John Bickle has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of California at Irvine. His areas of interest are philosophy of neuroscience, scientific reductionism, virtues in ethics, and libertarian political philosophy.

Albert Bisson has a Th.M. from the Reformed Theological Seminary. His areas of interest are Judaism, Christian theology, Old and New Testament Exegetical, Ethical Studies, and the Philosophy of Religion.

Kristin Boyce earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Chicago. She specializes in the philosophy of art, history of modern and analytic philosophy, and Wittgenstein, with additional interests in ethics, logic, the philosophy of action, and the philosophy of religion.

Mike Bruno recently defended his Ph.D. in philosophy and cognitive science at the University of Arizona. He specializes in the philosophy of mind and works mainly on understanding the nature of visual experience.

Michael Clifford has a Ph.D. in philosophy from Vanderbilt University. His research interests include Political Philosophy, Liberal Theory, Politics of Identity, Contemporary Continental Philosophy, and Michel Foucault.

Jim Codling has a Th.D. from Concordia University in St. Louis and an Ed.D. from Mississippi State University. His primary area of interest is European History.

Jonathan Edelmann has a Ph.D. in religion from the University of Oxford. His areas of interest are Hinduism, Science and Religion, Indian Philosophies and Sanskrit Language.

Alicia Hall has a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on accounts of well-being as well as bioethics.

Lynn Holt has a Ph.D. in philosophy from Vanderbilt University. His areas of interest are Rationality, Philosophy of Science, Early Modern and Ancient Philosophy.

William Kallfelz has a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and specializes in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of physics.

Barton Moffatt has a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. His areas of interest include Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology and Research Ethics.

Bert Montgomery has a M.Div. from Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. His areas of interest are Spirituality, Culture and Interfaith Dialogue.

Michael Roche has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His areas of interest include Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Science, and Epistemology.

David Spewak has a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His areas of interest include Philosophy of Language, Epistemology and Metaphysics.

Robert Thompson has a Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. His areas of interest include Philosophy of Mind, Language and Philosophy of Cognitive Science, and Epistemology.

Joseph Witt earned his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Florida. His research and teaching interests include environmental ethics, social movements, and U.S. religious history.

Danielle Wylie earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin. Her primary area of interest is moral psychology. More generally, she is interested in philosophy of cognitive science, philosophy of mind, and ethics.

How to Major

The philosophy major consists of 30 credit hours: 3 required introductory courses—Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics and Logic; a 2 semester history of philosophy sequence; and 5 elective courses, including a writing seminar (or another elective that meets the writing requirement). Students interested in majoring in philosophy should contact Robert Thompson at jrt@philrel.msstate.edu.

How do I minor in Philosophy? It’s easy—just take any 5 classes in PHI!

Major in Philosophy with a concentration in Religion (30 hours total)

- Intro to Religion
- World Religions I
- World Religions II
- +electives
  - AND, one of two 2 tracks
    - Intro to Phil
    - Intro to Logic
    - Writing Seminar
  - OR
    - History of Western Phil I
    - History of Western Phil II
    - Writing Seminar

Students interested in the religion concentration should contact Albert Bisson at abisson@philrel.msstate.edu.

How do I minor in Religion? It’s easy—just take any 5 classes in REL!

Philosophy & Religion Spring ’15 Courses

http://www.philosophyandreligion.msstate.edu

Q: What do the following people have in common?

- Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize
- Pearl Buck, Nobel Prize for Literature
- Steve Martin, Comedian
- Susan Sarandon, Actress
- Bruce Lee, Actor/Martial Artist
- Peter Thiel, PayPal Founder
- Phil Jackson, NBA Coach
- David Foster Wallace, Author

A: They were all Philosophy majors!
PHI 1103 Introduction to Philosophy (CLIFFORD, JOHNSON, ROCHE, WYLIE) This course is an introduction to the major ideas and methods of philosophy.

PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic (BOYCE, SPEWAK, THOMPSON) This course addresses logic, which is the science of comprehending and evaluating propositions and arguments.

PHI 1123: Introduction to Ethics (BRUNO, HALL, SPEWAK, WYLIE) This course is a study of the specific considerations, such as facts, feelings, principles, values and conflicts, which influence the making of concrete moral decisions.

PHI 3013 Business Ethics (KALFELZ) A philosophical exploration of how to recognize, analyze, and implement ethical decisions within the multivalued contexts of the various fields of business

PHI 3013-H01: Honors Business Ethics (BICKLE) This course, designed especially for Shacklous Honors College students, will spend the first half of the semester covering standard issues in business ethics (e.g., whistle-blowing, employer-employee relations and policies, business responsibility conflicts, corporate responsibility and liabilities). We'll employ a case-based approach, working with detailed descriptions of real-world examples and developing common philosophical-ethical frameworks to deepen our analyses and judgments. The second half of the course will turn to the rudiments of rational decision theory, including game theory and social choice theory. We'll investigate some of the paradoxes of rationality that arise in decision-making, and strategies for addressing (or avoiding) real-world business instances of these dilemmas.

