

SOCI 595: SPECIAL TOPICS IN RURAL DISABILITY AND HEALTH

Instructor: Dr. Rayna Sage | Tues. 1pm-3:50pm, Social Sciences 330/338



WHAT IS DISABILITY?

People experience disability in many different ways. For some, disability is visually apparent. For others, their disabilities may not be readily noticeable. They may be experiencing sensory, cognitive, or mental health issues. When a person's environment does not support their functional needs, disability occurs.

DISABILITY IN THE RURAL CONTEXT

This special topics course will challenge you to think critically about how disability intersects with a variety of other social positions, with an emphasis on experiences in rural America. We will consider disability as an identity and a product of the environment. You will learn about the history of disability rights and the Independent Living Movement, as well as how disability functions in our health care systems.

You will write **rapid literature reviews** on disability topics of interest for the Research and Training Center for Disability in Rural Communities (RTC: Rural) with a goal of publishing these reviews on the RTC: Rural website. This website is an important resource for service providers, policymakers, and other researchers seeking to better understand disability in rural areas and in the rural-urban interface.

Examples of literature review topics include:

- Intersections of disability and class
- Rurality, disability, and gender
- Disability and race in rural America
- Disability among American Indians
- Intersections of disability and pain
- Access to health care for people with disabilities in rural America
- The role of disability insurance programs in rural America
- Availability of accessible transportation
- Availability of affordable, accessible housing in rural areas
- Employment opportunities for people with disabilities in rural areas

Students will learn:

- The importance of intersectionality in disability studies
- The history of the disability movement and Independent Living
- About disability services within and outside and our health care system
- How to ID key pieces of literature related to a specific topic
- How to quickly review and organize literature for summary
- To synthesize literature for a broad audience
- How to work with RTC:Rural staff to transform literature reviews into materials that can be used by providers, policymakers, advocates, and other researchers



DR. RAYNA SAGE is a rural sociologist who began working with the RTC:Rural in 2016. She conducts research that critically considers systems and cultures of inequality and works to find unique and innovative solutions that enhance the vitality of rural labor markets and community support systems. rayna.sage@mso.umt.edu

RTC: RURAL conducts research on disability as part of the Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at the University of Montana. Research projects focus on community participation and independent living, health & wellness, and employment and vocational rehabilitation. We use these findings to develop evidence-based solutions that respond to the unique needs of people with disability living in rural communities. The RTC:Rural is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (#90RT5025).

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