



History of Philosophy II A | PIU22073

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 lectures; 4 tutorials
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Farbod Akhlaghi; Dr Samantha Fazekas
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Module Outline:

Component One: Kant's Epistemology and Metaphysics (Dr Samantha Fazekas)

This component will offer an introduction to Kant's theoretical philosophy as articulated in the *Critique of Pure Reason*. We will focus primarily on topics from the first half of the book, and will examine core topics, such as the Copernican Turn, Kant's doctrine of transcendental idealism, the analytic/synthetic distinction, the nature of space, the problem of causation and the response to Humean scepticism, and Kant's theory of the self. This component will aim to show the centrality of Kant's thought to an understanding of the development of the history of philosophy.

Component Two: Classical Islamic Philosophy from Al-Kindi to Averroes (Dr Farbod Akhlaghi)

From around the 9th to the 12th century CE, the Islamic world was one of the world's major centres of philosophical activity. The aim of these lectures is to introduce you to the philosophy of this Classical Islamic period. These philosophers engaged in important, novel work that informed much of the philosophy that followed, especially in the medieval Christian world. They tackled topics as varied as the justification of belief, the nature of prophecy, and the metaphysics of modality to ethical problems and debate over the ideal political state. We will undertake a journey together through the work of several Persian and Arab philosophers from Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al-Ghazali, to Averroes (Ibn Rushd). Throughout, we will also explore their connections to contemporary philosophical debates today.



Assessment:

Essays: 1 essay (50%)

Exam: One, 1-hour exam (50%)

You must submit *one* essay for this course and answer *one* question in the exam.

If you submit an essay for Component One, you must answer an exam question on Component Two, and vice versa.

Recommended Reading List:

Component One: Kant

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term. Our central text for the first component is:

- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated by Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Feel free to consult whichever translation/edition of the *Critique of Pure Reason* you prefer.

Component Two: Classical Islamic Philosophy

Our textbook for Component Two will be:

- Booth, Anthony Robert. (2017). *Analytic Islamic Philosophy*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

For helpful preparatory reading, see:

- Adamson, Peter. (2015). *Philosophy in the Islamic World: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

And for helpful translations of several key texts from this period, see:

- Acar, Rahim. & Cüneyt Kaya, M. (2025). *Philosophy of Religion in Islam: A Reader of Classical Sources*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Khalidi, Muhammed. (2010). *Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.