoria Marks & Directed by Margaret Williams (1994)
https://margaretwilliamsdirector.com/portfolio_page/outside-in
enfreakment
Caliban from *The Tempest*

Frankenstein

The Elephant Man
“Die Rauber”
RambaZamba Theater (2017)
https://rambazamba-theater.de/inszenierungen/die-raeuber/
hailing
positive identity politics
eugenics
(sentimentalism)
benevolence
monster theory
Dancing Disability Inclusion Lab @ UCLA
Performing Disability
Day 5

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson
Professor of English & Bioethics
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costume
The representation of disability is an opportunity to explore, redefine, and make new stories about what it means to be human.

Katherine Sherwood, *Olympia* from the series *Ever After: Venuses of the Yelling Clinic*
the politics of naming
the politics of self naming

the cultural work of representation
the cultural work of language
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crippled</td>
<td>Idiot</td>
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<td>Blind</td>
<td>Psycho</td>
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<td>Freak</td>
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<td>Insane</td>
<td>Monster</td>
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<td>Maniac</td>
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<td>Lunatic</td>
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<td>Spaz</td>
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<td>Stupid</td>
<td>Sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moron</td>
<td>Vegetable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Geezer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Hair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the costuming of power
Nancy Pelosi pointing to Donald Trump in the State of the Union Address

Ruth Bader Ginsburg RBG Supreme Court Justice 2016
Joseph Bonaparte
Napoleon’s brother as King of Spain
by Francois Gerard 1808

American Hip Hop Artist
50 cent
the costuming of disabilities
medical and anthropological photo, Maximo and Bartola, “Aztec Children,” (late 19th century)
U.S. president Franklin Delano Roosevelt (left, seated in a wheelchair; right, standing with handrails)
March of Dimes ad from 1949
Costume
Tools
Equipment
Technology
Prosthesis
Scaffold
Exoskeleton
Extension
Shoes
Flooring
Props
Ramp
Cyborg
Model and Dancer Catherine Long in “Gimp”

“Accessible”
Nick Knight and Alexander McQueen
Dancing Wheels
with Mary Verdi Fletcher
unknown show and year
London Royal Opera House *Frankenstein* ballet
Iris Apfel, 90 year-old model for MAC cosmetics, Jan. 2012
Fashion model, actress, and TED speaker, Aimee Mullins ‘using her various prosthetic legs’
The Alternative Limb Project, Kiera Roche, chairperson for LimbPower, pictured.
wheelchair wearer
Lady Gaga in concert in Sydney, July 2011

Lady Gaga using disability fashion
Joint Forces Dance Company
Alito and Emory from “The Tango” performed at the Kennedy Center
Lisa Bufano
American Performance Artist
Stop Gap Dance Company

Artificial Things (2014)
Claire Cunningham, *Unlimited UK Program* (2012)
Alice Sheppard
from the Museum of NonVisible Art
Alice Sheppard and Laurel Lawson in Kinetic Light performance (2017)
Aimee Mullins
Ted X Talk Clip

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQDiMulicgg&t=143s
inclusive design/
universal design
performativity
cyborg
monster theory
legibility
recognition
Descent
by Kinetic Light
https://vimeo.com/274970635