

# Department of Philosophy

Chairperson:	Johns, Christopher
Professor Emeritus:	Fakhry, Majid
Professors:	Brassier, Ray ; Haydar, Bashshar H.
Associate Professors:	Bashour, Bana M.; Johns, Christopher; Lewtas, Patrick K.; Muller, Hans D.
Assistant Professor:	Gibson, Quinn
Lecturers:	Abou Zaki, Nadine; Agha, Saleh J.; Barakat, Karim; Broucek, James; Chalabi, Fares; Rasmi, Mahmoud ; Spohr, Paul
Instructors:	Baassiri, Mahmoud ;Dib, Nelly; Dimerdji, Ali Hocine; Hassan, Hani; Hassanieh, Mahmoud; Sabra, Zeinab;Salloum, Rabih; Wahab, Karam

The Department of Philosophy offers programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Philosophy. Requirements for transfer to the department include approval by the department and a grade of C+ (or 70) or more in any two humanities courses (excluding the communication skills requirements in Arabic and English).

## Mission Statement

The undergraduate program in Philosophy provides students with a knowledge of key historical and contemporary philosophers and philosophical problems, together with a range of responses to those problems. They promote respect for clarity, truth, critical reflection and rational argument. They promote independence and of thought rooted in a fair-minded understanding of opposing views. They strive to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate relevant portions of the contemporary philosophical terrain; competence at critical analysis; and the ability to write about abstract issues in a clear, nuanced and compelling manner. Both programs also seek to impart an awareness of the application of philosophical thought to other academic disciplines or to matters of public interest, encouraging students to apply their philosophical skills more widely.

## BA in Philosophy

Students majoring in philosophy are required to take a total of at least 36 credits of philosophy courses, which must include PHIL 211, PHIL 218, one of PHIL 205, 206, 209 or 210, two of PHIL 213, PHIL 214, and PHIL 225, and at least two of the seminar courses, which are numbered PHIL 250-262. One of those courses must be a Writing in the Disciplines course. Selected courses between PHIL 250 and PHIL 262 will be offered as Writing in the Disciplines courses. Students should also choose, under the supervision of the department, a balanced program of systematic and historical courses. In fulfillment of university requirements, majors must also take the following:



- PHIL 212 Philosophical Logic 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introduction to basic concepts and tools which, in addition to being of interest in themselves, also inform various philosophical discussions and are taken for granted in different areas of contemporary philosophy. *Occasionally.*
- PHIL 213 History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A survey of ancient and medieval philosophy from the pre-Socratics to Aquinas. *Annually.*
- PHIL 214 History of Modern Philosophy 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A survey of early modern philosophy, from Descartes to Kant. *Annually.*
- PHIL 215 Nineteenth Century Philosophy 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introductory survey of post-Kantian philosophy, with emphasis on Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. *Alternate years.*
- PHIL 216 Political Philosophy 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An examination of the main issues of political philosophy, such as political obligation, justice, political rights, and other issues. *Annually.*
- PHIL 217 Aesthetics 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An examination of the central problems and issues that arise in the interpretation, analysis, and evaluation of works of art. *Alternate years.*
- PHIL 218 Metaphysics and Epistemology 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An investigation of the most fundamental concepts involved in our thoughts about the world, including the nature of truth, knowledge, causality, substance, space, and time. *Prerequisite: One previous course in philosophy or consent of instructor. Annually.*
- PHIL 219 Existentialism 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introduction to existentialist philosophy within the context of nineteenth-century and twentieth-century philosophy. *Alternate years.*
- PHIL 220 Symbolic Logic 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A study of the axiomatization and the meta-theory of classical propositional and predicate logic, first-order theories, as well as related philosophical issues. *Prerequisite: PHIL 211. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 221 Philosophy of Mind 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introductory examination of contemporary accounts of the nature of the mental and of psychological explanation. *Alternate years.*
- PHIL 222 Philosophy of Science 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introduction to the philosophical problems and issues that arise in the attempt to understand the nature of science. *Alternate years.*
- PHIL 223 Philosophy of Language 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introductory examination of various contemporary accounts of the nature of language and meaning. *Prerequisite: One previous course in philosophy or consent of instructor. Alternate years.*



- PHIL 254**      **Special Topics in Metaphysics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 255**      **Special Topics in Epistemology**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 256**      **Special Topics in the Philosophy of Science**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 257**      **Special Topics in the Philosophy of Language**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 258**      **Special Topics in the Philosophy of Mind**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 260/261**      **Special Topics in the History of Philosophy**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 262/263**      **Special Topics in Contemporary Philosophy**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Two previous courses in philosophy or consent of instructor. Occasionally.*
- PHIL 271/272**      **Directed Courses in Philosophy**      **3-6 cr.**  
*Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Offered on demand.*

## 24 + 12 Credits in Philosophy

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12+15+24)	Social Sciences (Unspecified) (6)	Sciences, Math, and Technology (Unspecified) Natural Sciences (6)	Quantitative Thought (3)
Lecture Courses (9+12+36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required Arabic course (3)</li> <li>Required English courses: ENGL 203(3), 204(3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP</li> <li>Five required philosophy courses (15): PHIL 211(3), 218(3) one course from the following: 205(3), 206(3), 209(3), 210(3) two courses from the following: 213(3), 214(3) 225(3)</li> <li>8 elective courses from the following lecture and/or seminar courses (24): 201(3), 205(3), 206(3), 209(3), 215(3), 216(3), 217(3), 218(3), 219(3), 220(3), 221(3), 222(3), 223(3), 224(3), 230(3), 231(3), 232(3), 249(3)</li> <li>Elective philosophy courses: PHIL 250(3), 251(3), 252(3), 253(3), 254(3), 255(3), 256(3), 257(3), 258(3), 259(3), 260(3), 261(3), 262(3), 263(3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electives (min. 6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electives (min. 6): a course in computer literacy is recommended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophy majors can satisfy this requirement with any Quantitative Thought course (including PHIL 220) except PHIL 211.</li> </ul>
Seminar (33)					
Laboratory (0)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Lab (3)</li> </ul>	
Research Project (93)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PHIL 210, 213–224, 230–232, 249–263</li> </ul>			