

INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES (ILO)

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

Candidates must hold a Bachelor in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Required courses (120 Cr.)

Aesthetics: A Philosophical and Literary Approach (4 Cr.). Biblical Greek I **or** Syriac I **or** Biblical Hebrew I (2 Cr.). Biblical Greek II **or** Syriac II **or** Biblical Hebrew II (2 Cr.). Application of Artificial Intelligence in Humanities (2 Cr.). Arabic Literary, Philosophical, and Islamic Texts (4 Cr.). Contemporary Islamic Political Thought: Notable Figures and Literature (2 Cr.). Information Technology Tools (2 Cr.). Introduction to Eastern Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) (2 Cr.). Issues and Problems in Arab Philosophy (4 Cr.). Issues and Problems in Western Philosophy (4 Cr.). Master's Research Seminar I (10 Cr.). Master's Research Seminar II (10 Cr.). Master's Research Seminar III (10 Cr.). Philosophy and Humanities: An Epistemological Approach (4 Cr.). Reading Specialized Texts (4 Cr.). Research Methodology (2 Cr.). Research Methodologies in Eastern Literatures I (4 Cr.). Research Methodologies in Eastern Literatures II (4 Cr.). Writing and Defending the Research Thesis (28 Cr.). Research Training I (2 Cr.). Research Training II (2 Cr.). Textual Studies: Orientalism (4 Cr.). Master's Thesis Project (4 Cr.). Training in Editing Eastern Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) (2 Cr.). Philosophical Thinking and Daily Life (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 Eastern Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) | 2 |
| 045SRTRM1 | Master's Research Seminar I | 10 |
| 045MRLOM1 | Research Methodology | 2 |
| 045IRLOM1 | Research Methodologies in Eastern Literatures I | 4 |
| 045LAGIL2 or 045LSPAL1 or 045LLPAL1 | Biblical Greek I or Syriac I or Biblical Hebrew I | 2 |
| | Total | 30 |

Semester 2

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

Semester 3

| Code | Course Name | Credits |
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| 045AAIEM3 | Application of Artificial Intelligence in Humanities | 2 |
| 045PPCMM3 | Contemporary Islamic Political Thought: Notable Figures and Literature | 2 |
| 045PPHAM3 | Issues and Problems in Arab Philosophy | 4 |
| 045PPHEM3 | Issues and Problems in Western Philosophy | 4 |
| 045SRTRM3 | Master's 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 | Writing and Defending the Research Thesis | 28 |
| 045ARLOM3 | Research Training II | 2 |
| Total | | 30 |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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| 045BPHLM2 | 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.

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| 045AAIEM3 | Application 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.

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| 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.

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| 045LAGIL2 | 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.

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

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| 045PPCMM3 | Contemporary Islamic Political Thought: Notable 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.

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| 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.

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| 045IALCM1 | Introduction to Eastern Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) | 2 Cr. |
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This course introduces the two key areas needed to study Eastern 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 Philosophy 4 Cr.

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 Philosophy 4 Cr.

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.

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| 045SRTRM1 | Master's Research Seminar I | 10 Cr. |
| 045SRTRM2 | Master's Research Seminar II | 10 Cr. |
| 045SRTRM3 | Master's Research Seminar III | 10 Cr. |

This research seminar trains students in scientific research based on themes defined by the Louis Pouzet Center for Ancient and Medieval Civilizations Studies. 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.

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.

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.

045LTSPM2 Reading Specialized Texts 4 Cr.

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.

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's 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 Methodologies in Eastern Literatures I 4 Cr.

This course examines contemporary approaches to Eastern literatures, emphasizing key methods and 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 Methodologies in Eastern Literatures II 4 Cr.

This course examines contemporary approaches to Eastern literatures, emphasizing key methods and 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 Writing and Defending the Research Thesis 28 Cr.

This thesis, consisting of a minimum of 80 pages, is a key requirement for completing the Master in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy. It serves as the student's first independent research project and requires 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.

This training involves attending conferences organized by the Department of Oriental Studies and the Louis Pouzet Center for Ancient and Medieval Civilizations Studies 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.

This training involves attending conferences organized by the Department of Oriental Studies and the Louis Pouzet Center for Ancient and Medieval Civilizations Studies 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.

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.

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| 045LLPPL2 | Syriac II | 2 Cr. |
| This course enables students to read and translate moderately difficult classical Syriac texts using basic tools. | | |
| 045EDTOM2 | Textual Studies: Orientalism | 4 Cr. |
| 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 | Master's Thesis Project | 4 Cr. |
| During the first year of the Master in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy, 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 Eastern Manuscripts (Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Syriac) | 2 Cr. |
| 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. | | |