

PHILO121 : History of Philosophy in the Islamic World

General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Michelle Stonis
Attachments:	DE Addendum_PHILO_121 COR_2:28:2024 CoDE_5:28:2024.pdf
Course Code (CB01) :	PHILO121
Course Title (CB02) :	History of Philosophy in the Islamic World
Department:	PHILO
Proposal Start:	Fall 2025
TOP Code (CB03) :	(1509.00) Philosophy
CIP Code:	(38.0101) Philosophy.
SAM Code (CB09) :	E - Non-Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	No
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000272106
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	06/11/2025
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	04/16/2024
Last Cyclical Review Date:	02/28/2024
Course Description and Course Note:	<p>PHILO 121 introduces students to the traditions and debates of philosophy in the Islamic world. We explore the relationship between philosophy and religion; the nature of divine knowledge (what does God know?) and of human knowledge (what can humans know?); the world's creation (is it eternal or created in time?); and ideals of government and political leadership. Students read selections from multiple religious traditions and from thinkers such as Al-Fārābī, Ibn Sinā (or Avicenna), Al-Ghazālī, Ibn Rushd (or Averroës), and Maimonides. The course also covers necessary historical and cultural context: there is no assumption of prior study in philosophy or history.</p>
Justification:	<p>Content Change</p> <p>Notes for Submission: Bringing through a new PHILO 121H course, this non-Honors course must come back concurrently. Updating advisories.</p>
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit
Mode of Delivery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-PersonRemoteHybridOnline
Author:	No value
Course Family:	No value

Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Philosophy
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Alternate Discipline: • Religious Studies

Alternate Discipline: No value

Course Development

Basic Skill Status (CB08)

Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

Course Special Class Status (CB13)

Course is not a special class.

Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

Not applicable.

Grading Basis

- Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

General Education and C-ID

General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Transferability Status

Approved

Cal-GETC

Area 3B: Humanities

Area

Humanities

Status

Approved

Approval Date

09/02/2025

Comparable Course

No Comparable Course defined.

GCC General Education Requirements

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area

Arts and Humanities

Status

Approved

Approval Date

09/02/2025

Comparable Course

No Comparable Course defined.

Units and Hours

Summary

Minimum Credit Units (CB07)	3
Maximum Credit Units (CB06)	3
Total Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	54
Total Course Out-of-Class Hours	108
Total Student Learning Hours	162

Credit / Non-Credit Options

Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

Course Classification Code (CB11)

Credit Course.

 Variable Credit Course**Funding Agency Category (CB23)**

Not Applicable.

 Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)
Weekly Student Hours

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture Hours	3	6
Laboratory Hours	0	0
Studio Hours	0	0

Course Student Hours

Course Duration (Weeks)	18
Hours per unit divisor	54
Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	
Lecture	54
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	54

Course Out-of-Class Hours

Lecture	108
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	108

Time Commitment Notes for Students

No value

Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

Prerequisites, Corequisites, Recommended Corequisites, and Recommended Preparation**Advisory**

ENGLC1000 - Academic Reading and Writing

Objectives

- Read, analyze, and evaluate a variety of primarily non-fiction readings for content, context, and rhetorical merit with consideration of tone, audience, and purpose.
- Apply a variety of rhetorical strategies in writing unified, well-organized essays directed by a well-reasoned thesis statement with persuasive support.

- Develop varied and flexible strategies for generating, drafting, and revising essays.
- Analyze stylistic choices in their own writing and the writing of others.
- Write timed, in-class essays exhibiting acceptable college-level control of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using appropriate documentation format.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.

OR

Advisory

ENGLC1000E - Academic Reading and Writing

Objectives

- Read analytically to understand and respond to diverse academic texts.
- Compose thesis-driven academic writing that demonstrates analysis and synthesis of sources as appropriate to the rhetorical situation.
- Demonstrate strategies for planning, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work.
- Analyze stylistic choices in their own writing and the writing of others and the context in which readings were produced.
- Write timed, in-class essays exhibiting acceptable college-level control of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using appropriate documentation format.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.

OR

Advisory

ENGLC1000H - Academic Reading and Writing - Honors

Objectives

- Read analytically to understand and respond to diverse academic texts.
- Compose thesis-driven academic writing that demonstrates analysis and synthesis of sources as appropriate to the rhetorical situation.
- Demonstrate strategies for planning, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading written work.
- Analyze stylistic choices in their own writing and the writing of others and the context in which readings were produced.
- Write timed, in-class essays exhibiting acceptable college-level control of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence.
- Integrate the ideas of others through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting without plagiarism.
- Proofread and edit essays for presentation so they exhibit no disruptive errors in English grammar, usage, or punctuation.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources, incorporating them into written essays using appropriate documentation format.

Entry Standards

Entry Standards	Description
No value	No value

Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course	Description
PHILO 121H	No Value

Requisite Validation

Upload Statistical Validation and/or other documents (if necessary)

No Value

Specifications

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction Discussion

Methods of Instruction Lecture

Methods of Instruction Multimedia

Methods of Instruction Field Activities (Trips)

Out of Class Assignments

- Essays (e.g. an essay analyzing the Five Pillars of Islam)
- Report (e.g. an individual project including a research paper on a visit to a mosque or an interview with a Muslim practitioner)

Methods of Evaluation

Rationale

In-Class Activity (answering journal prompt, group activity)

In-class journal activity on lecture topic

Exam/Quiz/Test

Written assignments (e.g., essay demonstrating the critical analysis of a theory of Islam and its supporting arguments)

Exam/Quiz/Test

Two to three one-hour class examinations throughout the semester

Exam/Quiz/Test

Final examination

Textbook Rationale

While both texts are older than seven years, these are both seminal works in the field by esteemed philosophers that are without rival. The Classic Arabic Philosophy text is a collection of primary sources from throughout history. Both texts are classics.

Textbooks

Author	Title	Publisher	Date	ISBN
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Majid Kakhry	A History of Islamic Philosophy	New York: Columbia University Press	2004	978-0-231-13220-6
Jon McGinnis and David C. Reisman, ed.	Classical Arabic Philosophy: An Anthology of Sources	Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.	2007	978-0-87220-871-1
Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)				
No Value				

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives

Interpret and summarize selected sections from the Quran.

Identify and explain the historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts within which the fundamental philosophical concept of monotheism (i.e., Allah) was raised.

Demonstrate the ability to compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the Islamic worldviews (e.g., gaining a better understanding of the notion of jihad or holy war).

Evaluate the arguments relating to the sacred law and various sources of jurisprudence presented by different sects within Islam.

SLOs

Interpret and summarize both selected primary and secondary sources. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Identify and explain the historical, cultural and intellectual contexts within which fundamental philosophical concerns are raised. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the Islamic world view. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Evaluate the arguments relating to the world views presented in various schools of Islamic philosophy. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Additional SLO Information

Does this proposal include revisions that might improve student attainment of course learning outcomes?

No

Is this proposal submitted in response to learning outcomes assessment data?

No

If yes was selected in either of the above questions for learning outcomes, explain and attach evidence of discussions about learning outcomes.

No Value

SLO Evidence

No Value

Course Content

Lecture Content

Historical and Cultural Background (9 hours)

- History of Islam
 - Life of Muhammad
 - Pre-Muhammad Arabia
 - The ministry: Meccan and Medinan phases
 - Legacies
 - Contentious succession and Sunni/Shi'a split
 - Expansion of Islam
 - Umayyad conquests
 - 'Abbasids
 - Political fragmentation
 - Social trends
 - Arab assimilation
 - Arabic language and writing
 - Importance of trade
 - Christians and Jews (and Zoroastrians) in Islamic lands
 - Religion of Islam
 - The Five Pillars
 - Religion-as-politics
 - Prophecy and revelation
 - Authorities
 - Qur'ān
 - *Hadith*
 - Caliphs and Imāms
 - Ulama and *madrāsahs*
 - *Sharīah*
 - Philosophical and theological inheritances
 - Aristotle and the Peripatetics
 - Neoplatonism
 - *Kalām*
 - The place of philosophy

Al-Kindī (3 hours)

