



Course Title: **Advanced Ṣadrīan Philosophy: The *Bidāyat al-Ḥikma* of ‘Allāmah Ṭabāṭabā’ī**

Module Title: **The Concept and Reality of Existence (Part 1 of 4)**

Module Code: PHIBID1

Course Duration: 17 weeks (2 units per week)

Assessment: 90% end of semester exam; 10% attendance and class participation

Module Description:

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the philosophical foundations of Mullā Ṣadrā’s philosophy. The first part of the course on Advanced Ṣadrīan Philosophy is devoted entirely to the concept and reality of existence. The course is aimed at situating the philosophy of Mullā Ṣadrā/‘Allāmah Ṭabāṭabā’ī in the broader history of Islamic philosophy. Students are therefore continually exposed to previous philosophers—in particular Ibn Sīnā and Suhrawardī—and previous philosophical models. By considering the historical influences and trajectories of competing philosophical schools on the thought of Mullā Ṣadrā, this course enables students to articulate the novel contributions and advancements achieved by the later *ḥikmat* tradition.

General Course Texts:

Izutsu, Toshihiko. *The Concept and Reality of Existence*. Islamic Books Trust, 2009.

Ṭabāṭabā’ī, Sayyid Muḥammad Ḥusayn. *Bidāyat al-ḥikma*. Edited by ‘Abbās ‘Alī al-Sabzawārī. Qum: Mu’assisat al-Nashr al-Islāmī, 1431Ah.

Term Schedule:

Week 1: The Subject-Matter and Aim of First Philosophy

Week 2: The Concept of Being

Week 3: The Essence-Existence Distinction

Week 4: The Fundamentality of Existence

Week 5: The Fundamentality of Existence

Week 6: The Modulation of Existence



Week 7:	The Modulation of Existence
Week 8:	The Individuation of Existence
Week 9:	The Negative Characteristics of Existence
Week 10:	The Identity of Being and “Thing” Non-Existence and Its Characteristics
Week 11:	Predicating Absolute Non-Existence Mullā Ṣadrā’s Theories of Predication
Week 12:	The Impossibility of the Non-Existent Returning
Week 13:	Mental Existence – Proofs and Objections
Week 14:	Mental Existence – Proofs and Objections
Week 15:	Mental Existence – Proofs and Objections
Week 16:	<i>Nafs al-amr</i>
Week 17:	Being-in-Itself and Being-in-Another

* Reading lists provided in class for each of the relevant topics each week.