

# Contemporary Studies

Image: Norman Lewis, *Phantasy II*, 1946

## 1. What is the Contemporary Studies Program (CSP)?

The “contemporary period” is one of constant transformation, with new challenges and opportunities emerging all the time. The Contemporary Studies Program (CSP) engages with the ideas, thinkers, and movements that have contributed to new understandings of the world, community, self, and other. Choose from a wide range of interdisciplinary courses that explore ideas about ethics, aesthetics, and politics; contemporary art, modern film, and digital media; new biotechnologies, nature, environment, the body, and many others. CSP students develop tools for conceptual analyses—from multiple perspectives—on issues such as marginalization, social justice, freedom, belonging and responsibility, and participate in classes on transformative thinkers such as Ludwig Wittgenstein, Hannah Arendt, Judith Butler, bell hooks, and Michel Foucault. The Contemporary Studies Program challenges students to use their critical skills and creative talents to interpret our world today.

## 2. Why study CSP at King’s and Dalhousie?

Like all of the upper-year programs at King’s, CSP can be taken as an honours subject, a minor, or for some interesting elective courses. The honours program is specifically designed to be combined with a subject at Dalhousie, and students graduate with a joint degree from both institutions. Whether as a combined honours program, a minor, or as electives, studying CSP at King’s and Dalhousie encourages you to think critically across disciplines and fields of study. Students pursuing Contemporary Studies as an honours subject have paired the program with subjects such as Political Science, Economics, Gender and Woman Studies, German, French, English, Psychology, Classics, or Sustainability.

## 3. What courses are offered?

The Contemporary Studies Program has three core classes: Modern Social and Political Thought; Science and Culture; and Deconstruction the Tradition. It also offers a constellation of interesting electives including the Idea of Race, Mass Media and Digital Culture, Reflections on Death, The Artist and Society – David Bowie, the Thought of Michel Foucault, Rewriting Gender, Genocide: Comparative Perspectives, Film Theory, and Giants of 20th Century Jewish Thought. Additionally, CSP offers an optional month-long course in Berlin which provides students with the opportunity to explore the themes of collective memory, public space, and historical trauma in Germany’s capital city. All CSP courses are open to Dalhousie students.

## 4. What kind of jobs do people with a degree in CSP have now?

Working in the contemporary world requires some understanding of it. CSP alumni have gone on to pursue all kinds of interesting, engaging, and challenging careers in fields such as law, journalism, consulting, education, theatre, public policy, academia, not-for-profit work, and many others.

## 5. Where do I start?

Register for the second-year core class, CTMP 2001: Modern Social and Political Thought, or any elective which sparks your interest. To **learn more**, check it out at <https://ukings.ca/area-of-study/contemporary-studies/>. Have questions? Contact the Registrar’s Office for more information at [registrar@ukings.ca](mailto:registrar@ukings.ca).