

Helwan University

Faculty of Arts

Department of Philosophy

Philosophy Department Research Plan (2028/2023)

First: Objectives and Methodology

Introduction

The Department of Philosophy, affiliated with the Faculty of Arts at Helwan University, was established in January 1995, and studies commenced in the 1995-1996 academic year. It was one of the first departments founded within the Faculty of Arts. Since its inception, the department has been committed to contributing to the vision, mission, and goals of the faculty.

The department's research plan for the years 2023-2029 has been prepared with the goal of directing the research efforts of faculty, researchers, and students to foster diversity and innovation in research areas that align with global trends, while also addressing societal issues to achieve comprehensive development.

Objectives of the Research Plan

The research plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

١. To enhance the scientific and research capabilities of faculty members through research plans that contribute to the development of the discipline.
٢. To improve the efficiency of the research process and link it to community development.
٣. To encourage interdisciplinary studies between the Department of Philosophy and other specializations to contribute to achieving the sustainable development of society.
٤. To foster critical thinking fortified by the logic of the scientific method, and to deepen the foundations for making value judgments, and to develop the faculties of appreciation; thereby cultivating the well-rounded mindset of a conscious intellectual.

Methodology for Preparing the Research Plan

To ensure consistency with the Faculty's vision, align with the plan's methodology, and guarantee its implementation, the plan was developed through the following stages:

١. Formation of a committee to prepare the research plan.
٢. Compiling, reviewing, and analyzing the research plans of peer departments.
٣. A thematic analysis of university theses registered and approved by the department from 2018 to 2023.
٤. Designing data collection tools, specifically two questionnaires for faculty members, assistant staff, and stakeholders, to survey their opinions on research needs.
٥. Identifying current research trends in the field of philosophy by reviewing the latest local, regional, and international conferences.

٦. Defining research areas and identifying under-explored topics to achieve the objectives of the department's research plan.
٧. Drafting the research plan in its final form.
٨. Presenting the plan to the Department Council for approval.
٩. Presenting the plan to the Faculty Council for approval.

Dissemination of the Research Plan

To achieve the objectives of the department's research plan, it will be made available and disseminated among the department's affiliates, including faculty members and postgraduate students. Additionally, it will be accessible via the department's website, the faculty's website, and in the future, through the department's handbook.

Second: Current Situation

This section addresses the vision, mission, and objectives of the Department of Philosophy. It also covers the research personnel within the department, registered and approved Master's and PhD theses, the research needs of the job market, and current research trends in the field of philosophy.

Vision and Mission

Vision

Philosophy is the vast horizon of a comprehensive cultural perspective in which the human spirit converges with social, political, and economic history. Philosophy is the oldest science known to humanity throughout its accumulated and diverse civilizations. It represents the stages of intellectual development that the human mind has undergone in its production of civilization in all its intellectual forms, and in confronting the problems and ambiguities of life.

Mission

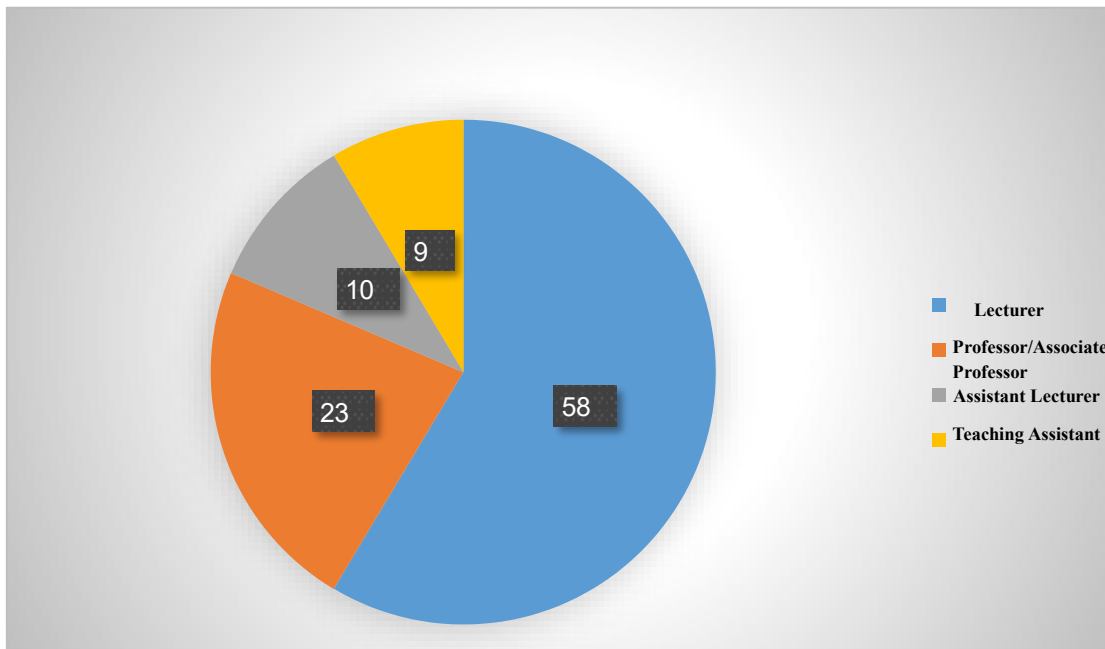
- Enriching the cultural life of the nation and contributing to the formation of its character, represented in its general consciousness in all its intellectual, scientific, religious, moral, and aesthetic manifestations.
- Developing awareness of national and contemporary issues, their evolution across time and cultures, and contributing to renewing the methods of presenting them and the research methods for their solutions.
- Working to build critical thinking armed with the logic of the scientific method, deepening the foundations for making value judgments, and developing the faculties of appreciation, thereby cultivating the well-rounded mindset of a conscious intellectual.

