This course explores the unique understanding of consciousness—as distinct from mind—in Indian thought (primarily in Jain, Buddhist, and Sāṃkhya-Yoga philosophies), alongside western conceptions of consciousness from Pythagoras up through Descartes, modern neuroscience, and recent explorations in animal consciousness. The class will explore related themes of death and the soul as they relate to consciousness as well.

Approved as an elective for the Medical Humanities minor.