

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

SBHS 242, Comparative Study of Ethnicity

1. Course Learning Outcomes:

The course will begin with an introduction to the subject, and a critical, anthropological review of the recognized trends in the study of ethnicity. The objectives will be (1) to explore some of the critical premises and criteria of ethnic identity; (2) to trace points of connection between theories of ethnicity; and (3) to explore the ways in which ethnic boundaries change and persist. These objectives will be contextualized in comparative analysis of minority cultures and contemporary events with emphasis on cultures of the Middle East and current ethnic issues. The course format will generally consist of lectures and organized class discussions. Each student is expected to participate in the organized weekly discussions and prepare a 15-min., in-class presentation on a pertinent topic or a current ethnic issue in consultation with the instructor and according to an organized agenda and a separate handout.

2. Resources:

The assigned readings will be selected from the following **texts**:
Anderson, Benedict, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso. 1993.
Barth, Fredrick, (ed.) *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The social Organization of Culture Difference*. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press Inc. 1998.
Romanucci-Ross, Lola & George De Vos, (eds.) *Ethnic Identity: Creation, Conflict and Accommodation*, 3rd edition, Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press. 1995.
Additional readings will be placed on reserve in Jafet Library.

3. Grading Criteria:

Evaluation will be based on attendance and class discussion of weekly assignments, class presentation of the research assignment and a written report of the same research work and two exams following the percentages below:

Attendance and Discussions	10%
Mid-term Exam	30%
Presentation	15%
Research Report	15%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Exams will consist of objective questions, terms to identify and short essay questions. More guiding details will be outlined and discussed in class according to the following schedule.

4. Schedule:

- Week 1** Introduction to the subject
Barth: Preface
De Vos: In Romanicci-Ross & De Vos, **Ch. 1**
- Week 2** Ethnic Identity: Formation and Change
Vincent: “The Structuring of Ethnicity. In: Human Organization” (article)
Howard: “Ethnic Boundaries & Cultural Construction of Identity” (article)
- Week 3** Ethnic Identity: Flexibility & Persistence
Liebman: “The Jews as an Ethnic Group” in *The Americas during the Sixteenth Century*.
Barth: Introduction
Anderson: Cultural Roots, **Ch. 2**
- Week 4** Theoretical Perspectives
Gordon: “Toward a General Theory of Racial and Ethnic Group Relations”
Parson: “Some Theoretical Considerations on the Nature and Trends of Change in Ethnicity”.
Comoroff: “Of Totemism and Ethnicity”.
- Week 5 & 6** Dynamics of Ethnic Relations
Haaland: . In Barth, “Economic Determinants in Ethnic Processes”.
Siverts: . In Barth, “Ethnic Stability and Boundary Dynamics in Southern Mexico”.
Mead: In Romanicci-Ross & De Vos, **Ch. 13**
- Week 7** Ethnicity and Nationalism
Anderson: Patriotism and Racism, **Ch.8**
Gilliland: In Romanicci-Ross & De Vos, **Ch. 9**
Mach: “Migration, Ethnic identity, and the Significance of Territory”.
- Mid-Term Exam**
- Weeks 8 & 9** Ethnic Conflict
Gulick: “Religion & Sectarianism”.
Fawcett: Religion, Ethnicity & Social Change. **Chs. 1 & 4**
- Week 10** Ethnic Conflict: The Colonial Experience
Fagan: “The Legacy Of Inequality”.
- Week 11**
Baaklini: “Ethnicity and Politics in Contemporary Lebanon”.
Saadeh: “Society and Social Structure”.
- Week 12** Perspectives Revisited
Romanicci-Ross and De Vos: Ch. 15
- Weeks 13 & 14** Class Presentations
- Week 15** Conclusions and Problem Solving.
- Final Exam**

5. Course Policy:

Your thoughts and experiences are crucial to the course, therefore, attendance is mandatory. More than 7 unexcused absences may result in a lower grade (-10%) or being dropped from the course by the course withdrawal deadline. To excuse an absence, please bring an AUB infirmary or physician’s note.

Unexcused tardiness will be treated as an absence.

Discussion of individuals' output, efforts, achievements or exams may be carried only in my office.

Cellular phones must be turned off during class.

Students who cheat or plagiarize will receive a grade of 0%, and will be subject to further disciplinary action. There will be no tolerance for academic dishonesty.