

**American University of Beirut**  
**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences**  
**SOAN 203: Introduction to Anthropology**

**1. Course Learning Outcomes**

Anthropologists study humans in all of their spatial and temporal diversity. This course serves as a general introduction to the theories and methods of the four subfields of anthropology: physical anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics. Throughout the course we will also examine a fifth subfield, applied anthropology. Our central question will be, "What does it mean to be human?" To get at this we will look at human biocultural origins, the various ways that humans organize themselves socially, human belief systems, and other themes. The content of the course is organized around our general textbook and an ethnography on the Rashaayda Bedouin, and illustrated through films and other learning aids.

By the end of this course, students can expect to have acquired an understanding of the following:

- \* the diversity of humans across time and space
- \* the contributions of anthropology to the human sciences
- \* "culture" as understood by anthropologists
- \* human biocultural origins
- \* archaeology and its contribution to our understanding of human cultures
- \* anthropological linguistics

**Skills and Competencies:**

By the end of the course, students can expect to have acquired skills and competencies leading to the ability to:

- \* recognize the categories anthropologists use to understand the human experience
- \* articulate the interplay between human activities and biological change
- \* identify some features of human languages as they pertain to culture
- \* interpret archaeological findings
- \* critically reflect on course content and express this reflection in writing

**2. Resources Available to Students**

Required texts available in the Campus Bookstore:

Haviland, William A.

2005 Anthropology, 11th edition. Orlando: Harcourt Brace and Co.

Young, William C.

1996 The Rashaayda Bedouin: Arab Pastoralists of Eastern Sudan. Orlando: Harcourt Brace and Co.

**3. Grading Criteria**

<u>Course Requirement</u>	<u>Percentage Points Possible</u>
Attendance/participation	5
Exam 1	15
Essay 1	10
Exam 2	15
Exam 3	15
Essay 2	10
5 reading quizzes	5
Final Exam (Exam 4)	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	100

#### **4. Schedule**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Theme(s) and Reading Assignment</u>
1	Introduction to Anthropology Haviland chapters 1, 2
2	Genetics, Evolution, Early Biped Haviland chapter 4, 6
3	Genus <i>Homo</i> , Cultural Origins Haviland chapters 7, 8
4	Genus <i>Homo</i> continued, <i>Homo sapiens</i> Haviland chapter 9, 10 <b>Exam # 1</b>
5	Domestication of Plants and Animals, Rise of Civilization Haviland chapters 11, 12 <b>Essay # 1 due</b>
6	Human Diversity and Culture Haviland chapters 13, 14
7	Language and Enculturation Haviland chapter 15, 16
8	Subsistence Haviland chapter 17, Young Introduction, chapters 1, 2 <b>Exam # 2</b>
9	Economic Systems, Sex and Marriage Haviland chapters 18, 19
10	Family and Household Young chapter 3, Haviland chapter 20
11	Kinship and Descent, Non-Kinship Groupings Haviland chapter 21, 22 <b>Exam #3</b>
12	Political Organization, Identity Young chapter 4, Haviland chapter 23 <b>Essay #2 due</b>
13	Religion and the Supernatural Haviland chapter 24, Young Epilogue
14	Art and Cultural Change

15	Haviland chapters 25, 26 The Future of Humanity, Exam Review
16	Haviland chapter 27 <b>FINAL EXAM</b>

## **5. Course Policy**

### Attendance/Participation and Assignments

Class attendance is mandatory and is vital to your success in this course. University regulations stipulate that an instructor may drop a student who misses more than 1/5 of the class sessions during the first 10 weeks of class. However, it is not enough to simply attend; you must be ready to participate in class discussion of the readings and lecture material and therefore you must do the readings *before* class. The class schedule indicates the chapters to be read each week. You should be about halfway through the readings by the middle of the week, and finished with them by the last class session of each week. Together, attendance and participation comprise 5 percent of your grade.

### Academic Honesty

In this class, academic honesty is required of you 100% of the time. Cheating of any kind is not allowed. We will discuss this in class to make sure everyone is aware of what constitutes academic honesty and cheating. The two most common forms of academic dishonesty are introducing material from an unauthorized source during an exam, and plagiarizing. Plagiarism involves using someone else's work without clearly stating that you are doing so. This includes but is not limited to appropriating the words of an article, book, internet source, or another student (past or present). Please do not hesitate to ask your professor if you have any questions. If you are caught in violation of academic honesty, your professor will not hesitate to pursue justice to the fullest extent of university policy. At minimum, anyone caught in violation of academic integrity will receive a below-failing grade of forty percent for the assignment in question. Other consequences may include being reported to a university committee, receiving a mark on your permanent academic record, and being embarrassed before your peers. For more information, see AUB's Student Code of Conduct at: <http://pnp.aub.edu.lb/general/conductcode/158010081.html>. Perform the work for this class honestly and you will derive satisfaction from attaining your grade with integrity, as well as the added benefit of acquiring knowledge that will stay with you for the long term.

### Late Assignments/Test Make-ups

Under normal circumstances, late papers will lose points and exam make-ups will not be permitted. If you have a **legitimate crisis** you must contact your professor as soon as possible. Exams cannot be made up except in the extremely rare case of a valid, serious reason for missing the scheduled exam. Assignments turned in late will lose ten percent per class session.

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY POINT IN THE SEMESTER.**