

# Department of Philosophy

Chairperson:	Brassier, Ray
Professor Emeritus:	Fakhry, Majid
Professor:	Haydar, Bashshar H.
Associate Professors:	Nasr, Waddah N.; Brassier, Ray
Assistant Professors:	Andresen, Joshua P.; Bashour, Bana M.; Johns, Christopher; Lewtas, Patrick K.; Muller, Hans D.
Lecturer:	Saleh, Agha J.
Instructors:	Barakat, Karim; Dib, Nelly; Hassan, Hani; Kahil, Rula; Mosley, Matthew; Samaha, Raed

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 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 answers 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 210 and PHIL 211, and two of PHIL 213, PHIL 214, and PHIL 225. 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:

- Language Requirements: English 6 credits; Arabic 3 credits.
- General Education Requirements: Humanities 12 credits (including six credits of CVSP); Social Sciences 6 credits; Natural Sciences 6 credits; Quantitative Thought 3 credits.

Students choosing a minor in philosophy are required to take a total of fifteen credits in philosophy, including two of the following courses: PHIL 210, PHIL 211, PHIL 213, and PHIL 214.

- 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. *Each semester.*
- PHIL 102 Philosophical Classics 3.0; 3 cr.**  
An introduction to the thought of some major figures in the history of philosophy. *Each semester.*
- 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. *Each semester.*
- 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. *Offered 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. *Each semester.*
- 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. *Each semester.*
- 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. *Students cannot receive credit for both PHIL 216 and PSPA 210. Prerequisite: One previous course in philosophy. Alternate years.*
- 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. *Prerequisite: One previous course in philosophy. Alternate years.*





## 24 + 12 Credits in Philosophy

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12+12+24)	Social Sciences (6)	Natural Sciences (6)	Quantitative thought (3)
Lecture Courses (9+12+36)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required Arabic course: ARAB 201 A or any General Education Arabic communication skills (3)</li> <li>Required English courses: ENGL 203(3), 204(3)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP (see pp. 163–68)</li> <li>Four required philosophy courses (12): PHIL 210(3), 211(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) 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> </ol>	Electives (min 6)	Electives (min. 6): recommended is a course in computer literacy	Elective (min 6)
Seminar (33)					
Laboratory (0)				Computer Lab (3)	
Research Project (93)		PHIL 210, 213–224, 230–232, 249–263			