



Basic Course Information:

Course Prefix/Number: SBSA 101-03

Course Title: Introduction to Social and Behavioral Sciences: Concentration in Cultural Anthropology

Core/Elective Course: Core course

Class Meeting Times: UTR 9:00-9:50am

Instructional Modality: Hybrid

Class Location: LA B211

Instructor: Dr. Marion Breteau

Office Location: A312

Office Phone: 3763

Email: mbreteau@auk.edu.kw

Office Hours: UTR 11-13h

AUK Mission Statement: The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution based on the American model of higher education. It is dedicated to providing students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and respect for diversity. AUK seeks to create leaders and lifelong learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.

Department/College Mission Statement: The mission of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences is to advance knowledge of humanity through critical inquiry. The Department strives to achieve this mission by employing multidisciplinary methods to examine the human mind, individual and group behavior, societies, cultures, and the environment. Coursework in the disciplines of anthropology, psychology, and environmental studies prepare students for lifelong learning, to continue their education at the postgraduate level, and for careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Catalog Course Description: An introduction to the study of human society from a multicultural perspective. The course covers such topics as language, food, economics, political systems, religion, art, kinship and descent, gender, marriage and family, health, and cultural change. A prerequisite for many SBSA courses.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)
PLO1: Recognize the fundamental concepts in social and behavioral sciences with regards to different societies and cultures.
PLO2: Examine how categories of difference are socially constructed.
PLO3: Examine how culture constructs behaviors of everyday life.
PLO4: Demonstrate sensitivity to diverse cultural perspectives, critical in today's global society.
PLO 5: Apply appropriate ethical standards in the study and research of other cultures.
PLO6: Assess the impact of global media, telecommunication, travel, migration and immigration on societies and cultures.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)	Corresponding PLO
CLO1: Develop an understanding of the concept of culture within anthropology	PLO3, PLO2, PLO1
CLO2: Read and interpret ethnographic data	PLO5, PLO2
CLO3: View individual habits and beliefs within global social and historical contexts	PLO3, PLO4
CLO4: Draw meaningful cross-cultural understandings about human universals	PLO6

Course Delivery/Methodology: For this course we will be meeting in-person 3 days per week and material will be presented through lectures, activities, and readings done ahead of time. All slides and readings will be posted on Moodle, which can be accessed at <https://lms.auk.edu.kw/>. All assignments must also be submitted through Moodle. You will be completing the following evaluations for this course through participation, a group presentation and two tests. To successfully complete this course, you must complete readings by the posted due dates and times, and actively participate in class discussions.

Required Textbook: Conrad Kottak, *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 12th Edition, McGraw Hill, 2020.

Note: Wikipedia is urgently to be avoided. For any dictionary use, please favor the following references:

- The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology: Stein, F., S. Lazar, M. Candea, H. Diemberger, J. Robbins, A. Sanchez & R. Stasch. 2018. [The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Anthropology \(CEA\)](#).
- Glossary of Anthropological concepts: <https://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/fdscontent/uscompanion/us/static/companion.websites/9780199947591/glossary.pdf>

- Oxford English Dictionary: <https://www.oed.com/>

Evaluations and Grading:

Evaluation Type	Weight
Participation/attendance: participation involves completing each assignment consistently, demonstrating knowledge of the reading material and active participation, and participate in weekly activities.	10%
Text presentation: Every Thursday, readings will be presented by students in group, supported by a PowerPoint presentation. Individual grade. (see instructions on Moodle)	25%
Midterm exam: questions on readings and material studied from week 1 to 7	30%
Final exam: questions on readings and material studied from week 9 to 16	35%
Extra credit: 1pt will be added for questions asked to the presenting groups. Points will be added to the mid-term exam for pre-mid-term presentations; and to the final exam for the next ones.	
Total	100%

AUK Official Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	University Points
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0
D-	60-63	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

AUK Attendance Policy: Any student who misses more than 15% of class sessions of any course during a semester should expect to fail, unless she/he submits documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. If excused, students are required to satisfy all coursework due or assigned during their absence as determined by the course instructor. If a student does not submit documented evidence for her/his absence exceeding the limit, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the specified deadline, as indicated on the academic calendar. Students who withdraw from a course receive a grade of "W". Students who do not withdraw from a course nor submit supporting documents for excessive absences will receive a grade of "FN" (failure for non-attendance).

