



# DISABILITY STUDIES: AN INTRODUCTION

**PROF. HEMACHANDRAN KARAH**

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
IIT Madras

**TYPE OF COURSE** : New | Elective | UG/PG

**COURSE DURATION** : 8 weeks (29 Jul'19 - 20 Sep'19)

**EXAM DATE** : 29 Sep 2019

**INTENDED AUDIENCE** : Students currently pursuing any degree in Sciences and Humanities, Rehabilitation professionals and Students of special education

**COURSE OUTLINE :**

This is a broad outline on the emerging field of disability studies. Disability studies is an interdisciplinary field cutting across disciplines such as Literature, Political Theory, and Assistive Technology.

**ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Hemachandran Karah teaches English Literature at the Humanities and Social Sciences Department of IIT Madras. He is interested in researching on themes such as disability, health, the language question, literary criticism, and musicology.

**COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1:** Introduction Disability Definition: An Evolving Phenomenon, Medical Model of Disability, Social Model of Disability: Part 1&2 Stigma: A Universal

Phenomenon, Stigma and Disability

**Week 2:** Key Concepts:, Ableism Part 1&2 Disability Activism, Models of Disability Activism, Dependency, Interdependency

**Week 3:** Key Concepts: Blindness, Blindness as metaphor, Eugenics, Disability Pride, Disability Resilience, Disability Passing

**Week 4:** Disabilities, Ideas and Disciplines: Assistive Technology: An interview with Prof. Madhusudan Rao, Disability and Ethnography: An Interview with Prof. James Staple

**Week 5:** Disabilities, Ideas and Disciplines: Schizophrenia: A Personal Account – An interview with Reshma Valliappan, Autism and the Indian Family: An interview with Dr. Shubhangi Vaidhya

**Week 6:** Disabilities, Ideas and Disciplines: Dyslexia and the Modern University: An Interview with Prof. Tanya Titchkosky, Gender and Disability: Interviews with Prof. Anita Ghai and Prof. Nandini Ghosh

**Week 7:** Disabilities, Ideas and Disciplines: The Normal and its End: An interview with Prof. Lenard Davis, Literary Disability Studies: An Interview with Dr. Shilpa Anand, What is Deaf Culture? An Interview with Dr. Michele Friedner,

**Week 8:** Literature, Disability and Health: Disability and Life Writing, Disability and Metaphor, Narrative Medicine, Conclusion