Goals

- To prepare a specialist in the fields of philosophy capable of identifying problems, concepts, and terms in issues related to the logic of knowledge, existence, and value, and who is proficient in the methods and etiquette of fruitful and constructive dialogue.
- To develop the ability for productive reading of philosophical texts and to interpret them in their civilizational context.
- To encourage diligence in scientific research and the new, creative presentation of philosophical problems and general intellectual issues.

Department's Research Staff

The faculty members and the assisting staff have been surveyed to identify the available research personnel in the department, and subsequently, to predict its needs.



Topics of Academic Theses and Dissertations

The approved theses in the Philosophy Department from the period 2018 to 2023 have been documented, totaling 13 academic theses. Additionally, the total number of theses registered up to 2023 is approximately 11 (8 Master's theses and 2 PhD dissertations). These have been distributed into broad subject areas as shown in Table No. (1).

Table No. 1: Thematic Distribution of Academic Theses and Dissertations (Registered and Approved)

No.	Topics	Number
1	Aesthetics	2
2	Modern and Contemporary Arab Thought	4
3	Political Philosophy	5
4	Epistemology (Philosophy of Knowledge)	1

5	Eastern and Ancient Egyptian Thought	٢
٦	Philosophy of Language and Modern Logic	٢
٧	Islamic Mysticism (Sufism)	١
٨	Postmodern Philosophy	١
٩	Medieval Philosophy	١

The previous table illustrates the diversity of research topics registered within the Department of Philosophy. However, it also shows that there has been a significant focus on several topics in the recent period, such as Modern and Contemporary Arab Thought and Political Philosophy.

Research requirements for the labor market

The research needs of philosophy institutions were identified by following up with several graduates and distributing questionnaires to researchers enrolled in the postgraduate stage to know the needs of the labor market, and it was possible to summarize the observed needs in the following points:

- Educational trends in philosophy
- Political analysis of foreign policies
- Philosophical translation of research studies
- Critical thinking in journalism
- Philosophical treatment of environmental issues

Philosophy students can hold professional positions in several general fields, especially those that require coordination and supervision skills, in addition to the following fields:

- Journalism and media: You can work in magazines and radio stations.
- Freelancing and websites: Where content can be created for websites on a part-time or full-time basis, and this content may deal with human, social, and philosophical issues.
- Education: You can teach relevant subjects, especially sociology, and you can work in the field of counseling and education in schools as well.
- Civil society institutions and organizations where projects related to thought and politics can be supervised.
- Research centers, where you can work in research centers that focus their efforts on social studies.

The research priorities of the department

Based on the survey of faculty members, the inventory of approved and registered topics within the department, the research requirements of the labor market, and a review of conference themes from the period 2015-2023, the research priorities for the Department of Philosophy at Helwan University for the period 2023-2028 have been identified as follows:

١. Interdisciplinary Studies

٧. **Epistemology** – A field that studies the nature of knowledge, human understanding, and the ways of reaching truth.
٨. **Metaphysics** – A field concerned with existence, reality, and truth in a general sense.
٩. **Philosophy of Science** – The study of principles and methods of thinking related to modern sciences and the scientific method.
١٠. **Philosophical Geography** – This field focuses on the study of the Earth and the philosophical relationship between humans and place.
١١. **Philosophy of Language** – The study of the nature of language, meaning, and communication.
١٢. **Global Politics** – A field concerned with the philosophical study of international relations, global cooperation, international conflicts, and global ethics.
١٣. **Philosophy of Mind** – The study of the nature of consciousness, perception, and awareness.
١٤. **Political Philosophy** – The study of values, ethical standards, justice, and principles of governance.
١٥. **Continental Economics** – This field focuses on the philosophical study of the global economy and its relation to trade, production, and economic globalization.
١٦. **Applied Philosophy** – Helps in understanding fundamental concepts and ethical and philosophical issues in fields such as medicine, technology, and the environment.
١٧. **Philosophy of Education** – Lays the foundation for defining the purpose of teaching, its goals, and methods.
١٨. **Sustainable Development and the Societal Role of Philosophy** – Discusses the concept of sustainable development, its challenges, the possibility of effectively achieving it, its philosophical foundations, and its practical application in daily life.
١٩. **Philosophy of Culture and Identity** – Concerned with collective identity, cultural identity, and the contradictions between different cultures.
٢٠. **Modern and Contemporary Arab Thought** – Focuses on studying philosophical thought in Arab and Islamic societies.
٢١. **Aesthetics (Philosophy of Beauty)** – Concerned with artistic creativity and contemporary art schools.