

Memoir Book Club Group Project

Students will be presented with a list of potential memoirs (first person accounts) of living with disability. Students must self-select into groups of no more than seven students to participate in a semester long book club and final group project. Groups should be selected based on student interest in the particular memoirs available.

Book Club Components:

1. *In-Class Book Club Meetings*: There will be four in-class book club meetings to ensure the groups are reading the books throughout the semester, give students an opportunity to discuss the book and how it relates to class material presented on disability and culture, and begin preparing for their final presentation. The dates of the in-class book club meetings can be found in the course schedule. During book-club meetings, all students should bring their memoir to class for reference during class discussions.
2. *Summary and Analyses (100 points)*: On the date of the book club meetings, class will start with group members handing in a one-page summary and analysis of their assigned reading. You should have read the 1st 1/4 of the book by Book Club Meeting 1, 2nd 1/4 by Book Club Meeting 2, 3rd 1/4 by Book Club Meeting 3 and finished the book by Book Club Meeting 4. The papers should provide a basic summary (10 pts), obvious details from the section read (10 pts), and a personal reaction to what you have read (5 pts).
Rubric Provided.
3. *Book Club Discussion Sheets*: (100 points): For each book club meeting, each student should prepare one question for discussion for the group. You should be prepared for class with a typed question at the top of sheet of paper. During “your question,” you

should take notes on the group members' responses. This will be handed in at the end of that class period and worth 25 points each. The question must include a tie-in to material learned during lectures or by reading the textbook. The questions should meet the following criteria: a thought-provoking question about the book (10 points), the question quotes or references a particular part of the book (5 points), and the question has a quote or specific reference to class or text material (10 points). Rubric Provided.

4. *Final Group Presentation:* 100 points: During the last week of class, each group will provide a presentation on their book (two per class period). The presentation must (at a minimum) answer the following five questions. A paper in APA format must be handed in (one per group) which also answers these five questions. You are encouraged to be as creative/expressive as you like with your presentation which should take about 20 minutes. You may utilize any technology you see fit and incorporate any props you like.

The Questions:

- a. Provide a summary of the book, including main characters and main events.
- b. What does the group believe the author is trying to tell people about his or her experience with disability? Analyze the author's main message and integrate course material.
- c. Think about the five models of disability covered in class: which model does the author seem to be using the most? Why do you think that? Argue how the models presented in class fit with examples from the book to support your idea. Are there any other characters (care providers, family members) who utilize an alternative model?
- d. Analyze how culture impacts the experience of disability in the book.
- e. Does anyone in the book experience prejudice/discrimination? How do they respond to it?

- f. What is your personal reactions to the book? Do you think it was a good book to read in this class? How did it enhance your learning about the academic concepts presented in class (theories, models, definitions, etcetera)?

Possible Memoir List:

1. Estreich, G. (2013). The shape of the eye: A memoir
2. Fadiman, A. (2012). The spirit that catches you and you fall down
3. Connoly, K.M. (2010). Double Take: A Memoir
4. Villasenor, V. (2005). Burro Genius: A Memoir Extreme Dyslexia
5. Robison, J. (2008). Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's
6. Jamison, K. R. (1997). An Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness
7. Kaysen, S. (1994). Girl, Interrupted