Fall 2016
24984 ENGL303.001M
Professor Janet Lyon
Disability and Chaos
MWF 9:05-9:55 301 Boucke
This course fulfills the English Department's multicultural requirement.
This course fulfills the English Department's 20th century requirement.

Contact English honors adviser Marcy North to enroll. mln14@psu.edu

"Disability and Chaos"

When the tidy, unreflective parameters of the nondisabled world are knocked in by disability, panic often ensues. Or supra-rational insight. Or a kind of chaos that can't sort itself out. We'll read relevant fiction/poetry/plays and watch it all unfold across textual surfaces and right through capsizing assumptions about "the normal." Alongside the bewildered literature we'll read some vibrant memoirs, some graphic narratives (i.e. comics), and a variety of materials from the field of Disability Studies—about sensation, mobility, neurodiversity, mindedness, reimagined embodiment, crip life, disability gain, and institutional power. By the end of the semester your perceptions of the world will have been retooled. The reading list includes work by Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner, Philip K. Dick, Mark Haddon, Virginia Woolf, Charlotte Mew, Susan Nussbaum, Stephen Kuuisisto, Martin McDonagh, Susan Manguso, Guadalupe Nettel, D.H. Lawrence, Truman Capote, Shakespeare, Toni Morrison.

Requirements: Faultless attendance, consistent class participation, bi-weekly written responses to the readings, an in-class presentation, and a seminar paper in two drafts.