

# Department of Philosophy

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| Chairperson:          | Johns, Christopher  |
| Professors:           | Brassier, Ray; Haydar, Bashshar H.  |
| Associate Professors: | Bashour, Bana M.; Gannage, Emma; Johns, Christopher; Muller, Hans D.              |
| Assistant Professor:  | Gibson, Quinn   |
| Lecturers:            | Abou Zaki, Nadine; Agha, Saleh J.; Chalabi, Fares                                 |
| Instructors:          | Hariri, Muhannad; Hassan, Hani; Hassanieh, Mahmoud; Sabra, Zeinab; Salloum, Rabih |

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:

## University General Education Requirements

The General Education requirements are English Communication Skills (6 credits), Arabic Communication Skills (3 credits), Humanities (12 credits, including 6 credits of CVSP), Social Sciences (6 credits), Natural Sciences (6 credits), and Quantitative Thought (3 credits).

Students choosing a minor in philosophy are required to take a total of 15 credits in philosophy, including at least two of PHIL 211, 213, 214, 225.

## Course Descriptions

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- PHIL 101**      **Applied Philosophy**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A course that deals with philosophical questions which have practical import; it aims to introduce students to the philosophical mode of analysis. *Every term.*
- PHIL 102**      **Philosophical Classics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An introduction to the thought of some major figures in the history of philosophy. *Every term.*
- PHIL 201**      **Introduction to Philosophy**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An introduction to philosophy and its methods through an analysis of traditional issues in ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion. *Every term.*
- PHIL 205**      **Bio-Medical Ethics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A philosophical examination of a number of ethical topics in the field of biology and medicine, such as abortion, physician-assisted suicide, eugenics, genetic engineering, allocation of medical resources, experimentation on animals and humans, and so on. *Annually.*
- PHIL 206**      **Business Ethics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A philosophical examination of a number of ethical topics arising in the areas of business and management, such as fraud and corruption, product safety, insider trading, honesty in advertising, discriminatory hiring practices, and so on. *Occasionally.*
- PHIL 208**      **Topics in Applied Ethics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
**(A, B, C, D, E...)**  
 A philosophical examination of the ethics of a particular field of ethical application, such as technology, food, war, engineering, psychology, etc. The course will focus on one such area, varied according to instructor and section. *Occasionally.*
- PHIL 209**      **Environmental Ethics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An attempt to identify and discuss the major ethical and philosophical aspects of issues related to the environment and to determine the environment-related responsibilities and obligations incurred by people at the individual and collective levels. *Annually.*
- PHIL 210**      **Ethics**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An introduction to some of the major normative ethical theories based on the study of the original writings of selected philosophers, including a section on applied ethics. *Every term.*

- PHIL 211 Introduction to Logic 3.0; 3 cr.**  
A first introduction to formal and informal logic, including argument analysis, informal fallacies, natural deduction methods in propositional and first-order predicate logic. *Every term.*
- 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. *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.**  
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. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 224**                 **Philosophy of Religion**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An in-depth survey of the main philosophical questions connected to religion, including questions about religion as a feature of human experience, as well as questions connected to the nature of God, evil, free will, and so on. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 225**                 **History of Moral Philosophy**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A survey of some major historical traditions in moral philosophy, including at least one figure from ancient or medieval philosophy, and at least one figure from modern philosophy. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 226**                 **Ethical Theory**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An examination of some theories about the moral status of actions or character, or about the overall nature of morality itself. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 227**                 **Marx and Philosophy**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course examines the philosophical foundations of Marx’s critique of capitalism. It focuses on the fundamental concepts of Marx’s critical theory: alienation, practice, labor, value, production, commodity, class and contradiction. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 230**                 **Philosophy of Plato**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An introduction to some of Plato’s major dialogues. *Occasionally.*

**PHIL 231**                 **Philosophy of Aristotle**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An introductory examination of the physics, metaphysics, logic, ethics, and politics of Aristotle. *Occasionally.*

**PHIL 232**                 **Islamic Philosophy**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An examination of the philosophical and religious thought of the major philosophers of Islam. Offered either in Arabic or in English. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 249**                 **Philosophy of Feminism**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An examination of philosophical issues relating to gender relations and the foundations of feminist theory; issues addressed primarily involve the ethical or epistemological content of feminist theory. *Alternate years.*

**PHIL 250**                 **Special Topics in Logic**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*

**PHIL 251**                 **Special Topics in Ethics**   **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*

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| <b>PHIL 252</b>     | <b>Special Topics in Political Philosophy</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>       | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 253</b>     | <b>Special Topics in Aesthetics</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>                 | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 254</b>     | <b>Special Topics in Metaphysics</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>                | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 255</b>     | <b>Special Topics in Epistemology</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>               | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 256</b>     | <b>Special Topics in the Philosophy of Science</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>  | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 257</b>     | <b>Special Topics in the Philosophy of Language</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i> | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 258</b>     | <b>Special Topics in the Philosophy of Mind</b><br><i>May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.</i>     | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 260/261</b> | <b>Special Topics in the History of Philosophy</b><br><i>Occasionally.</i>                              | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 262/263</b> | <b>Special Topics in Contemporary Philosophy</b><br><i>Occasionally.</i>                                | <b>3.0; 3 cr.</b> |
| <b>PHIL 271/272</b> | <b>Directed Courses in Philosophy</b><br><i>Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Offered on demand.</i> | <b>3-6 cr.</b>    |

## 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)  |
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| 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), 208(3), 209(3), 210(3), 213(3), 214(3), 215(3), 216(3), 217(3), 218(3), 219(3), 220(3), 221(3), 222(3), 223(3), 224(3), 225(3), 226(3), 227(3), 230(3), 231(3), 232(3), 249(3) 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>  |  |   |   |