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Critical DS

Prof. Lindgren

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Final Reflection

This class has been a process of self-discovery. I thoroughly enjoyed taking a class where I learn about myself, my history, how others see me. This was truly a class where I learned about myself, and I enjoyed every part of it.

I think I gravitated towards the readings and the questions that pertained to sexuality. I think this is because of my own identity, but also because I feel like I have such a strong connection to Eli Clare. He was the first disability studies writer that I read, and I remember crying every other page because what he said resonated with me so much. His words cut through to my bones.

I also enjoyed reading and learning about aspects of disability studies that I was not so well versed in. For example, prior to this class, I knew very little about deaf culture or neurodivergence or stimming, or all the myriad of ways that something can be accessible. I learned that when I talk about accessibility, the conversation cannot stop at physical disabilities. To be a good disability studies scholar, your analysis needs to be reach people across disabilities, while still retaining nuance.

I’m not sure how much I offered the other students in the class. I definitely learned a lot from them. I was always eager to hear Margaret’s comments on neurodivergence, or Erin’s comments that always added nuance and complexity. I hope to have offered others a look into intersectionality.

I really enjoyed the writing I did in this class. I hadn’t written in those forms in such a long time. It was such a relief being able to write something other than a lab report. I was really touched when Prof. Lindgren commented on how she could see Eli’s influence on my writing style. That was one of the best compliment’s I could receive. I really hope to be able to continue this kind of writing, if not for a class, then at least as a type of journal or blog. Perhaps I’ll be able to continue some of this writing in my class next semester titled Medicine, Disability, and Narratives.

Overall, this has been my favorite class ever. I learned so much, and I *enjoyed* it. It was never a chore doing the readings or coming to class. It’s nice to find something that is intellectually stimulating but also rouses a lot of emotions. I can definitely see myself continuing to do work in Disability Studies.