

MASTER IN ARABIC AND ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

Main Language of Instruction:

French ☐ English ☐ Arabic ☒

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

The Master in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy aims to advance scientific research and produce new studies.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Conduct in-depth research in philosophy and Arab world issues.
- Enhance cultural and religious diversity in the Arab world.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The candidate must hold a Bachelor in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Required courses (120 credits)

Aesthetics: A Philosophical and Literary Approach (4 Cr.). Ancient Language I & II (Biblical Greek, Syriac, Biblical Hebrew, etc.) (4 Cr.). Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Humanities (2 Cr.). Arabic Literary, Philosophical, and Islamic Texts (4 Cr.). Contemporary Islamic Political Thought (Key Figures and Literature) (2 Cr.). Information Technology Tools (2 Cr.). Introduction to Oriental Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) (2 Cr.). Issues and Problems in Arab Philosophical Thought (4 Cr.). Issues and Problems in Western Philosophical Thought (4 Cr.). Master Research Seminar I, II, & III (30 Cr.). Philosophy and Humanities: An Epistemological Approach (4 Cr.). Reading Specialized Texts (4 Cr.). Research Methodology (2 Cr.). Research Methods in Oriental Literatures I & II (8 Cr.). Research Thesis Preparation and Defense (28 Cr.). Research Training I & II (4 Cr.). Textual Studies: Orientalism (4 Cr.). Thesis Project (4 Cr.). Training in Editing Oriental Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) (2 Cr.).

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
045BPHLM2	Aesthetics: A Philosophical and Literary Approach	4
045TAPIM1	Arabic Literary, Philosophical, and Islamic Texts	4
045OTLOM1	Information Technology Tools	2
045IALCM1	Introduction to Oriental Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) I	2
045SRTRM1	Master Research Seminar I	10
045MRLOM1	Research Methodology	2
045IRLOM1	Research Methods in Oriental Literatures I	4
	Ancient Language	2
045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek I	
045LSPAL1	Syriac I	
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew I	
	Total	30

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
045IMSLM2	Research Methods in Oriental Literatures II	4
045ATCOM2	Training in Editing Oriental Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac)	2
045EDTOM2	Textual Studies: Orientalism	4
045LTSPM2	Reading Specialized Texts	4
045SRTRM2	Master Research Seminar II	10
	Ancient Language	2
045LGN2L2	Biblical Greek II	
045LLPPL2	Syriac II	
045LLPAL2	Biblical Hebrew II	
045ARLOM2	Research Training I	2
045APMAM1	Thesis Project	4
	Total	32

Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
045TEPXM3	Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Humanities	2
045PPCMM3	Contemporary Islamic Political Thought (Key Figures and Literature)	2
045PPHAM3	Issues and Problems in Arab Philosophical Thought	4
045PPHEM3	Issues and Problems in Western Philosophical Thought	4
045SRTRM3	Master Research Seminar III	10
045PPQTM3	Philosophical Thinking and Daily Life	2
045PSHEM3	Philosophy and Humanities: An Epistemological Approach	4
	Total	28

Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
045MEMLM3	Research Thesis Preparation and Defense	28
045ARLOM3	Research Training II	2
	Total	30

SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

045PLLAM3	Aesthetics: A Philosophical and Literary Approach	4 Cr.
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This course examines key philosophical concepts related to beauty and art, including the definition of beauty, aesthetic pleasure, and the connections between beauty, truth, and reality. Additionally, it covers the literary analysis of artistic and literary works, focusing on how to interpret and understand them through philosophical reasoning and literary insight. This course aims to enhance students' critical and analytical thinking skills and deepen their understanding of the significance of beauty and art in human life.

Ancient Language	4 Cr.
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This course introduces students to an ancient language, such as Syriac, Hebrew, Greek, or Latin, equipping them with the necessary skills to read ancient texts and manuscripts while deepening their understanding of term etymology.

045MEMLM3	Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Humanities	2 Cr.
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This course explores how modern AI technologies can enhance our understanding of human, social, and cultural dimensions. It focuses on using big data and statistical analysis to gain insights into human behavior, interests, and preferences.

Students will learn about machine learning and computational linguistics to better understand human languages and their interactions. This course also examines the use of robotics and virtual reality to create interactive educational experiences and social simulations, ultimately aiming to improve our comprehension of human behavior and develop technology that serves humanity.

