

ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH-UH)

ANTH-UH 1010 Introduction to Anthropology (4 Credits)

Typically offered occasionally

This course provides students with a broad overview of the discipline, history, research methods, and selected contemporary issues in the field. The approach taken selects key ethnographies and uses them to explore questions of a methodological, theoretical, and substantive nature. This course is designed to introduce students to anthropological investigation and to facilitate understanding of how the discipline engages with and represents the everyday realities, challenges, and concerns of the people with whom anthropologists work.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Required
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 1102X Anthropology of and as Media (4 Credits)

Typically offered Spring

How do media representations reflect and affect communities? How do people exploit old and new forms of communication? How do technological mediation channel and reshape social relations? This course reviews ethnographic literature on a wide range of media including print, photography, film, television, radio, cell phones, and internet-based social networks. Each week, we explore how media use redefines a central anthropological concern, such as kinship, colonialism, mobility, religion, or violence. We continuously interrogate the diverse effects of technology, infrastructure, reception, sensation, and interaction. Engaging with both "live" and "virtual" communities, we revisit the methods and ethics of studying mediated relations. Students deliver an initial critical auto-ethnography of their own media consumption, a detailed assessment of a debate in the field, and a final project investigating a specific media community using original ethnographic research. Throughout the course, we collaboratively develop our own experimental virtual community based on the priorities and interests of the class participants. Innovative integrations of art and interactivity will be encouraged.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media:Media Design Thinking Elective
- Bulletin Categories: Islamic Studies
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

ANTH-UH 1103 Sense and Senses (4 Credits)

Typically offered Fall

What does it mean to study the senses? One way to approach this is to recognize, as anthropologists do, that sensory perception, which is experienced by the individual as a physical and biological capacity to engage with the world around us, is also always a cultural act. This class explores how gender, sexuality, ethnicity and class are embodied in sensory perceptions and everyday social interactions. Students will examine how our physiological capacities are engaged and reproduced in social, economic and political relations of power which are the outcome of complex historical trajectories. Discussions include a broad range of scholarly debates on the senses and sensory perception drawn from the anthropology of the senses, human geography, cultural history, film, museum studies, impairment and disability studies, literature, and art. The class will focus in particular on how corporeal practices involving food, art, music and movement are perceived, mediated and expressed through the senses.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society

ANTH-UH 1104 Merchants, Chiefs and Spirits (4 Credits)

Brokers and intermediaries bring people together for material or symbolic rewards, often overcoming a lack of trust or information between strangers. Brokers have been viewed, over time, with endearment as well as with suspicion, more recently viewed as superfluous middle-men in a supposedly "friction-free" world. Despite several predictions about the end of brokers, they are still present and thriving in different forms and scales. How do we think of brokers in an increasingly (inter)networked, digitized, and automated world? We explore the role of brokers and intermediaries across a range of social, cultural, and political relations and institutions, including gender, media, political rule, public health, infrastructure, and religion. Course readings are drawn from various disciplines and fields, including anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, and history, and we consider how inter-disciplinary discussions and debates have approached the concept of mediation over time.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: African Studies Minor: Arts Humanities Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Social Structure Global Processes
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture
- Crosslisted with: African Studies
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 2111 India: Topics in Anthropology & History (4 Credits)*Typically offered occasionally*

This course offers multiple approaches to India under broad the conceptual frameworks of caste, communalism and sectarianism. The geographical focus for the course is India, broadly conceived to include its diaspora and in relation to other South Asian states. The disciplinary location for the course is in Social and Cultural Anthropology and History. Caste is the lens through which a range of social and cultural issues such as gender, class, modernity and food are considered. Key historical moments are examined via the anthropological and historical study of communalism and sectarianism. Such key moments may include some of the following: Partition (1947), the State of Emergency (1975-77), the destruction of the Babri Masjid, Ayodhya (1992), the Gujarat riots (2002) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (2019).

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 2113 Memoir and Ethnography: Understanding Culture Through First-Person Narrative (4 Credits)*Typically offered occasionally*

Memoir is the best-selling genre in contemporary literature. Indeed, our fascination with all things autobiographical attests to the importance of examining one particular life in order to understand larger issues concerning culture, community, race, gender and even social and global transformations. Narrative Ethnography is also a form of writing which uses the first person pronoun. In this genre, "participant observation" - actually experiencing the beliefs, rituals and life-ways of another culture first hand - is the methodology employed in order to explicitly understand not just the self, but the 'other'. What are the differences between memoir and ethnography? What kinds of knowledge travel in each? How does writing in the first person challenge other modes of knowledge production? How might memoir and ethnography contribute to our understanding of cultural and cross-cultural dialogue, while providing a post-colonial critique? In this course we examine the rhetorical and aesthetic rules that govern these genres, as well as the way they create social imaginations that go on to live political lives in the world.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Bulletin Categories: Literature: Topics Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
- Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 2114X Listening to Islam (4 Credits)*Typically offered occasionally*

What kinds of knowledge pass through the ear? In this course we understand Islam from the vantage point of aesthetics (from the Greek *aisthethai*, to perceive). In particular, we explore sound knowledge - the kind of knowledge that comes through listening. What happens when we listen to Islam? And how does the concept of *samaa* - spiritual listening - inform the sound worlds of Islam? Examining Sunni and Shi'ite rituals, as well as celebrations, festivals, commemorations and ceremonies, we will read about and experience Islamic forms of expression order to understand the power of aesthetic performance in its local expression and on the global stage.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: History Religion
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: Society Politics
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Bulletin Categories: Islamic Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Music: Studies Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: Music Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Music
- Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Theater

