

BACHELOR IN ARABIC PHILOSOPHY AND CIVILIZATION

Main Language of Instruction:

French English Arabic

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

The Bachelor in Arabic Philosophy and Civilization aims to:

- Affirm the role of philosophy and Arab civilization in shaping Arab societies throughout history.
- Equip students with a thorough understanding of philosophy, key figures, concepts, and the core features of Arab, Islamic, and Middle Eastern civilization.
- Explore the interplay between philosophical thought and its historical and cultural context in the Middle East.
- Highlight the contributions of Arab and Islamic philosophy to modern intellectual development.
- Develop students' philosophical thinking skills (conceptualization, problematization, and argumentation) for cultural and practical applications.
- Introduce students to the philosophical dimensions of contemporary issues and refine their critical skills.
- Identify and nurture philosophical talents, critical abilities, and research potential through intellectual and cultural activities.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Train adaptable and creative professionals who balance heritage with contemporary societal changes while preserving historical identity and Arab values.
- Foster pride in the Arabic language and intellectual heritage, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to build a modern culture based on fundamental values.
- Enhance comparative cultural studies to promote dialogue and communication with other cultures.
- Deepen students' linguistic, intellectual, cultural, and artistic knowledge to enhance their adaptability and creativity in their field of expertise.
- Cultivate critical thinking skills.
- Integrate technology into learning, teaching, and research processes.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

180 credits: Required Courses (162 credits), Institution's Elective Courses (12 credits), Open elective courses (6 credits) and USJ General Education Program (32 credits – may be part of the above categories).

Fundamental Courses (174 Cr.)

Required Courses (162 Cr.)

School of Ancient Philosophy (3 Cr.). Classical Christian Civilization II: Church Fathers (3 Cr.). Cognitive Systems in the Arab Mind (3 Cr.). Contemporary Arab Thought (3 Cr.). End-of-Year Portfolio I (1 Cr.). End-of-Year Portfolio II (1 Cr.). End-of-Year Portfolio III (1 Cr.). End-of-Year Portfolio IV (1 Cr.). End-of-Year Portfolio V (1 Cr.). End-of-Year Portfolio VI (1 Cr.). Syriac I or Biblical Hebrew I or Biblical Greek I (2 Cr.). Syriac II or Biblical Hebrew II or Biblical Greek II (2 Cr.). Formal Logic (3 Cr.). Philosophical Schools III: German Idealism (3 Cr.). History of Islamic Cities (3 Cr.). History of Modern Philosophy (3 Cr.). Reading Philosophy's History I (3 Cr.). Reading Philosophy's History II (3 Cr.). Issues of Arab Philosophy I (3 Cr.). Issues of Arab Philosophy II (3 Cr.). Introduction to Arab Philosophy I (3 Cr.). Introduction to Arab Philosophy II (3 Cr.). Introduction to Jurisprudence (3 Cr.). Introduction to Literary Periods (2 Cr.). Islamic Theology (3 Cr.). Analysis of Literary Text (2 Cr.). Medieval Philosophy (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies II: Feminist Literature in the Arab World (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies III: Islamic Mysticism (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies VI: Masterpieces of World Literature (3 Cr.). Modern and Contemporary Arab History (3 Cr.). Modern Arab Thought (3 Cr.). Ontology (3 Cr.). Philosophical Anthropology (3 Cr.). Philosophical Problems I: The Issue of Cultural Identity (3 Cr.). Philosophical Problems III: Social Justice (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers I: Metaphysics of Aristotle **or** Readings in Philosophers II: Averroes and Thomas Aquinas (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers III: Paul

Ricoeur (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers IV: Aristotle's Letter to Nicomachus (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers V: Husserl, Heidegger, and Hannah Arendt (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers VI: Ethics of Yahya ibn Adi (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers VIII: Kierkegaard (3 Cr.). Philosophical Schools I: Existentialism **or** Philosophical Schools II: Personalism (3 Cr.). Philosophical Schools IV: American Pragmatism (3 Cr.). Philosophy of History (3 Cr.). Philosophy of Language and Interpretation (3 Cr.). Political Philosophy (3 Cr.). The Issue of God (3 Cr.). Readings in Philosophers VII: Plato's Republic Dialogue (3 Cr.). Trends in Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.). Introduction to Philosophy (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies I: Contemporary Islamic Political Thought (3 Cr.). Philosophy of Ethics (3 Cr.). Scientific and Epistemological Thinking (3 Cr.). Scientific Writing Skills (2 Cr.). Spelling and Writing Skills (2 Cr.). Methodology of Philosophical Research (2 Cr.). Philosophical Text Analysis (3 Cr.). Classical Christian Civilization I - Summary of Christian Doctrine (3 Cr.). Quranic Studies II: Hermeneutics of the Quran (1 Cr.). USJ Values in Daily Life (3 Cr.).

Institution's Elective Courses (12 Cr.), to be chosen from the list below:

Classical Arab-Islamic Civilization I (3 Cr.). Classical Arab-Islamic Civilization II (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies VII: Geopolitics of the Middle East (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies VIII: Shiite Thought: Doctrine and Philosophy (3 Cr.). Middle Eastern Studies IV: Violence, Religion, and Sectarianism in the Middle East (3 Cr) Middle Eastern Studies V: Literature and Religion (3 Cr.). Intellectual Currents in the 20th Century (Under the Ottoman Empire) (3 Cr.).

Open Elective Courses (6 Cr.).

USJ General Education Program (32 Cr.)

