

Department of Philosophy and Religion

Philosophy Major (PR)

Departmental Office: 1020 George Hall
<http://www.philosophyandreligion.msstate.edu>

Major Advisor/Undergraduate Program Coordinator for Philosophy: Barton Moffatt
 Office: 2140 George Hall

Major Advisor/Undergraduate Program Coordinator for Religion: Joseph Witt
 Office: 2180 George Hall

Philosophy is the study of the basic concepts—such as reality, truth, and goodness—which underlie the more specialized pursuits of science, art, education, religion, etc. Although students often study philosophy for its own sake, the general perspective it provides, and the critical thinking skills it develops, are of immense practical value in any profession.

The baccalaureate degree in philosophy is the accepted major for those planning to enter graduate school in philosophy. It is, however, an excellent pre-law and pre-seminary degree and, because of its general nature, philosophy is highly appropriate as a double major with any other concentrated field of study.

The standard program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy has a major requirement of 30 hours, including Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Logic, Introduction to Ethics, History of Western Philosophy parts I and II, and Seminar in Philosophy. The final 12 hours, including six that must be PHI courses, are to be selected in consultation with, and with approval by, the major advisor.

The department also offers a minor in philosophy, with the requirements being 15 hours of PHI courses.

Students considering either a major or minor in philosophy should meet with one of the department's advisors as early in their careers as possible.

General Education and College Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Foreign Language

3 semesters - one Foreign Language - see advisor		9
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Humanities

Literature - see University/A&S Core		3
History - see University/A&S Core		3
Philosophy Elective - see major		3
Humanities Elective - see major. Must be from 2 different areas- see A&S Core		9

Math

MA 1323	Trigonometry	3
or ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	

Fine Arts

See University/A&S Requirements		3
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Natural Sciences

Physical Sciences w/lab (CH, GG, PH) ¹		3-4
Biological Sciences w/lab (BIO, EPP, PO) ¹		3-4
Natural Science Elective ²		3-4

Social Sciences ³

See A&S requirements		6
Social Sciences Electives		12

Major Core

PHI 1103	Introduction to Philosophy	3
PHI 1113	Introduction to Logic	3
PHI 1123	Introduction to Ethics	3

PHI 3023	History of Western Philosophy I	3
PHI 3033	History of Western Philosophy II	3
PHI Electives		12
Oral Communication Requirement		
CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
or CO 1013	Introduction to Communication	
Writing Requirement		
PHI 3133	Seminar in Philosophy	3
or REL 3033	Theory and Method in the Study of Religion	
Computer Literacy		
Choose one of the following:		3
TECH 1273	Computer Applications	
BIS 1012	Introduction to Business Information Systems	
CSE 1233	Computer Programming with C	
CSE 1273	Computer Programming with Java	
General Electives		
Consult advisor		25
Total Hours		124

(31 hours must be 3000/4000 from A&S)

¹ See University/A&S Core.

² Consult advisor.

³ Must be from 2 different areas and must cross 4 disciplines over the 18 hours. Only one Economics allowed. See advisor.

Religion Concentration (REL)

Program Coordinator and Advisor: Joseph Witt

Office: 2180 George Hall

Religion refers to the basic human impulse to seek coherence in life, and to experience a sacred reality that guides and orders human existence. As an academic discipline the study of religion involves consideration of those writings, customs, and rituals that have historically served to form and distinguish religious groups. It includes examination of primitive religions and sectarian developments as well as study of the major world religions of both the east and west.

The Department of Philosophy and Religion offers a concentration in religion leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. This degree is an accepted major for graduate school, or for a career in a professional ministry or teaching. The broad historical and cultural orientation of the philosophy degree with a religion concentration makes it an excellent preparation for any career. It is highly appropriate as a double major, or as a minor in association with another field of study.

The major with the concentration in religion has a requirement of 30 hours. Of these, nine hours are required in philosophy. The philosophy component may be satisfied by taking either a) Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Logic, and either the Seminar in Philosophy or Theory & Method in Religion, or b) History of Western Philosophy I and II, and the Seminar in Philosophy. The remaining 21 hours must include Introduction to Religion, World Religions I and II, six hours of REL courses, and six hours of REL or PHI courses which are to be selected in consultation with, approved by, the Religion advisor.

The Department also offers a minor in Religion, with the requirement being 15 hours of any REL courses.

General Education and College Requirements

See Philosophy Requirements above

Concentration Core

REL 1103	Introduction to Religion	3
REL 3213	World Religions I	3
REL 3223	World Religions II	3
Choose one of the following combinations:		6
PHI 1103 & PHI 1113	Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Logic	

PHI 3023 & PHI 3033	History of Western Philosophy I and History of Western Philosophy II	
Electives		
REL/PHI Electives		12
Oral Communication Requirement		
CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
Writing Requirement		
PHI 3133 or REL 3033	Seminar in Philosophy Theory and Method in the Study of Religion	3
Computer Literacy		
Choose one of the following:		3
TECH 1273	Computer Applications	
BIS 1012	Introduction to Business Information Systems	
CSE 1233	Computer Programming with C	
CSE 1273	Computer Programming with Java	
General Electives		
Consult advisor		25
Total Hours		124

(31 hours must be 3000/4000 level from A&S)

Environmental Justice Minor

The Minor in Environmental Justice explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. It investigates the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues, as well as provides students with sufficient natural science background to understand and explain human impacts on the natural world. Our course of student aims to give students an interdisciplinary perspective on the environmental and the social in tandem and how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly.

Required Course		3
PHI 3313	Environmental Ethics	
Justice Electives		9
GG 4543	Community Engagement in Environmental Geosciences	
GR 4133	Political Ecology: Space, Nature, and Justice	
HI 3183	World Environmental History	
HI 4193	U.S. Environmental History	
PHI 3173	Social and Political Philosophy	
PS 4743	Environmental Policy	
Ecological Studies Electives		6
BIO 3104	Ecology	
BIO 4233	Living with Global Change	
BIO 4993	Community Ecology	
CH 4303	Environmental Chemistry I	
ENS 2101	Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory	
ENS 2103	Introduction to Environmental Science	
GR 1703	Introduction to Climate and Climate Change	
GR 3113	Conservation of Natural Resources	
GR 4813	Natural Hazards and Processes	
Total Hours		18