Module Title: An introduction to the disability communities and disability theories for application to social work scholarship, teaching, and practice

Instructor:

Residency:

Date:

Module Description:

This module will explore the disability communities as they relate to social work education and social work practice. We will link this discussion to a consideration of both the medical and social models of disability, as well as the personal tragedy theory of disability, and a proposed interactional model. In order to engage in reflective and reflexive practice, we will engage in various activities, including ones focused on able-bodied/allistic privilege as it applies to both teaching and practice. In order to lift up the voices of the disability communities, we will reflect on the experiences of disabled students, clients, and colleagues in various social work sectors before talking about positive disability identity development and disability-affirming practice. Moving into a consideration of theory for praxis, we will explore Crip Theory, DisCrit, and review an intersectional, anti-oppressive and critically culturally competent practice model. We will conclude with committing to facets of anti-ableist practice.

Module Objectives:

1. To explore our personal and social work views of disability
2. To reflect on our privileges (even as disabled people ourselves)
3. To lift up the voices of the disability communities to inform our scholarship, teaching, and practice
4. To explicate the core tenets of key disability-related theories and practice frameworks
5. To apply concepts to create at least three planned actions towards creating anti-ableist practice

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Recommended viewing:


Recommended seminal works:


Module Assignment:

Due

Please write a 1-2 page reflection paper, or record a 4-6 minute video (please include captions or a transcript) in responses to the follow prompts.

Part A: Identify and discuss messages received in childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and in the social work profession about disability from:
A. Family (including both family of origin and family of choice)
B. Friends
C. School (K-12, undergrad)
D. Media
E. Social work entities (higher education, workplace, professional associations)

Part B: How are these messages in line or at odds with the messages put forth by disabled, chronically ill, neurodivergent and/or Mad individuals? Where do you see tensions occurring in our profession?

Part C: Please reflect on any other aspects of the readings/recommended viewings that stood out to you as they relate to your social work practice.