Code	Course Name	Credits
	ARABIC	4
	Other Course Taught in Arabic	4
045EKLOL4	Quranic Studies II: Hermeneutics of the Quran	1
045VRLPL4	Middle Eastern Studies IV: Violence, Religion, and Sectarianism in the Middle East	3
	HUMANITIES	18
064VALEL1	USJ Values in Daily Life	3
	Ethics	3
045PMORL3	Philosophy of Ethics	3
	Other Humanities Courses	12
045CAM1L5	Classical Arab-Islamic Civilization I	3
045CAM2L6	Classical Arab-Islamic Civilization II	3
045PINTL1	Introduction to Philosophy	3
045GMENL5	Middle Eastern Studies VII: Geopolitics of the Middle East	3
	SOCIAL SCIENCES	3
	Other Social Sciences Course	3
045PPICL5	Middle Eastern Studies I: Contemporary Islamic Political Thought	3
	QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES	3
045MRPLL6	Scientific and Epistemological Thinking	3
	COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES	4
045TECEL3	Spelling and Writing Skills	2
045TEPAL1	Scientific Writing Skills	2

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
045PANTL1	School of Ancient Philosophy	3
045INPHL1	Introduction to Arab Philosophy I	3
045MRPAL1	Methodology of Philosophical Research	2
045PINTL1	Introduction to Philosophy	3
045TEPAL1	Scientific Writing Skills	2
045TECEL3	Spelling and Writing Skills	2
045LPARL1 or 045LPRTL1	Readings in Philosophers I: Metaphysics of Aristotle or Readings in Philosophers II: Averroes and Thomas Aquinas	3
045EPPCL5 or 045 EPPLL2	Philosophical Schools I: Existentialism or Philosophical Schools II: Personalism	3
045PPICL5	Middle Eastern Studies I: Contemporary Islamic Political Thought	3
045LLPAL1 or 045LSPAL1 or 045LAGRL2	Biblical Hebrew I or Syriac I or Biblical Greek I	2
045DFA1L1	End-of-Year Portfolio I	1
	Institution's Elective Courses	3
	Total	30

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
045APHIL1	Philosophical Text Analysis	3
045PMETL2	Ontology	3
045PMEDL2	Medieval Philosophy	3
045IPHAL4	Introduction to Arab Philosophy II	3
045ANTEL2	Analysis of Literary Text	2
045LITAL2	Introduction to Literary Periods	2
045LPLIL2	Readings in Philosophers III: Paul Ricoeur	3
045PIDTL4	Philosophical Problems I: The Issue of Cultural Identity	3
045LPLFL2	Middle Eastern Studies II: Feminist Literature in the Arab World	3
045LLPAL2 or 045LLPPL2 or 045LGN2L2	Biblical Hebrew II or Syriac II or Biblical Greek II	2
045DFA2L2	End-of-Year Portfolio II	1
	Institution's Elective Course	3
	Total	31

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
045PLOGL3	History of Modern Philosophy	3
045GTPAL3	Issues of Arab Philosophy I	3
045PONTL4	The Issue of God	3
045KALML3	Islamic Theology	3
045LNAPL1	Readings in Philosophers IV: Aristotle's Letter to Nicomachus	3
045LOPDL3	Readings in Philosophers V: Husserl, Heidegger, and Hannah Arendt	3
045IDEAL6	Philosophical Schools III: German Idealism	3
045MYSTL7	Middle Eastern Studies III: Islamic Mysticism	3
045DFA3L3	End-of-Year Portfolio III	1
018MOKHL1	Classical Christian Civilization I - Summary of Christian Doctrine	3
	Open Elective Course	3
	Total	31

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
045HPCOL4	Trends in Contemporary Philosophy	3
045GTP2L4	Issues of Arab Philosophy II	3
045PMORL3	Philosophy of Ethics	3
045PPOLL4	Political Philosophy	3
018ABKAI1	Classical Christian Civilization II: Church Fathers	3
045HIVIL2	History of Islamic Cities	3
045MOYAL3	Readings in Philosophers VI: Ethics of Yahya ibn Adi	3
045VRLPL4 or 045LITRL3	Institution's Elective Course: Middle Eastern Studies IV: Violence, Religion, and Sectarianism in the Middle East or Middle Eastern Studies V: Literature and Religion	3
045EKLOL4	Quranic Studies II: Hermeneutics of the Quran	1
045DFA4L4	End-of-Year Portfolio IV	1
	USJ Values in Daily Life	3
	Total	29

Semester 5

Code	Course Name	Credits
045HEPLL5	Philosophy of Language and Interpretation	3
045PANTL4	Philosophical Anthropology	3
045PLOGL2	Formal Logic	3
045RHPL5	Reading Philosophy's History I	3
045HPEML6	Contemporary Arab Thought	3
045INFQL4	Introduction to Jurisprudence	3

045PREPL1	Readings in Philosophers VII: Plato's Republic Dialogue	3
045JSPAL1	Philosophical Problems III: Social Justice	3
045CLMOL6	Middle Eastern Studies VI: Masterpieces of World Literature	3
045DFA5L5	End-of-Year Portfolio V	1
	Total	28

Semester 6

Code	Course Name	Credits
045MRPLL6	Scientific and Epistemological Thinking	3
045HISEL6	Philosophy of History	3
045SCPAL6	Cognitive Systems in the Arab Mind	3
045PRELL6	Reading Philosophy's History II	3
045HMARL4	Modern and Contemporary Arab History	3
045PAC6L6	Modern Arab Thought	3
045KKLPL5	Readings in Philosophers VIII: Kierkegaard	3
045PRAML3	Philosophical Schools IV: American Pragmatism	3
045GMENL5 or 045PCAPL2	Institution's Elective Course: Middle Eastern Studies VII: Geopolitics of the Middle East or Middle Eastern Studies VIII: Shiite Thought: Doctrine and Philosophy	3
045DFA6L6	End-of-Year Portfolio VI	1
	Open Elective Course	3
	Total	31

COURSE DESCRIPTION

045PANTL1	School of Ancient Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course explores the beginnings and development of human philosophy in ancient Greece, from the Natural School (6th century BCE) to Plotinus (d. 270 CE).
It aims to:

- Identify the historical, social, and political motives behind the emergence of early attempts to explain the creation of the universe.
- Examine the stages of Greek philosophy from its inception to Plotinus, familiarizing students with various Greek philosophical schools, including the Pythagorean, Atomist, Epicurean, and Stoic schools.
- Recognize key figures in Greek philosophy, such as Heraclitus, Parmenides, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

045LAGRL2	Biblical Greek I	2 Cr.
045LGN2L2	Biblical Greek II	2 Cr.

