



جامعة دبي  
UNIVERSITY of DUBAI

## *Course Syllabus*

### General Education Department

Academic Year: 2008-2009

Semester: .....

Course No: GUCUS 100 (Sec. 01)  
Course Title: Culture & Society  
Prerequisites: N/A  
Faculty Member: Dr Abdelrahim Shandelwali  
Communication: Email: aelshandawili@ud.ac.ae  
Class Hours: Time: 7-10 pm Day: Wednesday  
Office Hours: Time: 4-5 pm or by appointment Room 603

#### **RULES TO BE ADHERED TO:**

- Students who are late for more than 10 minutes will be allowed to sit for the class but will be marked as absent in the attendance record.
- Attendance will be taken starting with Session 1 and 5 points will be deducted from the final course grade for absence on the last session of the course.
- Students cannot leave the class during lecture time and those who do not return to class after the break will be considered as absent for that class.
- Mobile phones must be switched off during class. Students using their mobile phones will be asked to leave the class immediately and will be considered absent.
- Students found whispering or talking during lectures will be asked to leave the class and will be considered as absent for that class.
- Mobile phones are not allowed during the mid-term and final exams. Be sure you carry a calculator and/or a watch if you have a need for either one of them.
- Students are expected to use a variety of references in their assignments (books, on-line sources, journals...).
- Students are required to do some further readings (not just the handouts) prior to coming to class.
- Late submission of assignments will be penalized by 10% a day.
- In case of absence, ensure to obtain class materials and handouts.
- Keep copies of your assignments for your own record.
- UD cheating policy and absenteeism policies will be strictly enforced.

#### **Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the concept of culture, its origin, scope and modern development.
2. Know the complex inter-relationship among the various components of culture and society and key concepts associated with each .
3. Grasp basic concepts and theories related to the study of culture
4. Develop an understanding of the nature of a multicultural society and multicultural work environment.
5. Develop an appreciation of intercultural field and intercultural and diversity issues
6. Apply some of these concepts and theories into practice within the UAE society

**Brief Course Description:**

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the various aspects of social and cultural life. Selected topics will be studies to illustrate particular modes and perspectives of culture and society. These topics will include culture, fieldwork methods and techniques, adaptation, language, kinship, descent and marriage, culture and personality, applied anthropology, culture and the future.

**Teaching Methods:**

- Lecture                      Class participation                      PowerPoint presentations                      Group discussions

**Use of modern Instructional Technology:** Internet Research, Presentations, and CD-ROM resources in the library.

**Skills to be developed:**

This course helps students in developing the following skills:

1. **Interpersonal skills.** listening, sensitivity to others, getting along with people who are different, understanding what kind of impression you make on others and being able to create the impression you want others to have of you, being able to give and hear genuine feedback, and able to evaluate yourself and others.
2. **Networking skills:** Building support groups, allies, making contacts and enlisting mentors.
3. **Motivational and Leadership Skills:** Creating compelling visions and reasons to pursue them. Understanding the dynamics of working in teams, building commitment, involving others, creating efficiency, productivity and satisfaction in team work.
4. **Organizational Skills:** Managing time, scheduling work (one's own and others) Designing systems and action plans.
5. **Communication Skills:** Speaking and writing, having a point and being able to get it across in a way that is clear, crisp and concise. Being convincing.
6. **Quantitative skills:** Understanding how to use and interpret data and to use quantitative/analytical tools for decision making and problem solving.
7. **Critical thinking skills:** Analyzing, problem solving, generalizing, questioning, managing uncertainty.
8. **Abstract thinking and Adapt:** Understanding how to strip down the most essential elements from a complex business problem and determine frameworks or action plans for solving those problems.
9. **Ability to be a continuous learner, and trainer of others:** Knowing how to learn on an ongoing basis, how to/where to gather the right information. Specifically, language skills, computational skills, analytical skills and interpersonal skills. Ability to teach, to facilitate the learning of others
10. **Ability to manage information technology tools:** Word processing, spread sheet, internet, fax, attached files, Power Point, E -mail, intranet (Blackboard), etc.
11. **Global Awareness,** understanding issues of diversity and globalization, both the social, legal and economic impacts.
12. **Ethical Awareness.** Understanding the practical, legal and ethical implications of the spirit of the law and the letter of the law, understanding one's ethical responsibilities and the consequences of shading the lines between right and wrong, fair and unfair.

**Evaluating Student Performance:**

You are expected to read the assigned material **before** class meetings. Please read the material carefully, making notes of what you find interesting, enlightening, or needs further explanation or investigation.

Your **final grade** will be calculated as follows:

1. Class Participation and assignments	15%
2. Quiz	10%
3. Research paper	10%
4. presentation	10%
5. Mid-term	25%
6. Final	30%

<b>Week One</b>	<b>Introduction to the Culture Theory</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class/course Orientation and introduction</li> </ul>	
<b>Forming work teams</b>	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture, Class discussion	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> - Textbook. Support reading materials	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week Two</b>	<b>Anthropology</b>
Anthropology as a comparative and holistic science focusing on human biological and cultural diversity in time and space.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Gain information about cultural anthropology. Confront basic questions of human existence and survival, bring a comparative and cross-cultural perspective to forms of creative expression.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lectures and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading material, video, PowerPoint presentation, guest speaker ( subject to availability )	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> - Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week Three</b>	<b>Culture</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining the anthropological concept of culture including its symbolic and adaptive features etc.</li> </ul>	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understanding the concept of culture, society focus on cross cultural and intercultural concepts including cultural diversity, relocation training, culture shock, communication, relationships etc.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading materials, handouts, etc	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and assignments.	

