



# HISTORY OF



# CONSCIOUSNESS

at UCSC




## WHAT IS HISTCON?

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The History of Consciousness department is the only one of its kind in the world. Renowned former faculty have included James Clifford, Hayden White, Donna Haraway, Barbara Epstein, and Angela Davis. History of Consciousness graduates go on to work in various fields, both theoretical and activist. Bettina Aptheker, J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Huey Newton, Sandy Stone, and Kim TallBear all hold PhDs from HistCon.

The department has developed a Minor Program to let undergraduate students experience the unorthodox and unique approach to learning and thinking that is represented by the department. All HistCon undergraduate courses satisfy a GE requirement. Try out one of our courses - UCSC is the only college in the world where you will have this opportunity!



## MINOR REQUIREMENTS

One Lower Division course

- HISC 1: Introduction to History of Consciousness (or other approved Lower Division course)

Five Upper Division courses

- Students may, with permission of the instructor, petition the department to substitute a five-credit graduate seminar for one of the required upper division courses
- Students may petition to substitute an upper-division course offered by affiliated faculty in other departments



## EXPLORE MORE ABOUT THE MINOR

Scan this QR code to be linked to our web!



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Contact History of Consciousness  
Undergraduate Advising at  
[hisc-ug-advising-group@ucsc.edu](mailto:hisc-ug-advising-group@ucsc.edu) with questions

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## SUMMER 2024 COURSES

### HISC 80S: War & the Media

This course will interrogate the ways in which Islamist radicalism is deeply intertwined with capitalist modernity and mutually constitutive with contemporary militarism and imperialism.

GE: TA

### HISC 82: Another Brick in the Wall

We will explore what the walls are that make up our world; what they divide, defend, and imprison; or how they solidify and perpetuate not only power, but also limits that protect us. In this course we will encounter, build, or tear down the walls that define knowledge, power, and human and nonhuman experience.

GE: TA

### HISC 108: Parables for a Warming Planet: The Politics of Climate Change

This course examines the literary forms of parables, allegories, fables, and other kinds of storytelling as a way of understanding and responding to ecological crises.

GE: TA

### HISC 130: Blackness and the Psychoanalytic Imaginary

This seminar closely examines Freudian notions of instinct, drive, desire, death, sexuality, and (religious) ritual in relation to blackness.

GE: ER

### HISC 138: Fascism & Film

Propaganda, particularly film, has played a crucial role in the development of fascism. In this class, we'll try to understand what fascism is and what it looks and sounds like through analysis of literary text and film.

GE: IM

## FALL 2024 COURSES

### HISC 20: Democracy and Dictatorship

Although democracy is generally accepted as the best and most legitimate form of government, there is little agreement on what it means and how it should function. This course will explore the concept and theories of democracy, with a focus on the "People" – who constitutes the people, how popular will is embodied, and how it may be expressed. We will explore debates about different models of democracy and examine how alternatives to democracy, such as dictatorship, autocracy, and tyranny, have been conceptualized. We will study democracy and its "others" in relation to a constellation of concepts including power, equality, participation, accountability, resistance, legitimacy, and the rule of law.

GE: TA

### HISC 137: Why Should I Care?

Have you ever wondered why you should care? Or wished you wouldn't? Care is complicated, but also vital to people, non-humans, and the planet. In this course we will explore together what care means. Is it work? An emotion? An obligation? A burden? Does it make people happy? Do only humans care? Who gets care? To appreciate the role played by care in all areas of social, cultural and ecological life we draw from interdisciplinary perspectives in the social sciences, the humanities and the arts as well as from social movements and activism.

GE: PE-H

### HISC 142: What is a Person?

At first glance, the question 'what is a person?' may seem simple, naïve, and obvious. Upon further reflection, however, it becomes more complex and contentious. Consider: the vast majority of human beings have historically been denied the status of 'persons', including most women and racialized peoples. Conversely, there are many non-human entities who have been granted recognition as persons, including corporations, artificial learning systems, even rivers and mountains. So, if 'persons' are not merely synonymous with individual biological humans, what are they? What does it tell us about the modern world that so many diverse issues—from intellectual property, to abortion, to democratic citizenship—seem to hinge on this question?

In this course, we shall examine these big questions through a range of debates on the scope and nature of personhood from the medieval world to the present, exploring how they touch upon fields such as philosophy, law, politics, science, and the arts.

GE: TA