This course introduces Biblical Greek, focusing on the Greek of the New Testament (Koine) to equip students with the skills to read and translate biblical texts. It covers essential concepts necessary for learning the language and understanding simple sentences.

045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew I	2 Cr.
045LLPAL2	Hebrew II	2 Cr.

This course explores the relevance of learning Hebrew in an era of automatic text correction. Despite advancements in technology, mastering the rules of grammar, syntax, and conjugation remains valuable, especially for ancient languages like Hebrew. Studying Hebrew is not only enriching for those interested in languages but also essential

for accessing biblical texts. Furthermore, it provides a foundational understanding of other Semitic languages that share similar grammatical structures and vocabulary.

045CAM1L5	Classical Arab-Islamic Civilization I	3 Cr.
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Students will explore the following topics:

- The Arabs before Islam.
- The life of Muhammad: an overview of his biography, its content, sources, and methodologies used by its scholars.
- The message of Muhammad: the Quran and its sciences (particularly exegesis and methodologies) and the Sunnah (Hadith and its sciences).

This course aims to equip students with the essential knowledge required to study literature and thought shaped by Islam. It encourages an exploration of Arab-Islamic civilization through diverse text analysis methods and various disciplines, including history, sociology, and anthropology.

045CAM2L6	Classical Arab-Islamic Civilization II	3 Cr.
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This course familiarizes students with the following topics:

A. Doctrinal Matters:

1. Islamic beliefs.
2. Theology (Islamic sects).

B. Practical Matters:

3. Jurisprudence and its various schools.
4. Foundations of jurisprudence: objective and subjective principles.
5. Jurisprudence and its divisions: worship, transactions, and punishments.

C. The relationship between Sharia and the paths of sufism and philosophy.

This course aims to equip students with essential knowledge to study Islamic-influenced thought and literature, as well as to explore Arab Islamic civilization through diverse analytical approaches that incorporate various disciplines, including history, sociology, and anthropology.

018MOKHL1	Classical Christian Civilization I - Summary of Christian Doctrine	3 Cr.
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This course provides an overview of the essential truths of the Christian faith, particularly those connected to Jesus Christ—his identity, teachings, and significant life events. These beliefs go beyond theoretical frameworks, affecting the Christian community as it shares, defends, and engages with its core doctrines throughout history and across various cultures.

This course covers the following topics:

- Jesus Christ: His life, mission, and teachings
- Divine revelation, inspiration, and the significance of the Bible
- Fundamental doctrines of Christianity
- The mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption
- The concept of the Holy Trinity
- The Church and its sacraments
- The role of the Church in the modern world

018ABKA11	Classical Christian Civilization II: Church Fathers	3 Cr.
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This course introduces the thought of Church Fathers, from the Apostolic Age to the seventh century, focusing on both Eastern (Greek and Syriac) and Western traditions. It follows a historical approach, reflecting the link between their writings and the events they experienced.

This course begins with an overview of the historical and cultural influences that shaped their works. Students will then engage in a critical analysis of their writings, exploring their theological doctrines and arguments. Given that the material is extensive, this course only focuses on a selection of Church Fathers while briefly introducing others.

045SCPAL6	Cognitive Systems in the Arab Mind	3 Cr.
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This course examines epistemic systems in Arab and Islamic thought, introducing students to the methodological tools employed by Arab and Islamic thinkers in various contexts. It addresses life's issues and seeks to develop perspectives or solutions guided by these tools. This course operates within a purely epistemological framework,

highlighting the unique structural features of each epistemic system as it interacts with others. Initiated by Al-Jabri, this analysis reveals the strengths and weaknesses of each system, presenting a critical approach to heritage that transforms our relationship with it—from being mere “heritage beings” to “beings with heritage.”

045HPEML6	Contemporary Arab Thought	3 Cr.
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This course examines important issues and theories in classical Arab thought, focusing on the ideal city as described by Al-Farabi, the concepts of doubt and certainty explored by Al-Ghazali, and the relationship between philosophy and religion as discussed by Ibn Rushd. It also explores the key topics addressed by leading Islamic philosophers in the Arab East and West, including the ideal city, the problem of doubt and certainty, and the interplay between philosophical thought and religious texts.

045DFA1L1	End-of-Year Portfolio I	1 Cr.
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045DFA2L2	End-of-Year Portfolio II	1 Cr.
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045DFA3L3	End-of-Year Portfolio III	1 Cr.
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045DFA4L4	End-of-Year Portfolio IV	1 Cr.
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045DFA5L5	End-of-Year Portfolio V	1 Cr.
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045DFA6L6	End-of-Year Portfolio VI	1 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the dynamics of reflective reading, helping them articulate their personal insights gained from their courses and assignments. It encourages them to synthesize their learning, identify their strengths, and recognize areas needing improvement. Students will learn to engage with their studies thoughtfully, using their questions to guide their intellectual journey. By doing so, they will develop greater self-awareness, inner unity, and improved skills in integration, synthesis, argumentation, and both oral and written expression throughout their studies.

045PLOGL2	Formal Logic	3 Cr.
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This course aims to:

- Analyze the significance of logic within the broader context of Greek philosophy and its function as a guiding instrument for thought.
- Clarify the meanings of essential concepts, including proposition, statement, inference, proof, dialectic, and fallacy.
- Establish the foundational principles of logical reasoning rooted in philosophical inquiry.

