

Renata Muñoz
5/16/24
HLTH 304
Final Reflection

My posts and reflections on Serendip seemed to really be focused on the critiques of the liberal disability rights framework and the importance of care and disability community. I think this course has helped me dig into more the critiques of the disability rights framework, so I really found myself coming back to that and applying it to the content we were reading or discussing in class. I think it's really important to be attune to what ideologies are being reflected when we use and prioritize liberal and Western frameworks over others. Especially since I had already been exposed to some of the content in class, being able to revisit and reread some of this content with a new analytical lens of disability justice and debilitation really helped in deepening my understanding of disability theory.

The other theme in my reaction posts was the topic of disability community and solidarity. I think this class itself also exemplified this theme. I really appreciated having a dedicated space with other disabled people to talk about disability theory. To read and talk about the disability community while in a similar space was very rewarding. I liked having new exposures to representation of disability community like in *Sound of Metal* and *Good Kings*, *Bad Kings* were great to see. I really think having these reminders of community are important, and I think the atmosphere of the class also facilitated in making a community space.

I really appreciated learning more about some of the historical U.S. context of disability that I was unfamiliar with. We made some connections in class between disability, race, sexuality and the oppressive forces of the carceral state that I will continue to apply in my other classes. This class also made me think more about how DASH can become more political and be interrogating what frameworks we're centering ourselves around. I think the discussions in class were helpful in understanding different perspectives and how people approach disability theory

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when they're getting introduced to it. I hope I was able to contribute to other people's understanding of the lived experience of being disabled, especially as we were reading theory. I think I was able to complicate some of the traditional understandings of disability, and especially complicate the narratives that center around cure and marketing disabled people as extra special.

My learning in this course came primarily from being in the same space with other people. The discussions were very illuminating and I appreciated the efforts made to make our space casual and inviting. I learned from how others experience disability, how they were introduced to disability, and how they're conceptualizing disability. It was also meaningful to see how we were all learning together from each other. Working with CCW was also very rewarding in making connections with another disabled community. I wish I had had more opportunities to talk with the different artists. It was really great to visit CCW and see how community was being built and enacted in that space. Overall, I really enjoyed this course and really appreciated how accessible it was as well. This semester was very heavy for me and so having a space I knew would be accessible was a great example of disability justice in action.