

HPSS CONCENTRATION

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, & THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

BELIEF SYSTEMS

REGIONAL STUDIES

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

MIND, SELF, AND BEHAVIOR

MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURAL STUDIES

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND RACE

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

POLITICS AND POLICY

GLOBAL PROCESSES

A concentration in History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences at RISD is designed for students who wish to complement their studio major with an in-depth study in a thematic area supported by the department's curriculum. Such study enables students to fully explore the department's course offerings and to fulfill their Liberal Arts requirements in a way that is most meaningful for them. Working across the disciplines of HPSS requires intellectual curiosity, excellent communication skills, and the ability to bring together disparate methods and approaches. Such qualities are integral to the creative work of an artist or designer, as well as for growth and success in life.

Requirements

- **HPSS S101**
- **5 HPSS (or LAEL) courses**
- **2 additional courses (within or outside of HPSS)**

Except for HPSS S101, all courses applied to the concentration must address the theme of a student's chosen track. The concentration does not require additional courses above and beyond what is required for graduation, as students are merely fulfilling their requirements in a way that focuses on a particular area of interest.

To initiate a HPSS Concentration, contact the HPSS Concentration Coordinator, **Barbara Von Eckardt** (bvonecka@risd.edu). Detailed descriptions of the tracks and information about declaring a concentration can be found at: <http://www.risd.edu/Academics/HPSS/Concentration/>

CONCENTRATION TRACK DESCRIPTIONS

BELIEF SYSTEMS

Study of how cultures and societies throughout history have developed worldviews through religious beliefs, philosophical traditions, and folkways.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

*If you have an interest in his area you may want to consider the **Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies Concentration (NCSS)***

Study of human-nature relationships, past and present, including the role of science and technology, the impacts of cities, suburbs and rural worlds on the environment, and the ways in which art, design and creativity can contribute toward more sustainable and just socio-ecological futures.

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND RACE

Study of the socio-cultural, legal/ethical, historical, anthropological, psychological, political, and sociological aspects of social identity worldwide, with a particular focus on gender, sexual orientation, and race.

GLOBAL PROCESSES

A consideration of cultures, economies, and societies globally, with particular attention to systems and flows of people, information, capital, products, imagery, and ideas; i.e. to the relationships, connections, and disconnections of the globalized world.

MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Study of the relationships between communications, politics, and culture, past and present, including the rise and role of culture industries, theories of production, reception, and influence; and theoretical debates about culture and society from anthropology, media studies, sociology, and psychology.

MIND, SELF, AND BEHAVIOR

Study of how people perceive, construct, manipulate, and maintain views of themselves and the world around them, and how philosophical principals, physical and social environments, as well as biological factors inform us about people's identities, motivations, feelings, beliefs and behavior.

POLITICS AND POLICY

Study of social and political issues, worldwide, and the various methods that shape understanding of such issues, including empirical research, legal theory, political analysis, and social theory and practices.

REGIONAL STUDIES

The in-depth study of a region with a focus on histories, cultures, societies, philosophies, religions, aesthetics, political developments, and institutions.

Examples of the regions where students could concentrate their studies include The Americas (including North America, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America), Europe and Russia, the Middle East and Africa, Asia (East, Southeast, South, and Islamic Asia), The Atlantic World and/or The Mediterranean Sea

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

Study of the physical and natural sciences, with an emphasis on the importance of understanding science in society, and the influence of the scientific method and experimental practice across the disciplines. This concentration is designed to help students develop a broad range of science-literacies and explore the potential contribution of the sciences and of scientific method to critical making and critical thinking.