



Public Lecture Offerings

Building a World that Includes Disability

What would our world be like if it fully welcomed and included people with disabilities? How could we build that world to share and live in together? Why would that be a better world for all of us? The human variations we think of as disabilities are part of the human condition and have been with us throughout history and across place. From Beethoven to Chuck Close, from Oedipus to William Faulkner, from FDR to Joe Biden, disability is everywhere once we know how to look for it. This presentation finds disability in culture, history, and the arts and shows how people with disabilities and what they make and do in the world demonstrates resourcefulness, resilience, and dignity. To do so, the presentation traces the history of the disability rights movement and the flourishing of disability culture, politics, history, aesthetics, and ethics by and about people living with disabilities.

How the Humanities Help Us Navigate Ethical Dilemmas in Healthcare and Biomedical Science

This presentation offers a humanities focus to consider several ethical conflicts emerging from the advances in the development of medical technology, testing, and treatment and the increasing social, attitudinal, and demographic changes that followed the human and civil rights movements of the mid-20th century. The presentation focuses on ethical, social, and political aspects involved in such practices as genetic testing, reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization and embryo selection, selective termination, equitable distribution of medical resources, the commercialization of medical technologies, physician aided dying, patient autonomy and consent, liberal eugenics, and the implementation of public health and the common good.



Classroom Discussion Topics

- Should we permit or encourage the development of genetic testing and editing technologies designed to make people healthier and better?
- Have you used genetic testing or would you use genetic testing to find out information about yourself, family members, or future children? If so, what are those experiences?
- How have you, family members, or friends used disability accommodations or other kinds of adaptive technologies to solve life problems or make your life and work better?
- Should we permit or encourage the medical practice some call physician-assisted dying, medical aid in dying, or euthanasia? Would you consider using life ending medical treatment for yourself or assisting someone you care about to use it?