History and Philosophy of Science, Minor

Brian Skyrms, Director
949-824-1520

The minor in the History and Philosophy of Science is intended for students who wish to study the history of science, the philosophical foundations of scientific inquiry, and the relationship between science and other fields. The history of science explores how science is actually done and how it has influenced history. This may involve tracking down an idea’s source or its influences, evaluating the cultural forces at work in the generation of a scientific theory or the reaction of culture to science, or taking a detailed look at the work of a particular scientist or movement within science. The philosophy of science is concerned with determining what science and mathematics are, accounting for their apparent successes, and resolving problems of philosophical interest that arise in the sciences. Philosophy of science courses cover such topics as the role of logic and language in science and in mathematics, scientific explanation, evidence, and probability. These courses may also cover work that has been done on the philosophical problems in specific sciences—for example, the direction of time in physics, the model of mind in psychology, the structure of evolution theory in biology, and the implications of Gödel’s incompleteness theorems for mathematics.

The minor is available to all UCI students.

A. Select two of the following:
   - LPS 31: Introduction to Inductive Logic
   - LPS 40: The Nature of Scientific Inquiry
   - HISTORY 60: The Making of Modern Science

B. Select two of the following:
   - HISTORY 135B: Crossing the World’s Oceans: From Sail to Steam
   - HISTORY 135E: Topics in the History of Science and Technology
   - PHILOS 110–115 (when topic is science)
   - PSYCH 120H: History of Psychology

C. Select three of the following:
   - LSCI 141: Topics in Philosophy of Language
   - LPS 106: Topics in Logic
   - LPS 108: Topics in Induction, Probability, and Decision Theory
   - LPS 140: Topics in Philosophy of Science
   - LPS 142W: Writing/Philosophy of Biology
   - LPS 143: Topics in Philosophy of Psychology
   - LPS 145: Topics in Philosophy of Language
   - LPS 147: Topics in Philosophy of Mathematics