

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 1101J Anthropology of Tourism (4 Credits)

Typically offered January term

A booming multinational industry that plays a critical role in the global economy, tourism is among the most powerful mediums of transnational encounter. Tourism is implicated in the histories of pilgrimage, colonialism, and ethnography, successfully retracing their itineraries and replicating their discourse. Before the industry ground to a halt worldwide due to the pandemic, we were at a tipping point in many major destinations, from UNESCO World Heritage sites in European cities such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Venice and Prague to ancient cities like Machu Picchu in Peru or Angkor Wat in Cambodia. "Overtourism" has become common parlance, but as the industry recovers and people take to the road again - from backpackers to mass tourists, the need to rebuild more sustainably in a new era of travel responsibility is imperative. The course will explore the political economy and the cultural and environmental impact of tourism through an ethnographic examination of actual sites. Particular emphasis will be placed on travel stories circulating in print, social media, and exhibitions spaces such as museums, cinema, and TV - exploring their role in shaping our experiences and destination perspectives.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

Repeatable for additional credit: No

Prerequisites: This course is reserved for NYU Abu Dhabi degree seeking students.

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology

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 (New)
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media:Media Design Thinking Elective
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
- 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 (New)
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society

ANTH-UH 2110J Anthropology of Indigenous Australia: Art, Politics and Cultural Futures (4 Credits)*Typically offered occasionally*

This course offers an introduction to some current issues in the anthropology of Indigenous Australia, considering a range of Aboriginal forms of social being, ranging historically and geographically and focusing on the changing relationships between Indigenous people and the settler nation of Australia. Students will explore a range of sites of representation and imagination in the expressions of visual art, film, and the performativity of political activism in studying how Aboriginal people have struggled to reproduce themselves and their traditions in their own terms. While those in the dominant society first thought that Aboriginal people and their culture would “die out” and later that they would be simply “assimilated,” the course traces a history of Indigenous people from urban and remote communities intervening on what Stanner called “the great Australian silence” and asserting their right to a cultural future. This includes assessing the contentious history of debates over the very rights of representation of Aboriginal culture and realities. This course makes use of museums in Sydney, and prominent Indigenous scholars and artists will present work relevant to the theme.

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

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Museum Curatorial Studies
- Bulletin Categories: Pre-Professional: Museum Curatorial Studies
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Museum Curatorial Studies
- Crosslisted with: Pre-Professional: Museum Curatorial Studies

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 2112J Cities and Globalization: Buenos Aires and Beyond (4 Credits)*Typically offered January term*

This course will examine current transformation apace across Latin American cities involving rapid urbanization, the growth of neoliberal developments and the transformation of creative industries and economies across the region. We will focus on post 1980s transformations when we see new modes of globalization across the region that presented new openings but also constraints in regards to the development of enclave urbanism, new types of segregation and new imaginaries of class and “urban” identities. Throughout, Buenos Aires will provide a case study and laboratory to explore some of these contemporary issues in greater detail. Special attention will be paid to the use of culture in urban development, such as through the rise of urban tourism and the marketing and internationalization of tango. Readings will be drawn from geography, urban studies, anthropology and cultural studies. Our discussion will also be enriched through films, guest speakers, guided tours, and among other exercises geared at enriching students’ appreciation of contemporary Buenos Aires.

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

- Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization Courses
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization Courses
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization

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 in 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: 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 dispossessions 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 (New)
- 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 (New)
- 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 2117J Migration and Displacement Across the Red Sea (4 Credits)*Typically offered January term*

More people have been forcibly displaced today than at any other time since the Second World War. While the majority of this population stems from Syria, Afghanistan, and Somalia, conflicts in several African and Arab nations have contributed to this record number of displaced persons globally. This course will familiarize students with a relatively undocumented migration "crisis" occurring at the borders of the Arabian Peninsula: the displacement of Yemeni refugees and African migrants across the Red Sea. A regional practicum will serve as a case study for exploring (1) the roots and development of this crisis, (2) the centuries' long interconnections between communities straddling the Red Sea, and (3) the politics and ethics of humanitarian interventions.

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: Arab Crossroads Studies: Society Politics
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Institutions Public Policy
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Social Structure Global Processes
- Crosslisted with: African Studies
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads 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: 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: Literature: Literature Electives
- Crosslisted with: Anthropology
- Crosslisted with: LITCW: Literature Electives
- Crosslisted with: Literature: Literature Electives