**Human Relations Chapter 12**

**-1993, members of the United Nations declared people with disabilities an oppressed minority group**

**-people with disabilities were being treated as outcasts and that the situation was getting worse as their numbers increased-they have been considered the world’s largest minority group facing poverty and unemployment along with social and cultural isolation**

**-Abeism-the negative determination of an individual’s abilities based on his or her disabilities and promotes the belief that people with disabilities are inferior to able-bodied persons in order to justify discrimination against them**

**-in 1773, the passage of the Rehabilitation Act was first public acknowledgment that people with disabilities could be considered a minority group in need of civil rights protection**

**-1990, Congress passed Disability Act (ADA) to provide a legal recourse against discrimination**

**-disability rights advocates argued that the concept of people with disabilities being an oppressed group would be more readily accepted if disability studies were included in secondary and higher education courses that examine women’s issues, racial and ethnic problems, and negative social, cultural, and institutional experiences of other minority groups**

**-understanding experiences of people with disabilities requires recognition of dominant group privileges and power not shared**

**I.Cultural ableism**

**-many people with disabilities have been considered deviants because they are not considered normal**

**-images and beliefs are perpetuated in society that promote the perception of people with disabilities as deviant or incompetent**

**-early as 1900s, US Public Health Service categorized people with retardation as defectives along with criminals**

**A.What are the historical perceptions of people with disabilities?**

**1.subhuman organism**

**-strong with people considered mentally retarded or those considered vegetables**

**-as late as 19th century, mental defectives were housed in rooms not heated in winter nor cooled in the summer as it was assumed that they were not sensitive to heat or cold like normal people or used cattle prods for control**

**-1960s, belief around that organs should be harvested from severely or profoundly retarded people**

**2.menace to society**

**-this perception regards people with disabilities as evil**

**-we have had fictitious characters that promote this such as Captain Hook, Hunchback of Notre Dame, ect….**

**3.Object of dread**

**-medieval myth of the changeling where believed that upon the birth of a normal child, evil spirits came in the night and stole the child replacing it with a defective child**

**4.object of pity**

**-perception may not seem negative because it appears to include compassion for disabled people, but it is a compassion seldom accompanied by respect**

**-some organizations work to arouse pity with posters of children or with telethons that parade children with disabilities**

**5.diseased organism**

**-views a person’s physical or mental disability s a temporary condition that can be cured by chemical or psychological treatment**

**6.holy innocent/external child**

**-mentally retarded children need to be protected and sheltered as innocent children, but rather they need to learn adult behaviors**

**7.objects of ridicule**

**-contained in literature, folk stories, and jokes, people with disabilities are a target**

**-pagan practices of displaying freaks for public entertainment was revived in the Middle Ages by the Catholic Church on feast days**

**-carnival side shows exploited people**

**B.How do scholars describe a disability culture?**

**-because of rejection, many people with similar disabilities have come together to support each other in their efforts to achieve the goal of living a normal life that includes a job, home, and a family…**

**-there are four components that make up a culture:**

**1.historical knowledge and awareness**

**2.common language**

**3.awareness of a cultural identity supported by cultural artifacts and identified by distinctive norms and patterns of behavior**

**4.network of voluntary, in group social organizations**

**-the deaf community is an example of a group who has these four components**

**II.Individual Ableism**

**-negative attitudes are reflected in the language we use to identify disabled people**

**-we hear that people are afflicted with or are a victim of a disability**

**-individual ablesim-are prejudiced attitudes and actions toward people with a disability based on our assumptions about them**

**A.What assumptions are made about people with disabilities?**

**1.disability is a biological problem of a particular individual and views the disability as a problem and the solution as a cure….the assumption overlooks the influence of prejudices, stereotypes, and discrimination about disabilities**

**2.Any problems for a person with a disability must stem from the disability-they may have health problems like anybody but may not be unhealthy**

**3.A person with a disability is a victim-may suggest a human or compassionate attitude, but may lack respect for the person with the disability**

**4.Being disabled is central to self-concept and social comparisons for a person with a disability-a person with a disability will develop a self concept similar to a person without a disability based on factors such as academic achievement, honors ect…**

**5.having a disability means a person will need assistance-not necessarily…maybe accommodations…..**

**B.What labels represent legitimate ways of identifying people?**

**-saying somebody is mentally retarded has become an acceptable ways to categorize people based on factors that having nothing to do with the condition**

**-cerebral palsy patients were labeled as mentally retarded until it was realized that they only needed adaptations such as typewriters, computers, ect….**

**-American Indian students have been overrepresented in special education….they don’t’ really qualify!!**

**-if a minority group represents a large part of a state’s population, it is more likely that they will be overrepresented in special education classes**

**-black students are more likely to be placed in restricted classrooms compared to white students**

**C. Institutional Ableism**

**-this is a consequence of established laws, customs, and practices that systematically discriminate against people with disabilities**

**A.Why were people with disabilities placed in institutions?**

**-churches believed such concepts as faith comes by hearing and the Black Death scared people into believing something was evil about people who didn’t appear normal**

**-by the 15th century the Catholic Church declared war on witches which included people who seemed unusual or deviants**

**-people who were mentally retarded or muttered under their breath from mental illness were associated as working with the devil**

**-John Calvin believed that Satan possessed the mentally ill and Martin Luther believed that Satan was responsible for fathering all mentally ill children and urged parents to drown them**

**-the purpose of institutions was to remove defective people from society**

**-After WWI, U.S. laws passed laws singling out people with mental illness or physical disabilities to be institutionalized**

**-German Nazis implemented involuntary sterilization and allied authorities were unable to classify it as war crimes as similar crimes were passed in the U.S.**

**B.Are institutions for people with disabilities providing good care today?**

**-when institutions closed, many moved to homes which often have worse conditions**

**-people with disabilities prefer to live in family homes or group homes in a community**

**C.What do other countries do?**

**-in 1995, reports came out that the U.S. spends less on long-term disability than many other countries**

**-Austrian legislation promotes hiring workers and fines companies for not complying**

**-France and Germany both give better benefits**

**-U.S. often punishes disabled people who may get 400-$700 a month with part time jobs by taking money away from them to make it almost impossible to live**

**D.Is there discrimination against people with disabilities living in communities?**

**1.jobs-around 80% are employed in sheltered workshops that hire only disabled people….job lookout is poor**

**2.mobility/accessibility-we have huge problems of accessibility especially in public transportation**

**3.health care-some health care providers refuse to service people with disabilities**

**4.education-we have mainstreaming, but the success of it depends on the teachers and administrations in each individual school**