A Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy equips students with practical training and experience, extensive study of the Bible, and critical thinking and writing skills. The program is designed to be tailored to the particular calling of each individual student. It is also built to serve as a second major for students studying in a variety of fields including Business, Pre-Med, Nursing, Pre-Law, and Education.

Program Description
University of Jamestown offers a bachelor of arts in religion and philosophy. Students taking this major take at least four classes in religion and four classes in philosophy. Religion classes relate to the study of God and the relationship of God to our world and ask questions like “What does God expect from us?” “What will happen to us after we die?” and “How can we have fellowship with God?” Philosophy classes relate to the study of human understanding of reality and address questions like “What is the nature of reality?” “How should we live a good life?” “How do we acquire knowledge?”

The disciplines of philosophy and religion may sometimes provide different approaches and answers to the same questions but often shed light upon one another. From a Christian perspective, all truth comes from God, whether it comes through revelation or through reason.

Students who earn a major in religion and philosophy may use it in a variety of ways. The degree will equip students for some church ministry positions such as youth ministry, missions, and music work. For pastoral leadership, many denominations will expect students to pursue further training at seminary. This degree helps prepare students for further graduate professional training.

The religion and philosophy department also offers a minor in religion, a minor in philosophy and a minor in Christian ministry. These minors allow students to pick a particular area of interest which can be added to other majors. Such minors may provide training for being volunteers in churches, doing part time work in churches or simply for reasons of personal growth and interest. These minors also provide relevant training for many areas of work whether they be business, medicine, counseling, social work or legal studies.

Program Strengths
Religion and philosophy majors and minors are trained to minister and are provided a wide array of opportunities to put this training into practice both on campus and throughout the community. Our students serve as youth ministers at local congregations, work at Christian camps, and lead mission trips around the country and the globe. They teach Sunday school, lead Bible studies, and serve the elderly and the poor. Upon reaching their junior year they have the opportunity to receive scholarships as campus Student Chaplains and plan and lead weekly chapel services.
One of the greatest strengths of our department is in helping students realize the importance of Christian faith and thought for all areas of life. While University of Jamestown offers many degrees in many areas, some of the purposes of the college as found in mission statements emphasize the importance of helping students encounter the Christian faith. All the liberal arts and professional preparation should take place “within a Christian atmosphere of self-discipline, responsibility, and concern for the continuing growth of the individual.” Each student is required to take one religion class which highlights the spiritual dimension of human life and experience and one ethics class which exposes students to the important ethical principles and values necessary for living a good life.

A number of different electives are provided that assist students in learning about a variety of different topics in the areas of religion and philosophy. Students are exposed to many different views and are encouraged to examine their own views in light of the views of others. Students are challenged to be reflective about matters of religious faith and to learn to think for themselves. Students will learn practical skills related to reading and understanding religious and philosophical texts, and expressing their understanding through oral and written presentations.

The major is designed primarily to prepare students to pursue further graduate training in Christian ministry or further graduate studies. Some Christian ministry may be carried on by people with a bachelor’s degree but often students will need to pursue more training to make that become a reality. The Christian ministry minor has been introduced to provide more practical skills in ministry. Here some basic skills in ministry will be taught and students are able to do field experience in which they carry out ministry skills in a local ministry.

Our major and minors are flexible enough that students can combine them with other majors. We have had students that combine music and religion, nursing and religion, psychology and religion and history and religion. Students from numerous disciplines have been able to add one of our minors. This helps to broaden the experience of students and helps them relate religion to other areas of life. No matter what their future career will be, they will have the background which will give them sensitivity and understanding of the importance of religion in the lives of many people.

**Graduate Success**
The combination of practical training and the careful study of the Bible enables Jamestown Philosophy and Religion graduates to be successful in a broad range of ministries and areas of post-graduate study. Our Christian Ministry minor enables students to tailor their coursework and field experience to the specific calling God places in their lives. Graduates serve in all sorts of exciting and rewarding ministries around the globe—from health care workers in Africa to youth leaders in inner cities to professors at colleges like Princeton.

Philosophy majors gain transferable skills that apply to all kinds of post-graduate work. This is evidenced by the fact that philosophy majors have the highest mean verbal score of all majors and the second highest analytic score on the GRE. The American Association of Medical Colleges identified philosophy majors as having the highest rate of acceptance into medical school of all non-interdisciplinary majors.

**Faculty**

Brian Lang, M.A., Ph.D., professor. Dr. Lang specializes in Descartes, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Religion. He teaches classes such as Ethics, History of Philosophy, Islamic Philosophy, and Philosophy of Law. He received the Carnegie Corporation Grant for Teaching about Islam and the Middle East in 2010.

Stephen A. Reed, M.Div., M.A., Ph.D.; professor and department chair. Before coming to University of Jamestown he spent three years compiling an inventory of the Dead Sea Scrolls and spent four and a half years teaching at Africa University in Zimbabwe. He teaches classes such as Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, Life and Teachings of Jesus, Greek, Ancient Near East, World Religions. Current research interests include the Dead Sea Scrolls and food in the Bible.

Liz Hunt, M.A.; Director of the Character in Leadership program. Assistant Professor of Communication.