045HIVIL2	History of Islamic Cities	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the key Islamic cities that are primarily characterized by their Arab influence. Choosing these cities is undoubtedly challenging due to the intertwined criteria involved. Consequently, this course focuses on three cities that have historically held significant importance in Islam: Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem. It explores their geographical locations, the routes that connect them, and their political, military, social, economic, religious, and cultural histories. Students will be encouraged to investigate other cities through research projects.

045PLOGL3	History of Modern Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course examines the evolution of philosophical thought in the modern era, emphasizing the transition from ontological to epistemological foundations.

This course provides students with:

1. An understanding of the historical, intellectual, and cultural contexts that shaped modern philosophy.
2. Insight into the defining characteristics of modern philosophical thought.
3. An overview of the rationalist movement and its key figures, including Descartes and Spinoza.
4. A grasp of the major themes and ideas of the Enlightenment.
5. A thorough exploration of Kant’s critical project.

045RHLPL5	Reading Philosophy's History I	3 Cr.
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This workshop reviews the history of philosophy through two key issues: the problem of the atom or individual substance and the concept of freedom. It involves reading selected texts that require a comprehensive understanding of the stages of philosophical development and major philosophical systems. The first issue focuses on the atom or individual substance, exploring contributions from thinkers such as Leucippus, Democritus, Epicureanism, Islamic theologians, and Leibniz. The second issue examines the concept of freedom within various philosophical traditions, including Greek philosophy (Democritus, Epicurus), Arabic philosophy and theology, and modern and contemporary philosophy (Descartes, Marx, Locke, Leibniz, Bergson). This workshop analyzes these two problems across different phases of philosophical thought—Greek, medieval, and modern—while exploring their various dimensions, including the metaphysical, psychological, political, and social aspects.

045PRELL6	Reading Philosophy's History II	3 Cr.
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This workshop provides a comprehensive review of the entire history of philosophy through the examination of two central issues, supported by a series of texts that require an in-depth understanding of the evolution of philosophical thought and major philosophical systems. The first issue addresses the problem of time in philosophical thought, exploring contributions from key figures such as Plato, Aristotle, Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Kant, Bergson, Newton, and Einstein. The second issue focuses on the concept of humanity and the problem of the afterlife, with insights from philosophers including Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Al-Farabi, and Avicenna. This workshop analyzes the problem of time across different phases of philosophical inquiry—Greek, medieval, and modern—as well as the concept of humanity and the problem of the afterlife within the context of Greek and medieval philosophy.

045HISTL3	Intellectual Currents in the 20th Century (Under the Ottoman Empire)	3 Cr.
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This course aims to provide a comprehensive historical and cultural understanding of the intellectual movements that emerged in the Arab world during the Ottoman era. It explores various movements, including the Salafi movement in Mosul, the Senussi movement in Libya, the Lebanese national movement, the Syrian national movement, and the secret societies and parties that formed prior to World War I. Students will also be introduced to key figures who played a significant role in these movements, such as Muhammad al-Baalbaki, Khairallah Khairallah, Khalil Hamada, Sheikh Muhammad Abduh, Abdul Rahman al-Kawakibi, Taha Hussein, Butrus al-Bustani, Rifa'a al-Tahtawi, and Jamal al-Din al-Afghani.

045INPHL1	Introduction to Arab Philosophy I	3 Cr.
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This course explores the beginnings of Arabic philosophy and the factors influencing its emergence. It addresses the relationship between philosophy and religion in both the Arab East and West.

It aims to:

- Examine the origins of Arabic philosophy and the key influences on its development, particularly the translation and transmission movements.
- Investigate significant issues addressed by prominent Islamic philosophers in the Arab East and West, such as Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Ibn Bajjah, Ibn Tufail, and Averroes, with a focus on divine aspects and the relationship between philosophical thought and religious texts.

045IPHAL4	Introduction to Arab Philosophy II	3 Cr.
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This course examines the elements of existential and contemporary philosophical issues across various forms and schools of thought. It encourages students to analyze current events through the lens of their philosophical and cultural contexts within the Arab world.

045INFQL4	Introduction to Jurisprudence	3 Cr.
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This course traces the historical development of how early Muslim communities interpreted sacred texts to derive legal rulings, leading to the establishment of Islamic jurisprudence as a distinct discipline. It explores the rise of the major legal schools of thought from the second century after the Prophet, comparing their foundational

principles for understanding Sharia. This course also covers the theological divisions previously studied in the context of differing beliefs. Additionally, it highlights the personal influences of the founders of these schools and the historical circumstances that shaped each tradition.

Furthermore, this course examines the collection of “hadiths” or prophetic narrations, and their crucial role in the evolution of Islamic law. It concludes with an analysis of the modern legal landscape, addressing contemporary debates in Islamic jurisprudence from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

045LITAL2	Introduction to Literary Periods	2 Cr.
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This course studies the evolution of Arabic literature throughout the most significant historical periods.

045PINTL1	Introduction to Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course explores the philosophical inquiry as a more profound intellectual exercise and human stance than merely a science or art form. It guides students in their personal philosophical explorations by contemplating significant philosophical issues, highlighting their vitality and necessity in our daily lives. Furthermore, it addresses crucial themes in the history of philosophy in greater depth. This course aims to:

1. Understand the meaning of philosophy, its various definitions, and the evolution of its concept across different stages of philosophical thought.
2. Examine diverse issues across various phases of philosophical thought (Greek, Medieval, and Modern), particularly focusing on:
 - Sophistry and Philosophy (between the Sophists and Socrates).
 - Doubt and Certainty (in Al-Ghazali and Descartes).
 - Commitment and Freedom (in Sartre’s philosophy).

