

Social Thought Minor

UCLA Division of Undergraduate Education, College of Letters & Science

The Social Thought minor helps students to think better: to think more deeply and more critically, drawing on the intellectual resources of major thinkers from around the world. Emphasizing social and political thought from the 17th century to today, students will read widely to develop an original argument about social life, culminating in a thesis project that will be an original contribution to scholarship.

The minor builds on lower division introductory exposure to the history of modern ideas as embodied in a number of key texts by significant thinkers such as Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Smith, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Marx, Weber, Darwin, Nietzsche, Freud, Du Bois, Said, and de Beauvoir. Building upon these foundations, students are encouraged to read widely and make connections to intellectuals who are not traditionally considered part of the “canon” of North Atlantic thought, especially thinkers from the Global South, indigenous communities, and historically marginalized groups.

Insisting that the best way to develop your thoughts is to write about them, the minor culminates in a two-term capstone project, a thesis of at least 5000 words, under the direction of a UCLA faculty mentor. Any student from any major is encouraged to join the Social Thought Minor. If you like to ask big questions about big ideas, and if you think you might want to try writing some answers to those questions, this is the minor for you.

The following summarizes the curricular requirements for the minor:

- 2 Lower Division Preparatory Courses (8-12 units)
- 4 Upper Division Electives (16-20 units)
- Social Thought 190A/B (4 units)
- Social Thought 199A/B (8 units)

In order to prepare for applying to this minor, interested students should speak with the Academic Advisor, Myrna Dee Kikuchi. To apply, students must:

- Achieve a cumulative UCLA GPA of 2.0 or greater
- Review and complete the application form
- Meet with the Undergraduate Advisor, Myrna Dee Kikuchi, if you have not already done so
- Receive a Letter of Recommendation from a faculty member
- Complete an application essay, which, in no more than 2 pages single spaced, addresses:
 - What social issues or questions interest you?
 - What social thinkers or theories interest you?
 - Why is writing about theory important to your education?
 - How does this minor complement your major?

Your application packet can be submitted to the following office:

Myrna Dee Kikuchi
Undergraduate Advisor for Social Thought
E-mail: mkikuchi@college.ucla.edu

Student Information

Name	UCLA Student ID
Major(s) / Minor(s)	Degree Expected Term
Transfer or Freshman admit? Freshman Transfer	Cumulative UCLA GPA:
Signature	Date

Coursework Information:

Please list the minor courses that you have already completed or are in-progress:

Course Department and Number	Course Term	Grade Received

Please list any courses from outside the approved list that you are planning to petition for minor credit:
(Please work with the Academic Advisor to submit the syllabi and petitions in the near future.)

Course Department and Number	University/College Name
Course Title	Completed/Planned

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