

**Abbreviated Course Syllabus**

**OT 350: Disability, Occupations and The Healthcare System  
Spring 2025 (Section 47721)**

**Class Day:** Mondays & Wednesdays  
**Class Time:** 9:30-10:50 am  
**Location:** DMC 261

**Instructor:** Kate Crowley, OTD  
**Email:** [ccrowley@chan.usc.edu](mailto:ccrowley@chan.usc.edu)  
**Office:** THH B4  
Contact me with any questions! I love to chat!

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Occupational Science Minor Program examines the science of everyday living, with courses like "Disability, Occupation, and Health Care" focusing on activity and participation from the perspectives of people with disabilities. Students will explore the varied experiences of living with a disability, including barriers, supports, and the impact of health care policies, through first-person narratives and the stories of disability rights advocates. The course critically examines disability labels, introduces models such as the medical, social, and minority models, and incorporates current events and media portrayals to deepen understanding. Learning methods include problem-based learning, videos, guest speakers, presentations, and discussions, fostering a comprehensive exploration of disability, occupation, and health care.

**COURSE HIGHLIGHTS!**

- Lots of guest speakers with lived experience

**REQUIRED READING**

- 1) Shapiro, J. (1994). No pity: People with disabilities forging a new civil rights movement. New York: Three Rivers Press.
- 2) Articles will be assigned and available on Brightspace or through USC library's digital resources.

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Assignment	% of grade
Class Journals	25% (5% each)
Student Presentation	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Project/Paper	20%
Participation & Professionalism Includes instructor feedback, attendance, tardiness, and self-review.	10%
Reflective Thank You Letters (2)	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week 1	Course introduction and overview Introduction to disability & the importance of language
Week 2	Introduction to disability, language and identity Models of Disability
Week 3	Stigma Language around disability
Week 4	No Pity The Independent Living Movement
Week 5	Psychiatric Disability
Week 6	Guest Speaker Neurodiversity
Week 7	Participation & Families Guest Speaker
Week 8	Deaf Culture & Deaf Culture Multimedia
Week 9	Midterm Prep Midterm
Week 10	Spring Break (NO CLASS)
Week 11	Disability Rights Guest Speaker(s)
Week 12	Crip Camp Film
Week 13	Accessibility & Self-Advocacy Assistive Technology
Week 14	The Isms – Racism, Classism, and Homophobia (Guest Speaker) Disability Rights & Higher Education
Week 15	Universal Design Sexuality & Disability
Week 16	Perspectives on Aging Disability Rights Perspectives
FINALS WEEK	Final projects due in class.

***Note: In order to optimize the learning experiences, the course instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus as needed throughout the semester.***

Please reach out with any questions! Can't wait to have you in class.

Kate Crowley, OTD

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**Check out our other Occupational Science courses here!**

<https://classes.usc.edu/term-20251/classes/ot/>