045TAPIM1	Arabic Literary, Philosophical, and Islamic Texts	4 Cr.
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This course aims to analyze Arabic texts from various perspectives, focusing on literary, philosophical, and Islamic works while highlighting their interconnections.

This course's objectives include:

- Understanding Arabic literary texts from both literary and cultural viewpoints.
- Analyzing philosophical texts to gain insight into traditional and contemporary Arab thought.
- Studying Islamic texts to comprehend Islamic values and ethics.

Through this course, students will develop a holistic understanding of Arabic texts and the relationships between literature, philosophy, and Islam. It offers opportunities for students to cultivate unique and profound insights into Arab heritage and its influence on diverse aspects of cultural and intellectual life.

045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek I & II	4 Cr.
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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 & II	4 Cr.
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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.

045PPCMM3	Contemporary Islamic Political Thought: Key Figures and Literature	2 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts necessary for understanding the nature and limits of authority in Islam. It begins with the era of Prophet Muhammad, continues through the period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, and examines the various forms of the caliphate that emerged later.

Students will study political terminology and concepts, their meanings, and the classification methods that have shaped political writing throughout Islamic history, including its key figures and movements. This course also explores the trends in political thought during the Renaissance and the major issues that influenced this period, as well as the early emergence of political Islam in the modern era.

045OTLOM1	Information Technology Tools	2 Cr.
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This course enhances students' information research skills. They will master various tools and methods for bibliographic research and gain proficiency in managing and citing references effectively.

045IALCM1	Introduction to Oriental Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) I	2 Cr.
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This course introduces the two key areas needed to study Oriental manuscripts: paleography (the study of ancient writings) and codicology (the study of handwritten texts). It covers the stages of manuscript production, including paper selection, writing tools, layout, text writing, and binding. This course also covers the internal structure of manuscripts (title page, text, copies) and different types of marginal notes. By the end of this course, students will master the Arabic terminology required to describe manuscripts. This course highlights the importance of manuscript studies in modern humanities and social sciences research.

045PPHAM3	Issues and Problems in Arab Philosophical Thought	4 Cr.
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This course covers key issues in Arab philosophy from the medieval period to the present, including the relationship between philosophy and religion, monotheism, freedom, modernity, and identity. It introduces students to major philosophical debates across these eras through the study of foundational texts and critical philosophical questions.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize significant philosophical issues from different periods.
- Analyze, critique, and compare various philosophical perspectives.

045PPHEM3	Issues and Problems in Western Philosophical Thought	4 Cr.
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This course introduces students to key philosophical issues and different approaches to addressing them, such as those concerning religion, identity, politics, ethics, the environment, and life. It emphasizes that philosophical problems focus on core principles, unlike practical or scientific ones that deal with specific details. These problems are never fully solved; instead, they are constantly revisited and debated. They are intellectual constructs formed within specific contexts, representing unresolved questions that fuel ongoing inquiry.

By the end of the course, students will:

- Identify major philosophical issues and approaches.
- Learn how to formulate and structure philosophical problems in connection with their intellectual context.

045SRTRM1	Master Research Seminar I	10 Cr.
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045SRTRM2	Master Research Seminar II	10 Cr.
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045SRTRM3	Master Research Seminar III	10 Cr.
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This research seminar trains students in scientific research based on themes defined by the Louis Boucher Center for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Civilizations. It is divided into two levels: the first is a theoretical foundation, while the second focuses on creative practical application. Spanning three academic semesters, the seminar aims to produce a research project, which may take the form of an article, a conference presentation, or a peer-reviewed paper. Topics will vary across disciplines, including philosophy, Arabic literature, Arabic language, and Islamic studies.

045PPQTM3	Philosophical Thinking and Daily Life	2 Cr.
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This course introduces students to the core aspects of philosophical thinking and its relevance to everyday life. Topics include routine, life's meaning, the power of first impressions, prejudices, majority opinions, illusion and error, biased thinking, media and values, and the role of philosophy in daily life. This course also covers the basics of logical reasoning and teaches students to identify logical fallacies.

045PSHEM3	Philosophy and Humanities: An Epistemological Approach	4 Cr.
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This course familiarizes students with the connection between philosophy and humanities. It examines how philosophy has articulated humanity's concern about existence since its inception, emphasizing that philosophical inquiry is uniquely human. The primary goal of philosophy is to address the profound questions that humans grapple with.

As humanities evolved and became distinct from philosophy, philosophy intentionally sought to explore the greater mystery of humanity through the insights gained from these disciplines in their various domains.

The course objectives are to:

- Explore the relationship between philosophy and the human sciences.
- Examine the connections between various tools and methodologies within humanities (epistemological approach).
- Highlight the mutual contributions of philosophy and humanities.

045MEMLM3	Reading Specialized Texts	4 Cr.
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This course centers on the skill of reading specialized texts, essential for comprehending and analyzing materials in specific domains like science, medicine, or technology. It equips students with the tools to interpret specialized terminology, identify key ideas, and navigate relevant information effectively. By emphasizing critical thinking and in-depth reading comprehension, the course empowers students to analyze texts accurately and gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

045MRLOM1	Research Methodology	2 Cr.
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This comprehensive course trains students in research and bibliography presentation. It covers key areas such as compiling a bibliography for research projects, like a master thesis, using various information technology tools. Students will learn to understand specific software programs for bibliography management. This course also addresses formatting rules for theses and explores the stages of a university research project. Additionally, students will gain skills in writing effective footnotes.

045IRLOM1	Research Methods in Oriental Literatures I	4 Cr.
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This course studies how we approach Oriental literatures today, focusing on key methods and available tools to enhance personal research. It introduces new approaches through a seminar and workshop. The seminar provides essential guidelines for navigating the research field, while the workshop supports students in preparing their research projects throughout the year.

045IMSLM2	Research Methods in Oriental Literatures II	4 Cr.
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This course studies how we approach Oriental literatures today, focusing on key methods and available tools to enhance personal research. It introduces new approaches through a seminar and workshop. The seminar provides essential guidelines for navigating the research field, while the workshop supports students in preparing their research projects throughout the year.

045MEMLM3	Research Thesis Preparation and Defense	28 Cr.
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This thesis, consisting of a minimum of 80 pages, is a key requirement for completing the Master in Arabic Language and Literature. It serves as the student's first independent research project and necessitates a comprehensive and original exploration of a specific topic. Throughout the academic year, students will develop their thesis with the guidance of a research supervisor. Once the thesis is completed, students are required to defend it before a jury composed of the thesis supervisor and other faculty members. During the defense, students will answer questions and receive constructive feedback on their project.

045ARLOM2	Research Training I	2 Cr.
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This training involves attending conferences organized by the Department of Oriental Studies and the Louis Boucher Center for the Study of Civilizations at the Saint Joseph University in Beirut, as well as participating in discussions of master theses in Humanities.

Students are required to complete a total of 24 hours of attendance and submit a mandatory 10-page report summarizing the conferences and/or discussions attended. This report must be submitted to the master's supervisor.

045ARLOM3	Research Training II	2 Cr.
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This training involves attending conferences organized by the Department of Oriental Studies and the Louis Boucher Center for the Study of Civilizations at the Saint Joseph University in Beirut, as well as participating in discussions of master theses in Humanities.

Students are required to complete a total of 24 hours of attendance and submit a mandatory 10-page report summarizing the conferences and/or discussions attended. This report must be submitted to the master's supervisor.

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.

045MEMLM3	Textual Studies: Orientalism	4 Cr.
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This course analyses texts from Eastern cultures and languages, particularly Arabic and Islamic, from a Western scholarly perspective. It covers the impact of Western culture on the East, the portrayal of Eastern societies in Western literature and art, and the approaches used by Orientalist scholars to interpret these texts.

045APMAM1	Thesis Project	4 Cr.
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During the first year of the Master in Arabic Language and Literature, students must prepare a personal research project consisting of at least 20 pages (1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman 12). This project should include an introduction that presents the chosen topic, a review of relevant studies, a proposed outline and methodology, and a discussion of the argumentative developments related to the topic. The work must include a bibliography and will be completed under the supervision of an instructor.

045ATCOM2	Training in Editing Oriental Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac)	2 Cr.
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In the first part, this course explores various methods of critical editing or Ecdotique. In the second part, it addresses specific challenges related to the publication of Oriental texts and the impact of the digital revolution. Students will collaboratively apply the knowledge gained in the first semester by creating a critical and digital edition of Arabic texts or excerpts from various historical and Islamic genres.