045KALML3	Islamic Theology	3 Cr.
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This course explores the study of Kalam (Islamic theology), encompassing the following key topics:

1. An introduction to the origins of Kalam
2. The nature and subject matter of Kalam
3. The foundational principles of the Mu’tazilites, including:
 - Tawhid (Oneness of God)
 - Adl (Justice)
 - Wa’d and Wa’id (Promise and Threat)
 - Manzilah bayna al-manzilatayn (Position between two positions)
 - Amr bil-ma’ruf wa nahy an al-munkar (Commanding the good and forbidding the evil)
4. Ash’arite thought, including:
 - Key features of Ash’arism.
 - The Ash’arite approach: a balance between excess and deficiency.
5. The relationship between reason and faith in Kalam.

This course concludes with a discussion on the distinctions between Kalam and theology.

It aims to familiarize students with the essence of Kalam, its key issues and methodologies, while highlighting the dialogical nature of theological debates among various sects.

045GTPAL3	Issues of Arab Philosophy I	3 Cr.
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This course covers philosophical terminology and the intricacies of philosophical language, focusing on:

1. A comparative historical analysis of the development of philosophical terminology in the Arab world.
2. A comparison of philosophical terms across Eastern and Western traditions.
3. The establishment of an Arabic philosophical language and its significance within various disciplines, particularly grammar.

045GTP2L4	Issues of Arab Philosophy II	3 Cr.
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This course explores the role of God in Arabic intellectual tradition through the following:

1. A philosophical look at how Arab philosophers understand the concept of God.
2. An analysis of God’s attributes and significance in both Greek and Arab philosophy.

3. A study of how the concept of God has evolved from ancient times to the present.

045ANTEL2	Analysis of Literary Text	2 Cr.
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This course examines the six styles in the Arabic language, focusing on their definitions, indicators, and characteristics. Students will analyze two applied texts for each style to identify it, analyze its components, and justify its usage. The course emphasizes linguistic, lexical, phonetic, and rhetorical aspects of each style.

This course aims to:

1. Enhance text comprehension.
2. Identify text structure and design.
3. Analyze texts based on genre and style.
4. Foster clear, systematic, and methodical thinking.

045PMEDL2	Medieval Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course deepens students' understanding of the origins of contemporary philosophical thought. They will explore the efforts made by medieval philosophers to reconcile reason and faith, emphasizing the significance of their rationalization attempts.

Additionally, this course enables students to recognize the interconnections between medieval philosophy and the Greek and Latin traditions, as well as the importance of the humanistic, social, and scientific principles that emerged during this period.

045MRPAL1	Methodology of Philosophical Research	2 Cr.
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This course equips students with the skills to critically read philosophical texts, summarize their content, and write systematic reports. It emphasizes the development of research capabilities in philosophy, guiding students to write methodical philosophical essays. Through targeted exercises, students will learn to identify central ideas, supporting arguments, and illustrative examples within philosophical works. Additionally, they will analyze the author's methodology, summarize the text, engage in thoughtful discussions, and articulate their perspectives on the presented ideas.

This course aims to:

1. Engage directly with the writings of philosophers.
2. Develop skills in summarizing and comprehending philosophical texts.
3. Cultivate critical thinking skills to analyze and debate philosophical arguments.
4. Enhance abilities in crafting well-structured philosophical essays.
5. Foster a thorough understanding of philosophical research methodologies.

045PPICL5	Middle Eastern Studies I: Contemporary Islamic Political Thought	3 Cr.
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This course explores key issues in Islamic political thought, with a broad overview of classical perspectives and a detailed focus on modern and contemporary developments. It addresses topics such as the caliphate, governance of public affairs through foundational texts, and historical political disputes, leading to the rise of concepts like Sharia implementation and the "Islamic state." This course aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of Muslim perspectives on authority and governance.

045LPLFL2	Middle Eastern Studies II: Feminist Literature in the Arab World	3 Cr.
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This course explores the roles of women in Arab Islamic societies through selected literary texts and films. Students will analyze how women, despite their significant contributions to social and political change, are often excluded from political life as part of patriarchal efforts to reinforce male dominance. Literature has been used by many authors as a tool of resistance to expose and challenge gender-based injustices. This course highlights how both literature and cinema serve as platforms for expression, showcasing the diverse experiences of women across the Middle East and North Africa. Students will also engage with these works to address key questions: How do these texts and films portray women and their roles in society? What do they reveal about male dominance? How do they illustrate women's efforts to resist oppression, achieve equality, and assert their political roles within their communities?

045VRLPL4 Middle Eastern Studies IV: Violence, Religion, and Sectarianism in the Middle East 3 Cr.

This course analyzes the roots and causes of violence in the Middle East, emphasizing historical, political, and social dimensions. It explores the role of religion in shaping conflicts and sectarian violence, as well as its use as a political tool. This course also examines sectarianism and its impact on the social and political structures within the region. Through specific examples from various Middle Eastern countries, students will gain insights into the complex and interconnected contexts of violence and sectarianism.

045LITRL3 Middle Eastern Studies V: Literature and Religion 3 Cr.

This course covers the interplay between religion and literature, focusing on the emergence of religious literature, the influence of religious beliefs on authors, and their exploration of related themes. It also delves into the various literary genres found within religious texts.

The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of:

- The origins and evolution of religious literature.
- The religious themes reflected in literary works.
- The distinctive characteristics of religious literature.
- The elements that differentiate religious literature from other literary forms, as well as the reasons for its designation as “religious”.
- The intercultural exchanges within religious literature.
- The artistic and philosophical foundations of religious literature.

045CLMOL6 Middle Eastern Studies VI: Masterpieces of World Literature 3 Cr.

This course covers a selection of masterpieces from world literature, encompassing novels, theater, and poetry, translated into Arabic. Students will learn to analyze a prose or poetry text sourced from a global narrative or a well-known poem, based on structural levels of study. Additionally, students will compare texts from different literary traditions that fall under a common semantic theme or literary movement.

