MASTER OF ARTS
IN PHILOSOPHY
OUR PROGRAM
The two-year Master of Arts in Philosophy program at The American University in Cairo gives students a unique opportunity to focus on both Islamic and European philosophy in the heart of a cultural and geographical crossroads where these traditions meet. Graduate students are able to explore one of the world’s oldest and most fascinating cities while simultaneously examining a broad spectrum of Eastern, Western, Christian and Islamic philosophical traditions. Students interested in Islamic philosophy are able to pursue Arabic language classes as part of the program requirements, while internationally recognized specialists teach students interested in contemporary European philosophy. All students receive a high-quality, liberal arts education and emerge from the program with in-depth knowledge of the discipline. The program equips students for careers in which critical and analytical skills are valued, prepares them to embark upon doctoral research in philosophy, and provides them with an advanced understanding of the intellectual and historical roots of the contemporary world.
Faculty members in the Department of Philosophy are leading scholars in their fields. Recognized for their contributions, many have received national and international awards, while others have been recognized by AUC through the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavors Award. In addition, AUC philosophy professors have been invited as visiting lecturers in Europe, the United States and South America.
Abraham Anderson, Professor (PhD, Columbia University)
- History of Modern Philosophy (especially Kant, Hume, Shaftesbury and Descartes)
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Ethics

Ahmed Abdel Meguid, Assistant Professor (PhD, Emory University)
- Classical and Post-Classical Islamic Philosophy and Philosophical Theology
- Modern German Philosophy and Phenomenology (especially Kant and Husserl)

Catarina Belo, Associate Professor (DPhil, University of Oxford)
- Islamic Philosophy and Theology
- Medieval Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion
- Metaphysics

Richard Fincham, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy (PhD, University of Warwick)
- Kant and 19th Century German Philosophy
- The influence of Humean Skepticism on Early German Idealism
Euan Metz, Assistant Professor (PhD, University of Reading)

- Practical Reason
- Moral Philosophy

Thomas Rule, Assistant Professor (PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz)

- 19th and 20th Century Philosophy (especially Heidegger)
- Philosophical Anthropology

Robert Switzer, Associate Professor (PhD, Pennsylvania State University)

- 19th and 20th Century Philosophy, Phenomenology
- Aesthetics, Philosophy of Music
- Ethics

William Tullius, Assistant Professor (PhD, The New School for Social Research)

- Ethics
- Phenomenology (especially Husserl, Scheler, and Stein)
- Personalism
**Alessandro Topa**, Associate Professor (PhD, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität-Bonn)

- Classical Greek Philosophy
- German Idealism
- American Pragmatism
- Theory of Categories
- Theory of Normativity
- Semiotic Logic

**Robin Weiss**, Assistant Professor (PhD, DePaul University)

- Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Especially Stoicism and Aristotle
- Ethical and Political Philosophy
- Continental Philosophy
- American Pragmatism
The AUC Library holds more than 13,000 books and approximately 30,000 e-books on philosophy, with an emphasis on classical German philosophy, contemporary French philosophy, medieval Islamic philosophy and theology. The books are available in their original languages, as well as in translation. In addition, the electronic library offers access to a large variety of databases, providing resources and information that complement the library’s physical collection. Periodical subscriptions also offer more than 650,000 journal articles, while document delivery services provide access to a wide array of resources from other libraries around the world.
Students must take eight courses, at least six of which must be 5000-level philosophy courses. They must also complete a ninth course, PHIL 5299 Research Guidance and Thesis (0 cr.), which includes completing a thesis.

**Required Philosophy Graduate Core**

PHIL 500/5101 - Advanced Seminar in Classical Philosophy (3 cr.)
PHIL 501/5122 - Advanced Seminar in Islamic Philosophy (3 cr.)
PHIL 504/5123 - Kant and Idealism (3 cr.)
PHIL 505/5124 - Advanced Seminar in Phenomenology (3 cr.)

**Optional MA Courses**

PHIL 410/5112 - Advanced Seminar in Aesthetics (3 cr.)
PHIL 000/5104 - Selected Topics in Contemporary Philosophy (3 cr.)
PHIL 000/5109 - Applied Ethics (3 cr.)
PHIL 360/5117 - Philosophy of Language (3 cr.)
PHIL 458-558/5119 - Advanced Seminar in Political Philosophy (3 cr.)
PHIL 000/5120 - Advanced Seminar in Feminist Philosophy (3 cr.)
PHIL 403/5199 - Selected Topics in Philosophy (3 cr.)
PHIL 000/5150 - Philosophy and Film (3 cr.)
PHIL 000/5121 - Philosophical Logic (3 cr.)
PHIL 000/5130 - Philosophy of Mind (3 cr.)
**Program**

**Thesis**

Students are required to write a thesis proposal before commencing work on the thesis. The department conceives of the thesis as a research paper of approximately 15,000 words, demonstrating the student’s ability to conduct research and write critically about a given subject. There is also a final defense of the finished thesis. The philosophy graduate program director organizes a series of noncredit seminars at the beginning of every academic year. All graduate students are expected to attend these seminars in order to ensure that they possess the research and academic writing skills required for tackling the thesis (PHIL 5299). This training is reinforced by the department’s graduate courses, in which students are required to identify and engage with relevant secondary literature to compose papers in a scholarly manner.

**Admission Requirements**

The Master of Arts in philosophy is aimed at any holder of a bachelor’s degree with a background in the study of philosophy. The MA requires a standard AUC application for graduate studies, including the required English-language test scores. In addition, applicants must submit a writing sample of at least 1,000 words, demonstrating critical thinking. For more information on admission, visit www.aucegypt.edu/admissions/graduate.

**Funding Opportunities**

The University offers a number of competitive fellowships for graduate students who display superior performance in their academic endeavors, in addition to scholarships, teaching assistantships, funding for Arabic courses and work-study programs. For more information on financial affairs, visit www.aucegypt.edu/admissions/fellowships.
Testimonials

“To study philosophy is to mentally challenge yourself; it is to satisfy a mental craving you did not know you had until the first time you attend a philosophy class. It is training your mind to consider the most fundamental questions about who you are as an individual, who we are as a society and our place in the world”
Sherifa Hisham (MA ‘19)

“The philosophy MA program will challenge your whole perspective about life.”
Sherif Salem (MA ‘17)

“The Master of Arts in philosophy is intellectually stimulating. It prepares professionals for careers in communication, marketing, economic development, management, administration and, of course, education. I have had an immensely satisfying career in project management, leadership and international cooperation, and it was my undergraduate study degree in philosophy that got me through the door.”
Marwa Adel ’03 ’16

“The philosophy graduate program has provided me with a wide array of courses that allow me to stretch my scope of interest. The professors exhibit the highest level of scholarship and care for their students.”
Heba Youssef ’07 ’09 ’16