



# An Introduction to Disability Studies

By David Johnstone

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## An Introduction to Disability Studies By David Johnstone

Disability studies has become a legitimate area of academic study. It is multi-disciplinary in its critique of the oppressions that have historically "dumped" disabled people on the margins of society. This fully revised and updated edition not only explains disability studies as an academic field of inquiry, it also explores many of the current issues affecting the lives and circumstances of disabled people.

The book explores and analyzes "quality of life" factors in the lives of disabled people in relation to the professional development of undergraduates and examines the emergence of "rights" for disabled people in the local area, the UK and abroad. The author indicates the strengths and weaknesses of organizations "of" and "for" disabled people, and provides examples of individual and institutional oppressions against disabled people and "success stories," exploring how these have been overcome in education and employment. The book suggests how disabled and non-disabled people can collaborate in the development of inclusive communities and neighborhoods.

The text is suitable for students taking courses in the areas of health, social care and allied services at NVQ, BTEC, Degree and PGCE level. The author encourages students to raise their own questions and develop their own forms of inquiry.

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"Introduction; Why study disability? Some explanatory beginnings; Critical factors in community care and independent living; Legislation as the basis of empowerment; What is quality of life? Euthanasia and the new eugenics; The emerging politics of disability; Disability research; Medical aspects of disability; The enabling environment; Future directions.."

### **About the Author**

David Johnstone is Course Leader of Disability and Community Studies, Edge Hill University College, Ormskirk.

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