045GMENL5 Middle Eastern Studies VII: Geopolitics of the Middle East 3 Cr.

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the geopolitical complexities in the Middle East by examining the historical, political, and economic factors that have shaped the region. It emphasizes the analysis of regional and international powers, ongoing conflicts, shifting alliances, and the influence of natural resources, such as oil and gas, on political dynamics. Additionally, this course addresses security and stability issues, the roles of international and regional organizations, and the impact of cultural and religious factors on politics. Case studies from various countries in the region will help students grasp the intricate contexts involved and enhance their critical thinking skills through in-depth discussions and analyses.

045PCAPL2 Middle Eastern Studies VIII: Shiite Thought: Doctrine and Philosophy 3 Cr.

This course examines Shia thought in its various dimensions, from its foundational principles and early development to its diverse branches and schools, which continue to evolve. It primarily focuses on Shia thought within doctrinal and philosophical frameworks. While emphasizing the Twelver Shia (Imami) tradition, this course also includes a comparative analysis with other Shia sects, such as Zaidism, Ismailism, and the Druze, offering students a comprehensive view of similarities and differences. Additionally, it explores contemporary Shia political thought and its applications, including its impact on state structures, governance, and political movements.

045HMARL4 Modern and Contemporary Arab History 3 Cr.

This course develops a historical understanding of contemporary Lebanon and the Arab world. It also includes an examination of various sources and references that serve as educational documents relevant to the course material.

045PAC6L6 Modern Arab Thought 3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the critical features that define contemporary Arab thought. It highlights the contributions of influential thinkers who have engaged with the methodologies of human and social sciences to renew heritage and reveal overlooked aspects within it.

Introduction: The Recurring Issue

A. Methodology: Selected texts from Mohammed Arkoun, Mohammed Abed Al-Jabri, Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, and Abdallah Laroui.

B. Key Question: Reason/Text:

- Analysis of the fifth verse of Surah At-Tawbah (Arkoun)
- Examination of the verse on inheritance (Al-Jabri)
- Exploration of the concept of governance (Abu Zayd)
- Discussion of the relationship between reason and ideology (Laroui)
- Conclusion: Emphasizing critical thought as essential for reform and change.

045PMETL2

Ontology

3 Cr.

This course enables students to grasp and analyze the fundamental concepts of ontology, fostering critical engagement with ontological propositions throughout the history of philosophy and enhancing their overall philosophical studies.

This course first delves into the ontological concepts articulated by Aristotle and subsequently examines these ideas through a scholastic perspective, informed by the insights of Thomas Aquinas. Additionally, it explores the adaptation of these concepts to contemporary ontological issues relevant to the modern individual's quest for ultimate meanings of existence.

045PANTL4

Philosophical Anthropology

3 Cr.

This course guides students in exploring the fundamental question of human identity: "Who am I?" It examines how individuals understand themselves and their relationships with others, providing second-year students with a comprehensive framework for contemplating the essence of humanity. This course encompasses a range of perspectives, from mythology and religious thought to pivotal figures like Kant, who established philosophical anthropology, and Heidegger, who challenged its validity.

This course assists students in:

1. Understanding major philosophical traditions addressing human nature, such as Platonism, pantheism, evolutionism, idealism, existentialism, and Christian personalism.
2. Exploring essential questions about human existence, including: "Who am I? What am I? What are the body, soul, and spirit? What is death and what is life?" This involves analyzing artistic, religious, scientific, and philosophical responses to these inquiries.
3. Familiarizing students with key anthropological thinkers, including Plato, Descartes, Spinoza, Kant, Darwin, Edith Stein, Heidegger, Einstein, Lévi-Strauss, and others.
4. Analyzing the similarities and differences between Western and Arab perspectives in their approaches to anthropology.

045PIDTL4

Philosophical Problems I: The Issue of Cultural Identity

3 Cr.

This course explores cultural identity as a fundamental element in shaping individuals and communities. It examines issues of belonging, cultural diversity, civilizational interaction, and identity conflicts across various contexts. The course also delves into the challenges of cultural identity in a globalized world, analyzing the relationship between individual and collective identity and the influence of social, political, and religious factors in its formation.

045LPLPL4

Philosophical Problems II: Linguistics

3 Cr.

This course provides an in-depth exploration of linguistic philosophy, focusing on the philosophical analysis of language and its role in thought and knowledge. It covers the nature and meaning of language, the relationship between language and reality, and the impact of language on thought and comprehension. This course also examines the works of prominent philosophers in this field, such as Ferdinand de Saussure, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Noam Chomsky, and Jacques Lacan.

045JSPAL1

Philosophical Problems III: Social Justice

3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the different theories of justice in the history of philosophy, examining concepts of societies marked by social welfare or poverty. It aims to help students understand the evolution of these theories, the factors that influence them, and their implications for society through the analysis and

discussion of philosophical texts on justice.

045LPARL1	Readings in Philosophers I: Metaphysics of Aristotle	3 Cr.
<p>This course examines Aristotle's works on metaphysics, concentrating on his essential text, "Metaphysics." It covers key concepts such as substance, cause, existence, and essence, as well as their impact on Western philosophy. Students will develop a thorough and nuanced understanding of these ideas through critical reading of original texts and engaging class discussions.</p>		
045LPRTL1	Readings in Philosophers II: Averroes and Thomas Aquinas	3 Cr.
<p>This course offers a thorough exploration of the philosophies of Ibn Rushd and Thomas Aquinas, focusing on their philosophical works and their impact on both Western and Islamic thought. It covers key concepts including the relationship between reason and faith, existence, essence, and the legitimacy of philosophical and religious doctrines. Students will engage in critical readings of original texts and participate in class discussions to deepen their critical understanding of these foundational ideas.</p>		
045LPLIL2	Readings in Philosophers III: Paul Ricoeur	3 Cr.
<p>This research seminar explores the ideas of Paul Ricoeur by engaging directly with his writings. It focuses on key issues he addresses, such as text, interpretation, the conflict of interpretations, the interstitial, the self, humanity, and evil.</p>		
045LNAPL1	Readings in Philosophers IV: Aristotle's Letter to Nicomachus	3 Cr.
<p>This course introduces students to the principles of ethics and politics as articulated by Aristotle, while also examining the foundational aspects of these disciplines in the pre-Aristotelian era.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- General Introduction: Philosophical Wisdom Between Knowledge and Behavior- Ethics and Politics in the pre-Aristotelian era- Definitions and Methodology of Ethics (Purpose of Life; Will; Virtue: Rational and Moral)- Definitions of Political Science (Family; City: Good vs. Corrupt Governments)- Conclusion: The Significance of Ethics and Politics in Contemporary Thought.		
045LOPDL3	Readings in Philosophers V: Husserl, Heidegger, and Hannah Arendt	3 Cr.
<p>This course examines the primary philosophies of Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, and Hannah Arendt, focusing on Husserl's phenomenology, Heidegger's existentialism, and Arendt's political thought. Through critical readings of original texts and engaging class discussions, students will explore the impact of these philosophies on contemporary thought and their interrelationships.</p>		
045MOYAL3	Readings in Philosophers VI: Ethics of Yahya ibn Adi	3 Cr.
<p>This seminar explores the ethical philosophy of Yahya ibn Adi, focusing on an analysis of his works on ethics (methodology and content) and the connection between theology and ethics in his thought. The course objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Direct engagement with Yahya ibn Adi's writings to extract his ethical perspectives.- Clarification of reason's role in self-discipline, monasticism, and ethical interpretations of Scripture.		
045PREPL1	Readings in Philosophers VII: Plato's Republic Dialogue	3 Cr.
<p>This seminar provides an in-depth examination of Plato's Republic Dialogue, focusing on a detailed analysis of its chapters and identifying the key principles underlying Plato's philosophical thought.</p>		
045KKLPL5	Readings in Philosophers VIII: Kierkegaard	3 Cr.
<p>This course introduces students to the philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard, whom Wittgenstein regarded as "the most profound thinker of the 19th century." It offers a comprehensive overview of his thought, including his views on aesthetics, ethics, the religious stages of existence, and his notion that "truth is subjectivity," through selected readings from his works. The course also focuses on one of Kierkegaard's most significant contributions to philosophy and psychology: his exploration of selfhood.</p>		

045EPPCL5	Philosophical Schools I: Existentialism	3 Cr.
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This course explores the existentialist philosophy that shaped the 20th century. Students will examine the works of key existentialist thinkers, including Søren Kierkegaard, Albert Camus, and Nikolai Berdyaev.

Course objectives include:

- Understanding the historical origins of existentialism.
- Exploring the general context in which existentialism developed.
- Analyzing the key elements of Kierkegaard's, Camus's, and Berdyaev's philosophies.
- Identifying the main topics addressed by existentialist thought.

045EPPL2	Philosophical Schools II: Personalism	3 Cr.
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This course covers personalism, a philosophical movement that emphasizes the intrinsic value of individuals and human dignity. It studies the theoretical foundations of personalism as articulated by philosophers such as Emmanuel Mounier, Gabriel Marcel, Max Scheler, Edgar Morin, and René H. This course includes critical readings of essential texts and discussions on the impact of personalism on contemporary philosophies and society.

045IDEAL6	Philosophical Schools III: German Idealism	3 Cr.
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This course explores the period from the emergence of Kant's critical philosophy to the completion of Schelling's final system, recognized as one of the most intellectually vibrant times in the history of philosophy. It examines significant inquiries that intersect with history, politics, and the sciences. This course focuses on the texts of key figures in the German idealist movement, including Kant, Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel, after providing an introduction to the intellectual context that dominated Germany following the French Revolution. It aims to define German idealism and its key characteristics, and to explore the issues addressed by German idealist philosophers, including reason and the absolute, religion and the concept of God, and aesthetics and art.

045PRAML3	Philosophical Schools IV: American Pragmatism	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to pragmatism, a philosophical approach that emerged as a method rather than a theory, first articulated by Charles Sanders Peirce in 1878. Pragmatism became a dominant movement in 20th-century American philosophy. Students will explore the key features of this method and its major proponents, including William James, John Dewey, and George Herbert Mead. This course also examines the influence of pragmatism on European philosophers such as Bertrand Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Henri Bergson, and Jürgen Habermas.

This course aims to:

- Present the core principles of the pragmatic method, its significance in the history of philosophy, and its novel contributions.
- Analyze the impact of pragmatism on European philosophy and its practical applications.

045APHIL1	Philosophical Text Analysis	3 Cr.
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This workshop introduces students to the techniques of philosophical analysis.

045PMORL3	Philosophy of Ethics	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the importance of moral philosophy, highlighting how it balances universal duties with decisions influenced by historical context. It covers major ethical theories to help them grasp contemporary moral discussions.

The course objectives include:

- Understanding the nature and focus of moral philosophy.
- Exploring key ethical theories, such as deontology, naturalism, and consequentialism.
- Examining the idea of moral conscience and its origins.
- Discussing the ultimate purpose of ethics.

045HISEL6	Philosophy of History	3 Cr.
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This course analyzes the major theories of key philosophers of history, including Ibn Khaldun, Hegel, Toynbee, Huntington, Fukuyama, and others.

045HEPLL5	Philosophy of Language and Interpretation	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the relationship between language, meaning, and interpretation, focusing on the conditions and possibilities for understanding—topics that have long intrigued philosophers. It also introduces the philosophy of language and theories of interpretation by exploring the historical development of interpretive thought through the works of its leading figures.