- Background
 - Translation movement
 - *Kalām* and theological speculation
- The project
 - Promote and justify philosophy
 - Integrate foreign ideas into Arabic thought and Islamic teaching
 - Metaphysics as theology
- *On First Philosophy*
 - Value of philosophy and the pursuit of truth
 - Good as One, agent, and cause of unity in the universe
 - Non-eternity of the universe
 - Ineffability of God and divine attributes

Al-Fārābī (9 hours)

- Historical importance: system builder
 - Aristotle
 - Neoplatonism
 - Ptolemaic astronomy
 - Plato
- Relationship between religion and philosophy
- Cosmology and metaphysics
 - First cause
 - Secondary causes
 - Active Intellect
 - Emanation
 - Form and matter
- The human
 - The body
 - The soul
- Political philosophy
 - Role of the ruler
 - Humans as associative
 - Definition of virtue
 - Types of ignorant and wicked cities
 - Weeds
 - View of democracy

Ibn Sīnā (9)

- Historical importance
 - Influences
 - Controversies
 - Eternity of creation
 - God's knowledge
 - Resurrection of the body
 - Syntheses
 - Metaphysics of creation
 - Epistemology
 - Plato and Aristotle
- Metaphysics
 - Potentiality and actuality
 - Essence precedes existence
 - Types of necessity and possibility
 - God: the Necessary Existent
 - Proof of His existence
 - His universal knowledge
 - Creation of the eternal world
- Epistemology
 - The soul
 - The Flying Man
 - Its faculties
 - Birth with the body
 - Its immortality and indestructibility
 - Ways of gaining knowledge
 - Sensory knowledge
 - Active Intellect and the intelligibles
 - Prophecy

Al-Ghazālī (6 hours)

- Historical importance
 - Attacks on *falāsifah*
 - Elevation of Ibn Sīnā
 - Philosophication of theology
- Ash'arite background
 - Occasionalism and "acquisition"
 - God as willing Agent
 - Divine attributes
- Refutations of the *Incoherence*
 - Temporally created world

- Gods knows universals and particulars
- Avowal of bodily resurrection

Ibn Rushd (6 hours)

- Al-Andalus and personal background
 - Almohad reforms
 - Jurisprudence
- View of philosophy
 - return to Aristotle and criticism of predecessors
 - Harmonization of religion and philosophy
 - Three types of discourse
- Response to Al-Ghazālī
 - Pre-eternal world
 - God only knows universals
 - Incorporeal soul and view of religion
- *Decisive Treatise*
 - Obligation to do philosophy and defense of philosophers
 - "Truth does not oppose truth"
 - Apparent vs. inner senses of Law
 - Reinterpretation of "unbelief"

Maimonides (6 hours)

- Background
 - Influences
 - Aristotle and the Greek tradition
 - Al-Fārābī and the Arabic tradition
 - Jewish Law
 - Purpose of the *Guide*
 - Rationality of the Law
 - Elucidation of Biblical terms
 - Doctrine of equivocity
 - Controversies
 - Philosophical resurrection of prophetic religion?
 - Disparagement of folk religion?
 - "Real" message: should Torah be restricted to elites?
- *The Guide of the Perplexed*
 - Criticism of *Kalām* demonstrations
 - Insufficiency of Aristotle
 - "Our method"
- Arguments
 - Existence, unity, and incorporeality of God
 - Prophecy
 - Rationality of God and nature of Providence

Suharawardī (6 hours)

- Mysticism in the Islamic tradition
 - Platonism and Neoplatonism
 - Sufism's path to knowledge
 - Philosophy as a way of life
- The Illuminationist School
 - Departure from Ibn Sīnā and the Peripatetics
 - Knowledge by presence and intuition
 - Simplified ontology
 - Suhrawardī's execution and political controversy
 - Impact on future philosophy
- *The Philosophy of Illumination*
 - Metaphysics: types of light, dusky matter, and domination/love
 - Cosmology: the Light of Lights and "most noble contingency"
 - Divine knowledge and prophecy

Total Hours: 54

Additional Information

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Justification (if repeatable was chosen above)

No Value

Is it possible this course will have a material fee?

No

I have contacted my library liaison (<https://campusguides.glendale.edu/faculty/liaisons>):

No

What term(s) will this course be offered?

Fall

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value