

# Glendale College Course Outline of Record Report

Course ID 010779  
Created - May 2025

## PHILO121H : Honors History of Philosophy in the Islamic World

### General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michelle Stonis</li> </ul>
Course Code (CB01) :	PHILO121H
Course Title (CB02) :	Honors History of Philosophy in the Islamic World
Department:	PHILO
Proposal Start:	Spring 2026
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) :	CCC000654143
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	05/28/2025
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	07/08/2025
Last Cyclical Review Date:	05/28/2025
Course Description and Course Note:	<p>PHILO 121H 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 Sīnā (or Avicenna), Al-Ghazālī, Ibn Rushd (or Averroës), and Maimonides. The course also covers the necessary historical and cultural context: there is no assumption of prior study in philosophy or history. The Honors course may be enhanced in one or more of the following ways: 1. enriched reading opportunities, including conceptual and scholarly sources; 2. enriched critical thinking opportunities, such as oral presentations of research, experiential learning, metacognitive reflection, and service learning.</p>
Justification:	New Course
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credit</li> </ul>
Mode of Delivery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-Person</li> <li>Remote</li> <li>Hybrid</li> <li>Online</li> </ul>
Author:	No value
Course Family:	No value

### Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophy</li> </ul>
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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**

Pending

**Cal-GETC**

Area 3B: Humanities

**Area**

Humanities

**Status**

Pending

**Approval Date**

No value

**Comparable Course**

No Comparable Course defined.

**GCC General Education Requirements**

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

**Area**

Arts and Humanities

**Status**

Pending

**Approval Date**

No value

**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**

<b>Course Duration (Weeks)</b>	18
<b>Hours per unit divisor</b>	54
<b>Course In-Class (Contact) Hours</b>	
Lecture	54
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
<b>Total</b>	54
<b>Course Out-of-Class Hours</b>	
Lecture	108
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
<b>Total</b>	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 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**

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 121	No Value

## Specifications

### Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction Discussion

Methods of Instruction Multimedia

Methods of Instruction Lecture

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)
- Research paper (e.g., a 10-page research paper demonstrating a critical analysis of the theories of Islam and their supporting arguments) (Honors Enhancement)

### Methods of Evaluation

### Rationale

Activity (answering journal prompt, group activity)

In-class journal activity on lecture topic

Writing Assignment

Written assignments (e.g., essay demonstrating the critical analysis of one 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

Writing Assignment

Research paper (e.g., a 10-page research paper demonstrating a critical analysis of the theories of Islam and their supporting arguments) (Honors Enhancement)

### 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
Majid Kakhry	A History of Islamic Philosophy	New York: Columbia University Press	2004	978-0-231-13220-6

Jon McGinnis and David C. Reisman, eds.

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

Discuss and interpret 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

## 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 *madrasahs*
    - *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 Sinā
  - 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 Sinā 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/liasons>):**

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