ANTH-UH 2115 Anthropology of Forced Migration (4 Credits)

Typically offered occasionally

This course explores the lived experiences of exiles, refugees, and forced migrants, through anthropological texts on displacement, encampment, resettlement, asylum, memory, and belonging. It looks at how forced migrant identities are formed and transformed, and at notions of home, and belonging. The class examines interactions between forced migrants, aid agencies, governments and the UNHCR. The course explores each stage of forced migration, the institutions refugees encounter, the factors behind human movement, and the anthropology of social crisis. It also examines processes of flight and displacement in ethnography. We will also study the experience of encampment and its effect on social organizations, memory and identity. The class examines critiques of humanitarian assistance, scrutinizing micro-level practices of aid along with concerns regarding the modern state, its obligations, constraints, and approach to citizenship and belonging. The class then addresses asylum, immigration and the anthropology of borders and border crossing. To conclude, the course considers issues of integration and resettlement, examining how people make a new life in a different culture.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Peace Studies Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Social Structure Global Processes
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 2116 Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East (4 Credits)

Typically offered occasionally

Dispossession and forced migration have come to be a defining feature of the contemporary Middle East. Yet involuntary movement of peoples has indelibly marked the region throughout the last 150 years. This course examines the history of forced migrations through an anthropological lens, engaging with concepts such as: space and place; ethnicity, identity; belonging, nationalism; cosmopolitanism, hybridity, and local conviviality; resilience, and integration. It engages with the forced migrations of the Circassians from the border lands of Imperial Russia, the Armenians, and the Kurds from Anatolia, and Palestinians, Iraqis and Syrians in the Levant. The course addresses these disposessions as part of the clash of empire, carried further by the colonial, neo-colonial as well as the contemporary neo-conservative political encounters. It engages with the ways in which these peoples have developed a local cosmopolitanism and examines whether such local conviviality can survive the current displacement and eviction of peoples from Syria.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: Society Politics
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Bulletin Categories: History: Mediterranean Zone Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Peace Studies Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Social Structure Global Processes
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Crosslisted with: History: Major Required
- Crosslisted with: History
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 2121X Gender/Religion/Violence (4 Credits)*Typically offered Spring*

Popular discourse and media are saturated with images of violence attributed to religion. Whether it is a 'freedom of speech' dispute over cartoons, the abduction or killing of schoolgirls, or domestic violence, religion (and its proxy, 'culture'), invariably seems to be implicated. This course deploys the concepts and methods of anthropology to illuminate the complex and entangled nexus of religion, violence, and gender. We ask how and where to draw lines between religious and secular forms of violence, the ideological work of representations of gendered and racialized violence, as well as the relationship of religiosity to the production of gendered and sexualized violence. The first part of the class will deal with definitional and conceptual issues around the three key terms we explore throughout the semester: gender, religion/culture, and violence. In the second half of the course, we critically engage with existing anthropological scholarship on a range of issues of contemporary concern: 'honor' killings, sexual and minority rights, freedom of speech, violence against women, terrorism and Islamophobia, and the politics of veiling.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Islamic Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Peace Studies Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

ANTH-UH 2122 Ethnography and the Arts (4 Credits)*Typically offered Spring*

This course is about ethnographic research that engages art production and art that employs ethnographic methods. It associates theory with practice by adopting a combined seminar/studio format. Students will learn about precursors to art/anthropology work and about feminist and humanist reactions to positivist ethnography. They will study recent collaborations between artists and anthropologists and carry out hands-on experiments in ethnography, drawing, photography, audio recording, movement, curating, and devising participatory events in class and around the campus. This will lead to examining ideas of "experience," "immersion" and to reflection on how practice, participation and performance are part of any ethnography and encourage a critical and practical approach to multi-modal fieldwork design and artistic ethnographic practice. Throughout the course students will experiment with individual and collaborative research, reflect on the ethics of field research and the affordances of diverse media and artistic practices both in the research process and in outcomes for diverse audiences.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives

ANTH-UH 2123 The Anthropology of Language (4 Credits)*Typically offered Spring*

This course introduces students to the study of human language and its use across diverse cultural and social contexts. Inspired by the work of anthropologists, linguistics, literary theorists, novelists, and philosophers, we will examine language as more than a verbal figuration of the world but as a living social process vital to the workings and maintenance of any culture. Topics to be explored include archives, language acquisition and socialization, language contact, literacy, multilingualism, narrative, poetics, semiotics and gender, translation, writing, and other mediated communication. We will also practice different methods of linguistic analysis (the ethnography of speaking, language socialization, and conversation analysis) used to analyze communicative events across cultures.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: LITCW: Literature Electives
- Bulletin Categories: No longer in use
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
- Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing

ANTH-UH 2124 Politics of Healing and Wellbeing (4 Credits)

In this course, we will explore how anthropologists study health and well-being by attending to connections with politics across varying scales - social, institutional, and governmental. Using ethnographies and public health research, we will examine the ideologies and priorities that form national and transnational health programs; how these forces shape and sometimes produce unintended effects on local delivery of care, with in-depth case studies from Sub-Saharan contexts; how the allocation of care and services can play out unequally, organized by colonial, structural, racial, and ethno-religious lines. Some of the topics we will cover include structural inequality, global health, therapy, politics of health, pandemics, health systems, care, risk, and pandemics.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: African Studies Minor: Arts Humanities Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Institutions Public Policy
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture
- Crosslisted with: African Studies
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy