

# Department of History and Philosophy

The Department of History & Philosophy at Montana State University offers several exciting majors and minors that can be tailored to our student's diverse interests. Our students can work directly with faculty members on topics ranging from urban coyote vocalization to gender in Butte, Montana. At all levels of the curriculum, we provide students with the tools to think rigorously, to research and generate knowledge empirically, and to articulate their thoughts coherently.



Student Jackson Engle (left) works with professor Sara Waller studying the dialects in the howling behavior of wolves and other canid species.

## MAJOR OPTIONS

The department offers a bachelor of arts in History, Philosophy or Religious Studies, as well as six different minors.

### History

Specializing in the history of America and the American West, the department offers advanced level coursework in topics ranging from "Race, Class and Jazz in America" to "Montana and the West," from "Interpretations of American Religions" to "History of American Indians." Students interested in science or the environment can pursue the Science, the Environment, Technology and Society (SETS) option, combining coursework in fields like environmental ethics, geology and biology to create a unique major that addresses current environmental issues. The department also offers an option in History Teaching for those wanting to pursue careers as educators.

### Philosophy

Philosophy courses at Montana State University examine the history of philosophy as well as issues in contemporary philosophy. Topics range from "Philosophy

of Mind and Consciousness" to "Philosophy of Film," "Existentialism," and "Philosophy and Biomedical Ethics." Philosophy unites the formal aspects of critical analysis with exciting issues and questions that impact our lives. Philosophical thinking opens new perspectives for students, provides tools for better understanding, and enables students to make critical distinctions.

### Religious Studies

Our program introduces students to a vibrantly interdisciplinary academic field that is global in scope and addresses some of the key challenges facing citizens of the twenty-first century. Religious Studies asks not only how religion has addressed fundamental human questions about life and death, truth and belief, and ethics and social justice, it also considers the political, social, and cultural effects of religion in both the ancient and the modern world. Religious Studies courses do not advocate for particular theological views. Instead, they examine religion academically, from historical, literary, philosophical, and social scientific perspectives. Students in

Religious Studies gain a rich body of factual knowledge about the global history of religion, as well as the critical thinking skills necessary for interpreting that knowledge.

### Minors

The department offers undergraduate minors in the following areas: History, History Teaching, Museum Studies, Philosophy, and Religious Studies.



Philosophy professor Kristen Intemann studies the role ethical, political, and social value judgments play in scientific reasoning.

**Major Options**

- History
- History Teaching
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Science, Environment, Technology & Society (SETS)

**Specialized Areas of Study/Minors**

- History (non-teaching)
- History (teaching)
- Museum Studies
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies

**For additional information, contact:**

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**GRADUATE STUDIES**

The department offers both a master's and doctoral degree in history in three areas of specialty: environmental history; history of the American West; and the history of science,

technology and society. The program offers many opportunities for graduate students to collaborate with peers, professors, and visiting scholars.

**STUDENT/FACULTY RESEARCH & INTERSHIPS**

Internship and undergraduate research opportunities help students think creatively about their future. Students can work with the Museum of the Rockies and the Gallatin County Historical Society, as well as many organizations within and outside Montana.

**ETHICATS**

The Ethicats are a MSU team that debates ethical questions in regional and national competitions. Topics range from immigration to bioethics, and often involve current ethical dilemmas occurring in court cases around the globe.

**MUSEUM STUDIES MINOR**

An interdisciplinary minor in Museum Studies helps students understand the cultural significance of museums, explore contemporary museum practices, learn about the role of museums in advancing public education and academic research, and better position themselves for possible employment in the museum field.



History professor Billy Smith studies Early America, including race, class, and slavery.



From left to right: students Jewel Christiansen, Katie Chambers and Jacy Anderson did internships in El Salvador.



Recipients of department awards and/or scholarships.