

COURSE OUTLINE

Philosophy 121 Philosophy - Islam

Catalog Statement

PHILO 121 is a study of Islam as both a religion and a culture. The study of the religion includes a consideration of beliefs and practices of the faith, and the history of the man, Muhammad, who revealed the faith. The study of the culture includes a consideration of the early successors to Muhammad, religious movements and sects, philosophy, science, and political power.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Laboratory Units: 0.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0 hours

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 96.00

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 101

Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- organize and write thesis-based essays;
- use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support or thesis statements;
- critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues;
- summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions;
- gather and organize information through library research;
- demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation;
- understand abstract and complex collegiate reading selection;
- communicate learning, conceptual understanding and analytical skills through class discussions and lectures.

Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- interpret and summarize selected sections from the Koran;
- identify and explain the historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts within which the fundamental philosophical concept of monotheism, i.e., Allah, was raised;
- critically evaluate the arguments relating to the sacred law and various sources of jurisprudence presented by different sects within Islam;
- demonstrate the ability to compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the Islamic world views, for example: gaining a better understanding of the notion of jihad or holy war.

Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48 hours

Introduction (**6 hours**)

The philosophical approach, i.e., critical inquiry
The historical approach
The methods of the social sciences
The use of textual and historical criticism

Islam the Religion (**6 hours**)

The basic beliefs of a Muslim
The right path of action: Articles of faith; The Qur'an; Hadiths; and the Five Pillars of Islam
Muhammad – The prophet and the man: Early life; prophetic call; ministry in Mecca; ministry in Medina; and death of the prophet

Islam the Culture

A compound of varied interests (**2 hours**)

Synthesis under the Caliphate, i.e., the successors of Mohammad in Medina; in Damascus; and in Baghdad (**4 hours**)

Early movements within Islam (**4 hours**)

Karijites

Murijites

Mutazilites: A group of theologians who sought a middle ground between the Karijites and the Murijites

Different sects within Islam (**6 hours**)

Sunni (Traditionalists)

Belong to one of four schools of jurisprudence

Sacred law

Four sources of jurisprudence: Qur'an; Hadiths; analogy; and consensus

Major sect

Shi'ah (Followers of AID)

A heretical group

Believe that the hereditary line from Mohammad through Ali should have determined the leadership of the Muslims

Disavow consensus (see section on Sunni above)

Rely on imams (in Shi'ah, a divinely appointed successor to Mohammad)

Different Shi'te sects

Zaidites or Fivers
Ishmailites or Seveners
Twelvers – include Iranians
Sufis (Mystics)

Philosophy

Muslim notions of truth (**4 hours**)

naql-lit. transmission, the delivery of truth via revelation and transmitted in faithful theology, as contrasted with ‘aql
‘aql-investigative reason

The Muslims and Greek philosophy (**2 hours**)

The leading Muslim philosophers (**2 hours**)

Aristotelian philosophy as interpreted by Muslim philosophers (2 hours)

The impact of Islamic philosophy on European theological and philosophical thought in the Middle Ages (**2 hours**)

Science

Art

Political power (**4 hours**)

Viewed as part of the true domain of Muslim faith and practice

Reduced by inroads of the West

Restored in recent times

Why Israel is a challenge

The status of women in Islam (**2 hours**)

Renewing the understanding of Islam (**4 hours**)

An idea of unity

Islam in a changed world

Conservatism

Wahhabism

Shi’ites in Iran

Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

- classroom lecture discussions;
- audio visual presentations;
- student presentations and discussions;
- outside readings of reserved books and articles from scholarly journals;
- visits to museums and mosques.

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

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

Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

- class participation;
- group discussions;
- written assignments (e.g. paper demonstrating the critical analysis of the theories of Islam and their supporting arguments)
- two to three one-hour class examinations throughout the semester;
- final examination

Textbook (s)

Denny, Frederick Mathewson. *An Introduction to Islam*. 4th. New York, Routledge, 2016
13th Grade Reading Level, ISBN: 9780138144777

Kritzeck, James. *Anthology* Ontario, Penguin Books, 1964
13th Grade Reading Level, ISBN: 0452008794

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required course work, the student will be able to:

- interpret and summarize both selected primary and secondary sources;
- identify and explain the historical, cultural and intellectual contexts within which fundamental philosophical concerns are raised;
- critically evaluate the arguments relating to the world views presented in various schools of Islamic philosophy;
- demonstrate the ability to compose critical and analytical responses in writing to the philosophical issues/ideas inherent in the Islamic world view.