045PPOLL4	Political Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course introduces the traditional issues in political thought and its major schools. It examines the evolution of political concepts, particularly those related to justice, equality, sovereignty, freedom, and the state, through the study of various philosophers. This course focuses citizen freedom within the context of existing authority. It aims to familiarize students with:

- The concepts and issues that have influenced political thought.
- The philosophical foundations of major political theories and schools.
- Prominent figures in political philosophy.

045EKLOL4	Quranic Studies II: Hermeneutics of the Quran	1 Cr.
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This course provides insights into the Arab society in which the Quran emerged, along with its environment and distinctive characteristics. It clarifies specific terms and concepts associated with the Quran and identifies its major themes, such as abrogation and miraculousness. This course studies the structure and features of the Quranic text, analyzes its content in relation to its society and environment, and engages with its verses, through interpretation and appreciation of its characteristics, including sections, eschatological scenes, and narratives.

045MRPLL6	Scientific and Epistemological Thinking	3 Cr.
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This course explores the methods of scientific thinking, highlighting its major challenges and notable figures. It equips students with an understanding of the nature and methodologies of scientific knowledge, while also clarifying the concept of epistemology and its connection, as a philosophical discipline, to the sciences and their key issues.

045TEPAL1	Scientific Writing Skills	2 Cr.
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This course establishes a solid foundation in effective written and oral communication, enabling students to enhance their writing and expression in Arabic. It nurtures creativity across various fields while emphasizing the importance of clarity and organization in presenting ideas. Additionally, students will master the fundamentals of functional, scientific, and creative writing through both theoretical insights and practical applications.

Key elements include:

- Understanding the concept of “scientific writing.”
- Developing accurate scientific writing skills and research techniques.
- Practicing various forms of scientific writing and research to achieve mastery.

045TECEL3	Spelling and Writing Skills	2 Cr.
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This course offers a comprehensive foundation in both written and oral communication, aimed at cultivating proficiency in Arabic writing and expression. It fosters creative abilities across multiple domains, emphasizing the avoidance of common errors and the importance of clarity, organization, and the effective presentation of ideas. Additionally, this course equips students with the theoretical and practical tools needed to master functional, scientific, and creative writing, while refining their ability to produce grammatically and stylistically accurate content.

045LSPAL1	Syriac I	2 Cr.
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This introductory course enables students to learn the Syriac alphabet and provides an essential overview of its morphology, equipping them with the necessary tools for reading Syriac texts. It also introduces the linguistic system of Syriac, writing styles, and essential resources, such as Louis Costaz’s dictionary, grammars, and scholarly studies. Ultimately, this course prepares students to engage confidently with biblical and theological sources in their original language.

045LLPPL2	Syriac II	2 Cr.
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This course enables students to read and translate moderately difficult classical Syriac texts using basic tools.

045PONTL4	The Issue of God	3 Cr.
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This course engages students in a profound exploration of the concept of God as a pivotal philosophical idea, delving into the arguments surrounding His existence and the intellectual frameworks for approaching this notion. It examines the philosophical approach to the question of God's existence, emphasizing the distinction between essence and existence and assessing the conditions necessary for recognizing this concept. Ultimately, this course equips students with the analytical skills to evaluate the criteria for contemplating the existence of God, should such a possibility be considered.

045HPCOL4	Trends in Contemporary Philosophy	3 Cr.
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This course delves into the history of philosophy, concentrating on key figures and movements in contemporary thought, such as Nietzschean philosophy, phenomenology (Husserl), personalism, and existentialism (Sartre). It aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of:

- The broader intellectual context that shaped the emergence of contemporary philosophy.
- The distinctive features that set contemporary philosophical discourse apart, particularly its focus on pluralism, analytical rigor, realism, precision, and clarity.
- Major philosophical currents, including Nietzschean thought, phenomenology, personalism, and existentialism.

045MYSTL7	Middle Eastern Studies III: Islamic Mysticism	3 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the origins of Sufism, focusing on its two main branches: *kasbī* (acquired) and *wahbī* (bestowed). It establishes Sufism as a distinct field within Islam, complete with its own terminology and concepts, while tracing its historical evolution through key Sufi figures.

This course aims to:

- Define the essence and purpose of Sufism.
- Learn essential terminology related to Sufism.
- Explore the origins and early leaders of Sufism.
- Understand the independence of Sufism as established by Al-Junaid al-Baghdadi in the third century AH.
- Examine Sufi paths, including the Path of Love as illustrated in *The Conference of the Birds* by Farid Al-Din Attar and the Path of Struggle as described in *The Illuminations* by Al-Tusi.
- Analyze Sufi orders, their structure, interactions, and influence on their surroundings, focusing on one model such as the Rifai, Qadiri, or Shadhili order.
- Discuss key themes such as Shari'ah (Islamic law) and Tariqah (Sufi path) using examples like *Revival of the Religious Sciences* by al-Ghazali and the relationship between Shari'ah and Haqiqat (truth) through Abdul Karim al-Jili's *Eye Poem*.
- Investigate mystical aspects of Sufism with figures like Ibn Arabi and Sadr al-Din Shirazi.
- Study Sufi literature by selecting one poet, such as Al-Hallaj (*Divine Love*), Umar Ibn Al-Farid (*Sufi romance*), or Jalal Ad-Din Rumi (*Masnavi*; the poetic tale).

064VALEL1	USJ Values in Daily Life	3 Cr.
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This course aims to raise students' awareness of the fundamental values of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) in order to apply them in their personal, interpersonal, and professional lives. It engages them in critical reflection on how the values outlined in the USJ Charter can influence their behaviors, actions, and decisions to meet the challenges of the contemporary world. They will also be aware of global issues and ethical responsibilities, ready to contribute positively to the construction of a better society.