Code of Academic Honesty and Integrity: Upon admission to the American University of Kuwait, students agree to act responsibly in all areas of academic, personal and social conduct and to take full responsibility for their individual and collective action. Such regulations are found in

the American University of Kuwait Catalogue, Student Handbook, and the AUK website at www.auk.edu.kw. Any question of interpretation regarding the code of academic honesty and Integrity shall be reported to the appropriate academic dean. The Code shall be reviewed annually at the discretion of the academic deans. Any student or student organization found to have committed the cited violations or misconduct, either on or off campus, is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in adjudication procedures.

Note: any form of academic dishonesty will be marked by a grade of “F”. It particularly includes the submission of previous papers, exams, or assignments. You can contact me in case of doubt or ask your questions during the class.

Plagiarism: The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, an attempt of an individual to claim the work of another as the product of his or her own thoughts regardless of whether that work has been published. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting improperly or paraphrasing texts or other written materials without proper citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written material submitted to an instructor as one’s own work. Plagiarism also includes handing in a paper to an instructor that was purchased from a term paper service or downloaded from the Internet and presenting another person’s academic work as one’s own.

Note: any form of plagiarism will be marked by a grade of “F”. Make sure you contact me in case of doubt or ask your questions during the class. Further explanation of plagiarism is available on Moodle (PWP Plagiarism).

Cheating: The term “cheating” includes but is not limited to, copying homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual on a take-home test or homework when not approved by the instructor, looking at and/or copying text, notes or another person’s paper during an examination when not permitted to do so. Cheating also includes the giving of work information to another student to be copied and/or used as his or her own. This includes but is not limited to giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; informing another student of specific questions that appear or have appeared on an exam in the same academic semester; giving or selling a term paper, report, project or other restricted written materials to another student.

Note: any form of cheating will be marked by a grade of “F”.

Academic Support: Learning Support Services focuses on empowering students to become independent and successful learners by developing their literacy skills, enhancing their understanding, and helping them improve their academic and study skills. Learning Support Services is comprised of two centers: the Tutoring Center and the Writing Center. The Tutoring Center provides free academic support in various subjects to AUK student. Email: tutoringcenter@auk.edu.kw. The Writing Center provides multilingual support (English, Arabic, French, and Spanish) through individual or small-group consultations. Email: writingcenter@auk.edu.kw

Disability Accommodations: Disability services include identifying strategies to accommodate the learning requirements of students with disabilities. The Counseling Center at AUK offers services that include personal counseling and disability services. Their mission is to support students as they overcome what inhibits their success and prepare them for lifelong learning and development. For questions regarding accommodation services, please contact the Counseling Center at Counseling@auk.edu.kw.

Course Policies/Student Responsibilities:

- students are expected to have their mobile phones turned off or on plane mode. Any ringing phone can engender exclusion from the classroom. Arrival in class after 15 min will affect the participation/attendance grade.
- online, students are expected to turn on their webcams, unless they have notified me by email or at the beginning of class in the chat box privately.

Online Course Delivery and Netiquette:

- The access link will be posted on Moodle.
- Be on time to Zoom meetings and make sure you attend and participate regularly
- Check your AUK email regularly to receive all relevant announcements and communication
- Be professional and careful with your online interaction. Proper address for faculty is by formal title such as Professor or Dr. unless invited by faculty to use a less formal approach
- When writing, ensure to use formal, respectful, professional language and double-check spelling/grammar function before sending/posting. This applies to emails, typing on Zoom chat, posting on discussion boards, assignments, or any other form of writing you will complete within the context of this course
- Check the discussion board frequently and respond appropriately and on subject
- Capitalize words only to highlight a point. Otherwise, capitalizing is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
- Do not dominate discussions and allow other students to post or join in
- It is not appropriate to forward someone else's messages or emails without their permission
- Be careful when using humor. The absence of face-to-face cues can cause humor to be misinterpreted as criticism or flaming (angry, antagonistic criticism)
- Recording Zoom sessions is prohibited

Late and Missing Work Policy: Except students benefiting from disability accommodations, no extension will be allowed unless you submit documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. In this case, send me your work by email respecting the due dates and hours. Each assignment must be submitted on Moodle before class time. Dates will be announced on Moodle.

Note: Any late work with no documented justification will receive a grade of F.

Make-Up Work Policy: no make-up work will be accepted unless you submit documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities.

Communication Policy: Please be sure to use your official AUK email account, write your full name, and indicate which class and section you are taking (**SBSA 101**) when you send me an email. If you have a question, please check the syllabus first and if your question is not answered there, then please feel free to send an email and I will be happy to clarify. I respond to questions via email or posted on the discussion forum within 24 hours of receiving them; if I do not respond within 24 hours, please re-send the email. Please note I normally respond during these working hours: **9am-7pm, Sunday to Thursday**. Emails sent on weekends will be responded to on Sunday.