<b>Week Four</b>	<b>the Evolutionary Origins of human culture</b>
Examining the fact and the theory of biological evolution, identifies distinctive attributes that make human culture unique..	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understanding the theory of evolution, what we share with other primitives, how we differ from other primitives.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture + Class discussion	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Assignments and class presentation	

<b>Week five</b>	<b>Ethnicity and Race</b>
Discussing the social construction of race and ethnicity, ethnic groups, nations, and nationalities, roots of ethnic conflict	
<b>Objectives:</b> Develop an understanding of the cultural similarities and differences, race as socially constructed, environmental variables involving educational, economic, and social backgrounds.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture, Class discussion	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> - Textbook. Support reading materials	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week six</b>	<b>Language and Communication</b>
Introducing methods and topics in linguistic anthropology, including descriptive and historical linguistic, sociolinguistic, and language and culture.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand the language structure and use, linguistic change, and the relations among language, society, and culture.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lectures and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading material, video, PowerPoint presentation, guest speaker ( subject to availability )	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> - Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week seven</b>	<b>making a living</b>
Surveying economic anthropology, including adaptive strategies (systems of food production) and exchange systems.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Develop an understanding of the nonindustrial adaptive strategies include foraging, horticulture, agriculture, and pastoralism	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading materials, handouts, etc	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and assignments.	

<b>Week eight</b>	<b>political systems</b>
Discussing political systems in terms of scale and types of conflict resolution, bands and tribes, chiefdoms, states.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understanding the means of social control, public policy, and political systems and institutions. Describe forms of social and political organization, central government and socioeconomic stratification..	

<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture + Class discussion
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Assignments and class presentation

<b>Week nine</b>	<b>Families and Kinship</b>
Discuss families, households and descent groups cross-culturally.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand the basic social building blocks, linking individuals and groups in a common social system, Nuclear family, contemporary industrial society.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture, Class discussion	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> - Textbook. Support reading materials	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week ten</b>	<b>Marriage and gender</b>
Examining exogamy, endogamy the incest taboo, caste, and marital presentation, systems of gender stratification, and roles the activities a culture assigns to each sex.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand marriage as a form of domestic partnership, the cultural construction of sexual difference, how and why sex and gender differences vary cross-culturally, the ways women contribute to work.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lectures and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading material, video, PowerPoint presentation, guest speaker ( subject to availability )	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> - Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week eleven</b>	<b>Religion</b>
Discussing contemporary world religion , Islam’s expansion, animism, magic, anxiety, social control.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Develop an understanding of religion as a cultural universal-manifest in a body of people with similar beliefs, meanings and functions of religion, how religion provides comfort and security and achieves social control through moral and ethical beliefs.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading materials, handouts, etc	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and assignments.	

<b>Week twelve</b>	<b>The Arts</b>
Explore major themes across various arts and cultures, art and religion, art as work, and art in its social context	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand and know the people’s senses of beauty, appreciation, harmony, pleasure... The social nature and context of art, the role of art in transmitting culture and preserving traditions.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture + Class discussion + visits	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Assignments and class presentation	

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<b>Week Thirteen</b>	<b>The Modern World System</b>
The emergence and nature of the modern world system, including industrial and postindustrial systems of socioeconomic stratification and their impact on nonindustrial societies.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand the concept of culture, its origin, scope and modern development	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture, Class discussion	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> - Textbook. Support reading materials	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week fourteen</b>	<b>Colonialism and Development</b>
Discuss the colonial systems and development policies that have impinged on the people and societies.	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand the imperialism, colonialism as the long-term domination of a territory and its people by a foreign power, how political, ethical, and tribal labels and identities under colonialism.	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lectures and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading material, video, PowerPoint presentation, guest speaker ( subject to availability )	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> - Class discussion, reading and group discussion.	
<b>Week sixteen</b>	<b>A Futuristic Look</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Globalization and Multicultursim</li><li>• Intercultural associations and societies<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Challenges and future trend</li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>Unit Objectives:</b> Understand underlying principles of social and cultural life in the UAE	
<b>Teaching Methods:</b> Lecture and discussions	
<b>Educational Resources:</b> Textbook, support reading materials, handouts, etc	
<b>Learning Activities:</b> Class discussion, reading and assignments.	

Memorandum


**Educational Resource**

**Textbooks Required**

**Conrad Philip Kottak, Cultural Anthropology, McGraw Hill Press, Boston,**

**References:**

- **Hofstede, Geert H, Cultural Consequences:** International Differences in work related values
- **Lewis, Richard D, when Cultures Collide:** Leading Across Cultures, Nicholas Brealey International, 2006, ISBN 1-904838-02-2
- **Peterson, Brooks, Cultural Intelligence:** A guide to working with people from other cultures, Intercultural Press, 2004
- **Trompenaars, Fons and Hampden-Turner, Charles, Riding the waves of Culture:** Understanding cultural diversity in business, Nicholas Brealey Publishing, London 2005 ISBN 1-85788-176-1
- **Dr.Jehad Al Omari, The Arab Way,** how to books, London , 2003, ISBN1-85703-871-1
- **Geert Hofstede and Gert Jan Hofstede, Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind,** McGraw Hill, New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2005 ISBN 0-071-143959-5