Instructor: Professor Julie Maybee  
Office: 371 Carmen Hall  
Office hours: Wednesdays 8:30 – 9:30, 11:00 – 12:00, and by appointment.  
Telephone: 718-960-7111 (direct line); 718-960-8292 (Philosophy Office)  
E-mail: julie.maybee@lehman.cuny.edu (the best way to contact me is by email)

1  Course Description  
Examination of how disability is defined and of moral issues surrounding the treatment of people with disabilities. Topics may include the role of the body in the definition and experience of disability, privacy issues, disability identity, and the moral issues involved in eugenics, prenatal screening, rehabilitation, and social services for disabled people.

2  Course Learning Objectives  
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

• Describe theoretical debates about the definition of disability  
• Explain the concept and significance of disability identity  
• Describe debates about the role of the body (if there is one) in defining disability and the experience of disability  
• Explain a variety of ethical issues associated with disability (to be selected by instructor), such as privacy, eugenics, prenatal screening, and rehabilitation  
• Describe ethical issues raised by various individual and social responses to disability, including social services and the law  
• Incorporate an understanding of disability into their own ethical responses, at both the individual and social levels

3  Required Text and Readings  
All readings will be made available through the Blackboard Web learning system. Access to and use of the Blackboard web learning system is therefore required for this course. Access to and use of your Lehman e-mail account is also required for this course.

Students are required to use a bibliographic program. You should use the free program Zotero. Zotero works as an add-on to the Firefox web browser, and allows you to capture bibliographic references from library web-databases, as well as from many other websites such as WorldCat.org and Amazon.com. See the weekly module for Week 1 to see a video I created to demonstrate what Zotero can do for you, as well as to see links to tutorials on how to install and use Zotero.

4  Work for the Course  
Weekly Discussion Wikis 25%  
Class Participation, Short Assignments & Attendance 15%  
Short film/autobiography paper 10%  
Final Paper (in two required drafts) 25%  
Final Exam (in class, during the exam period) 25%

The discussion wikis give you the opportunity to help build the content of the course. You build the content of the wikis, and so help to determine what gets discussed and focused on in each wiki itself. Moreover, in-class discussions will also be based on the wikis. Wiki entries are always due by 9:00 pm on the Tuesday of the relevant week (so, for instance, wiki contributions for the Week 2 Discussion Wiki are due by 9:00 pm on the Tuesday of Week 2).

Wiki participation: Students are required to work collaboratively with other students each week on the week’s “Discussion” wiki. The wiki is a shared document on which students will write questions they have about the
readings and help to answer questions that other students raise about the readings. At the highest level of performance, students’ contributions to the wiki will demonstrate that the student has actively engaged with the materials by connecting the materials to each other, to other materials in the course, or to materials outside the course with which the student is familiar. Students’ questions must not only raise a question but also explain the context of the question. Students should also be able to answer at least some of the questions posed by other students.

**Class attendance:** Students will be expected to attend each Wednesday class and participate in discussions. If a student has an emergency, please let the instructor know if possible, by email before class.

**Final paper:** Students are required to write a final paper in three drafts: the second draft after comments from a student peer, and the third draft after comments from Prof. Maybee.

**Short film/Autobiography paper:** Students are required to attend the Disability Film Festival on March 10th or 11th (bonus points for attending both nights) and write a short, three-page paper explaining what at least two of the films tell us about the embodiment of people with disabilities along different dimensions of embodiment. Students who can document an inability to attend the Film Festival on either night may read the following book and write their short papers about the book: Zola, Irving Kenneth. 2003. *Missing Pieces: A Chronicle of Living with a Disability.* Temple University Press. Students will have to obtain the book on their own either through a library or by purchasing it online or at a bookstore (I have not ordered the book through the bookstore).

When assigning the overall grade, I consider a student’s performance on each and every assignment, but I also take into consideration improvement over the course of the semester, and will weigh later grades more heavily than earlier ones when such improvement is shown. In cases where improvement is shown, I may use the final exam as an good indication of a student’s involvement with and participation in the course, and weigh its grade heavily.

(6) **Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism:**

**Plagiarism** is the act of presenting another person’s ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism.

- Copying another person’s actual words **without the use of quotation marks** and **without footnotes** attributing the words to their source;
- Presenting another person’s ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source;
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework or laboratory assignments.

**Internet Plagiarism** includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, and “cutting & pasting” from various sources without proper attribution.

This class will be governed by Lehman College’s general policies on intellectual property, academic misconduct, and plagiarism. Students are expected to bear individual responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals.

*A student who plagiarizes may incur both academic and disciplinary penalties.* **Academic penalties are grade penalties assigned by the instructor. STUDENTS WHO PLAGIARIZE IN THIS COURSE WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF “F” FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.**

**Disciplinary penalties are penalties assigned by the College, including suspensions, and expulsion.**

For more complete information about expectations regarding academic integrity, please see the section entitled “Academic Integrity” in the “Academic Services and Policies” section of Lehman’s Undergraduate Bulletin at [http://www.lehman.edu/undergraduate-bulletin/academicintegrity.htm](http://www.lehman.edu/undergraduate-bulletin/academicintegrity.htm).

**Students caught cheating and/or plagiarizing will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for the relevant assignment.**

(7) **Accessibility, accommodations, abilities:** It is our goal for students to feel comfortable in discussing how to maximize student learning, participation and access to the course. If any student has specific accommodation needs, please let the instructor know **as soon as possible** so they can be addressed. Please don’t hesitate to contact your instructor by email, telephone or before or after class to discuss these issues. To make arrangements for accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 718-960-8441 or visit their website at [http://www.lehman.edu/vpstud/splstudentserv/home.html](http://www.lehman.edu/vpstud/splstudentserv/home.html).
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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|      |       | **Topic:** *The Status of the Body in Western Culture and Western Philosophy*  
Aristotle Excerpts  
*Nicomachean Ethics*, Book One, §§1-5 and part of §6  
*Politics*, Book One (all)  
Short Video:  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Dgtozw64el&feature=youtube_gdata_player.  
Descartes, René Excerpts from *Meditations on First Philosophy*,  
Meditation I (all), Meditation II (all)  
Short Video:  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHihkRwishE&feature=youtube_gdata_player. |
| 3    | 2/19  | **Topic:** *Defining Disability & The Role of the Body*  
*An Example of the “Medical Model” of Disability*  
“Social Models” of Disability  
| 4    | 2/26  | “Social Models” of Disability (cont.)  
| 5    | 3/5   | Critiques of “Social Models” of Disability:  
From the medical/functional perspective:  
From the “social relational” perspective:  
| 6    | 3/12  | **Topic:** *Disability Identity*  
*Social Models, Disability Identity and Politics:*  
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Authors and References</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE DURING CLASS April 9th.</strong></td>
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4


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<th>14</th>
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<th>NO CLASS – Work with Other Students on Required Study Wiki</th>
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