Technology Issues: All assignments must be submitted through Moodle. However, you may experience trouble submitting an assignment due to technology or internet issues. If such a situation does arise and you are unable to submit your assignment through Moodle, please send me an email at mbreteau@auk.edu.kw and include the **completed** assignment. Please make sure

that you email me the assignment **before** the deadline as this documents that you did finish everything by the due date and time, but that you just had a technology issue. Once the technology or internet issue is resolved, please upload the assignment to Moodle. In general, always be sure to frequently save your files and keep backups of your assignments.

Course Schedule:

Topic	Assignments and Readings
Introduction online	
1. What is anthropology? online	Chapter 1 Quiz: Think like an anthropologist
2. The culture concept ODD on-site	Chapter 2 Presentation 1: Body ritual among the Nacirema, Horace Miner
Prophet Ascension	
3. Doing anthropology: ethnography EVEN on-site	Chapter 3 Presentation 2: The Innocent Anthropologist, Nigel Barley
4. Language and communication ODD on-site	Chapter 4 Presentation 3: How do Namibian Himba see colour?, Jescey Visagie
5. Making a living EVEN on-site	Chapter 5 Presentation 4: Eating Christmas in the Kalahari, Richard Borshay
6. Political systems ODD-on site (exam on Thursday)	Chapter 6
EVEN on-site (exam on Monday) Mid-term exam	
7. Families, kinship and marriage ODD on-site	Even on-site Chapter 7 Film screening: Dadi's family Presentation 5: The Land of the Walking Marriage, Lu & Sam
8. Gender EVEN on-site	Chapter 8 Presentation 6: The Hijras of India, Serena Nanda
9. Religion ODD on-site	Chapter 9 Presentation 7: Baseball Magic, George Gmelch
Spring break	

10. Ethnicity and race EVEN on-site	Chapter 10 Presentation 8: Harlem World, John Jackson
11. Applying anthropology ODD on-site	Chapter 11 Presentation 9: Death without Weeping, Nancy Scheper-Hughes
12. Anthropology's role in a globalizing world EVEN on-site	Chapter 12 Film screening: Big Bucks, Big Pharma
Semester review and revisions ODD on-site	
(on-site) Final term exam	

Syllabus Changes: There may be changes to the schedule and syllabus during the semester. When this happens, I will inform you in class and over email.

ATTENDANCE: AUK's attendance policy applies to eLearning with an adjustment:

- All Students whether on-campus or online are expected to be on time.
- Students attending classes online are allowed tardiness for up to 5 minutes due to technical issues.
- Students attending classes online must turn their cameras on at eye level, or risk being removed from the class session.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Student Code of Conduct and Code of Academic Honesty and Integrity will be applied, in addition to the following specific to the hybrid model of education:

- Video recording of class sessions (by instructors and/or students) is prohibited and is a violation of the university codes.
- The privacy of the session is to be maintained (no other members of the household should be available during the sessions).
- Professional physical appearance is expected during online classes. All participants in the online class should ensure proper attire and setting (blurred background can be used to accommodate settings).
- Copyright as well as intellectual property rules and regulations apply.
- MASKS are to be worn properly all the time when on campus grounds. Repeated violations of the MASK policy will result in removal from class and/or campus.

Week	Odd University ID numbers (ending with 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) For example: S00012345	Even University ID numbers (ending with 0, 2, 4, 6, 8) For example: S0003456
February 9-17	Online (All Students)	
February 20-24	On-campus	Off Campus: Online study only
February 27 – March 3	University Closed (National Liberation Days - Prophet's Ascension - Spring Break)	
March 6-10	Off Campus: Online study only	On-campus
March 13-17	On-campus	Off Campus: Online study only
March 20-24	Off Campus: Online study only	On-campus
March 27-31	Midterm Exams – on campus	Off Campus-Asynchronous instruction
April 3-7	Off Campus-Asynchronous instruction	Midterm Exams – on campus
April 10-14	On-campus	Off Campus: Online study only
April 17-21	Off Campus: Online study only	On-campus
April 24-28	On-campus	Off Campus: Online study only
May 1-5	University closed (Eid El-Fitr)	
May 8-12	Off Campus: Online study only	On-campus
May 15-19	On-campus	Off Campus: Online study only
May 22-26	Off Campus: Online study only	On-campus
May 29 – June 2	On-campus	Off Campus: Online study only
June 5-9	Final exams -On Campus (All Students)	
*Schedule is subject to change per Private Universities Council decisions		
Online Classes will be held in real time, i.e. synchronously, according to class schedule. Moodle , the university's mandated learning management system (LMS) is the main gateway to access online classes at AUK.		