PHI 3033 History of Western Philosophy II (THOMPSON) A survey of major philosophical figures and movements from the Renaissance through contemporary philosophy.

PHI 3113 Philosophy of Law (CLIFFORD) A philosophical analysis of the concepts of law, liberty, justice, responsibility, and punishment from the rival ethical perspectives of deterrence and retribution.

PHI 3123: Philosophy of Religion (BISSON) A critical inquiry into the rational justification of central theistic beliefs, with emphasis on the traditional philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God.

PHI 3143 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (BRUNO) This course will focus on a number of important debates and developments in philosophy that took place in the West throughout the 19th century. A careful study of excerpts of the writings of many influential 19th century thinkers will be unified by two broad themes. The first involves theories and ideas that developed explicitly in response to the systematic views of the late 18th century philosopher Immanuel Kant. The second involves increased engagement with and attempts to understand the workings and success of the maturing natural sciences. Some of the philosophers that will be examined include: Franz Brentano, Gottlob Frege, G.W.F. Hegel, William James, Ada Lovelace, Karl Marx, J.S. Mill, Friedrich Nietzsche, C.S. Pierce, Harriet Taylor, and Mary Wollstonecraft.

PHI 3923 Medical Ethics (MOFFATT) This class explores the ethical issues that arise at the intersection of the biomedical sciences and society.

PHI 4173 Philosophy of Biology (MOFFATT) An examination of the central philosophical issues in the life sciences, including the nature of laws in biology, the status of biological classifications, reductionism, and the nature of selection.

REL 1103 Introduction to Religion (CODLING, KALFELZ, MONTGOMERY, WITTS) Religion lies at the core of human life, and a full appreciation of the development and function of human society and nations cannot be accomplished outside of an understanding of the religious influences that shape society. This course serves as an introduction to the subject of religion and its study. During the course you will be introduced to a variety of religious beliefs, expressions and practices in world religions. The precise topics covered will vary according to instructor, but they will include some or all of the following: the nature of the sacred, religious symbolism, myth, ritual, sacred scripture, society and religion, concepts of deity, the origin of the world order, human experience, the problem of evil, ethics, and the ways and end of salvation. You will also explore the relationship of religion to other disciplines, such as philosophy, politics, and science.

REL 1223 Introduction to New Testament (BISSON) The teachings of the New Testament have had a profound influence upon western civilization and the world as a whole. The history, philosophy, politics, and world view of western nations cannot be fully understood apart from the teachings of the New and Old Testaments of the Bible. This course will examine the books and epistles and major themes of the New Testament writings and explore their connection to one another and the Old Testament. Completion of Intro to Old Testament is not required for this course.

REL 2980-01 Science and Religion (KALFELZ) In this course students will investigate the interface and interaction between these institutions from a standpoint of four basic modes of engagement: as conflict (i.e. adversarial), independence (i.e. completely separate), dialogue (i.e. sharing themes of commonality), and integration (i.e. as identical in fundamental aims, though expressed in different ways). Central emphasis shall be focused on the analysis of case studies. Historical case studies will include instances of the particular modes of engagement like conflict and independence, as well as particular examples in contemporary scientific perspectives illustrating modes of engagement like dialogue and integration—whether in the special sciences (e.g., molecular biology, neuroscience) or in the fundamental sciences (e.g., physics and cosmology).

REL 3123: Philosophy of Religion (BISSON) A critical inquiry into the rational justification of central theistic beliefs, with emphasis on the traditional philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God.

REL 3213-H01 Honors World Religions I (EDELMANN) A history and comparative study of beliefs and the cultural impact of the great religions of the East, with a special focus on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism.

REL 3223 World Religions II (BISSON) The study of world religions is of vital importance in the present global age since peoples and cultures that were once isolated are now not only visible but also influencing one another. Our focus in this course will fall upon religions that have originated in the Middle East and which have greatly influenced Western society and Western international relations. We will concentrate on the most prominent and influential of these religions, notably Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will also look at Zoroastrianism and Baha’i. Zoroastrianism has its origins in Persia, present-day Iran, where the Jews spent some time in exile from the land of Canaan. Baha’i is a religion that arose out of Islam. The origin, development, and teachings of each religion will be examined.

REL 3553 Near East Archaeology (HARDIN) Introduction to the contributions made by archaeological research to ancient Near Eastern history and prehistory, with special emphasis on the Syro-Palestinian area.

REL 4990 Special Topic In REL - Western and Eastern Religious Philosophy (EDELMANN) A historical and comparative study of conceptions of God, self, and nature in Eastern and Western traditions, with a special focus on Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity.