

Course Syllabus

Course: Philosophy – Introduction to General Philosophy and Islamic Philosophy

Study Program: Theology

Number of ECTS Credits: 3 ECTS Credits

Level and Type of Course: Compulsory

Course Code: 210

Contact Hours: 2+1 (Semester IV)

Professor: **Dr. Abdulkader Durguti.** Kontakti: e-maili: **abdulkaderdurguti@gmail.com**

Course Objective

The course aims to equip students with basic knowledge in the field of philosophy in general, and Islamic philosophy in particular. Students will explore and study the foundations of philosophy, its worldviews among different peoples, as well as in various periods of its historical development, its relationship with other sciences, and the main themes of philosophy.

The course also seeks to develop students' skills and abilities to analyze data and various philosophical concepts included in the study program, enabling them to draw informed conclusions. It aims to cultivate and advance a critical sense in evaluating arguments based on relevant philosophical facts.

Students will be trained to write essays and discuss various philosophical topics in a clear and persuasive style, both orally and in writing qualities characteristic of a person with a liberal academic education.

Through lectures in philosophy, it is expected that after completing this course the student will gain general knowledge of the most important philosophical themes throughout history and in the present, with special emphasis on themes of Islamic philosophy inspired by Qur'anic philosophy. Students will understand the processes of philosophical development from its emergence to the present day.

The course will also provide students with the opportunity, through critical engagement and debate, to compare different philosophical schools in order to identify those most suitable for our context. Students will also understand that the development of philosophy is an ongoing process that requires the contribution of every generation in order to reach more solid knowledge and thereby further advance social life.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

Describe the stages of the development of philosophy throughout ancient history as well as modern philosophy.

Compare different philosophical schools studied during the course.

Discuss philosophical topics based on their arguments, reaching clear conclusions and maintaining objectivity.

Defend the positions of different philosophical schools as they were conceived by their founders.

Present critical reflections on each of them, identifying the arguments that are most sound.

Apply the acquired knowledge in interpersonal and social relations.

Teaching Methodology:

Teaching will be conducted in the form of lectures, using a projector which helps students understand the lecture more clearly. Students will be encouraged to participate in interactive discussions by asking questions and conducting analyses related to the lecture.

Seminars and various essays will also be assigned, which will be presented both individually and in groups, along with self-assessment tests. In addition, during the preparation of the course material, students will have the opportunity to contact the professor and receive guidance in order to achieve higher quality and better results.

Course Content:

Week 1: Introduction to Philosophy. Familiarization with the syllabus, methods, organization, requirements, and assessment. General considerations: Philosophy as a universal human phenomenon. Motives of philosophy.

Literature: Dr. Zija Abdullahu, *Introduction to Philosophy*.

Week 2: Definition and tasks of philosophy. The benefits of philosophy.

Proposal of topics for seminar papers and essays.

Literature: (pp. 12–21).

Week 3: The historical concept of philosophy in: the Ancient East, Ancient Greece, the Islamic community, the Middle Ages, and the modern era.

Interactive discussion comparing these concepts with one another.

Literature: (pp. 22–30).

Week 4: The relationship of philosophy with other fields of knowledge. Science and philosophy. Philosophy and religion.

Reading of seminar papers and essays and discussion about them.

Literature: (pp. 31–39).

Week 5: Themes of philosophy: Epistemology (the theory of knowledge), Ontology (existential theory), and Axiology (the theory of values). Gnoseology (the theory of cognition). The possibility of knowledge, the nature of knowledge, and the sources of knowledge.

Literature: (pp. 40–51).

Week 6: The most well-known philosophical theories. Materialist philosophy and the debate with religion.

Literature: (pp. 52–61).

Week 7: Modern philosophy in the West and religion. - First test.

Week 8: Philosophy and Islam. The emergence of philosophy among Muslims and its causes. Arab philosophy or Islamic philosophy?

Literature: Ahmed Fuad al-Ahwani, *Islamic Philosophy*, translated by Ismail Bardhi, Skopje, 2002, pp. 13–17.

Week 9: The relationship between Islamic philosophy and Greek philosophy. The relation of Islamic philosophy with other Islamic sciences: kalam, tasawwuf, and fiqh.

Week 10: Islamic philosophy in Eastern Arabia. The most eminent representatives of Islamic philosophy in Eastern Arabia: Abu Yaqub al-Kindi.

Literature: (pp. 74–80).

Week 11: Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina.

Literature: (pp. 81–85).

Week 12: Islamic philosophy in Western Arabia. Intellectual life in the Islamic Maghreb.

Literature: (pp. 86–94).

Week 13: The most eminent representatives of Islamic philosophy in Western Arabia: Ibn Rushd, Ibn Bajja, Ibn Tufayl.

Literature: (pp. 95–102).

Week 14: Ilm al-Kalam and Islamic philosophy.

Reading of seminar papers and essays and discussions about previous lectures.

Week 15: Final exam

Assessment Criteria and Components:

Presentation and in-class activity: 10 points

Seminar paper: 10 points

First test evaluation: 20 points

Second test evaluation: 20 points

Final exam: 40 points

Grading Standard at FSI:

10 = 90% – 100% – Excellent – outstanding knowledge with only a few minor mistakes.

9 = 80% – 89% – Very Good – above the average standard, but with some mistakes.

8 = 70% – 79% – Good – generally good results with some noticeable mistakes.

7 = 60% – 69% – Satisfactory – good, but with quite a few mistakes.

6 = 50% – 59% – Pass – results meet the minimum criteria.

5 = 0% – 49% – Fail – considerable work is required to earn the credits.

Basic Literature:

1. Dr. Zija Abdullahu, Introduction to Islamic Philosophy, course material for the third year (for internal use only), Prishtina, 2011.
2. Ahmed Fuad al-Ahwani, Islamic Philosophy, translated by Ismail Bardhi, Skopje, 2002.

Supplementary Literature:

1. **The Qur'an:** Translation and commentary, translated by H. Sherif Ahmeti, Medina, 1992.
2. Sulejmani, Dr. Sejjedin, *Philosophy*, Skopje, 1987.
3. Hersh, Zhane, *Philosophical Wonder*, translated by Artan Fuga, Tirana, 1993.
4. Gadamer, Hans-Georg, *History of Philosophy*, translated by Alda Mukli, Tirana, 2008.
5. Corbin, Henry, *History of Islamic Philosophy*, translated by Nexhat Ibrahim, Skopje, 1997.
6. Tuçi, Gjuzepe, *History of Indian Philosophy*, translated by Vehap Shita, Prishtina, 1989.
7. Zakzuk, Dr. Mahmud Hamdi, *Tamhidun lil-Falsafa*, Cairo, 1986.
8. Zajdan, Dr. Mahmud, *Nadhariyyat al-Ma'rifa 'inda Mufakkiri al-Islam*, Beirut, 1989.
9. Stumpf, Samuel Enoch, *Philosophy: History and Problems*, translated by Kastriot Muftiu and Paqsor Shehu, Tirana, n.d. (no publication year).