

# Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies

Chairperson:	Wick, Livia
Director of Media Studies:	Farah, May
Professors:	Dajani, Nabil; Hanafi, Sari
Associate Professors:	Scheid, Kirsten; Wick, Livia
Assistant Professors:	Al-Hardan, Anaheed; Atwood, Blake; Bouali, Nadia; Burris, Greg; Carney, Josh; Farah, May; Kosmatopoulos, Michael, Marc; Nikolas; Majed, Rima; Mourad, Sara; Perdigon, Sylvain; Tarraf, Zeina
Lecturers:	<sup>P</sup> Barakat, Rabie, Comaty, Lyna; <sup>P</sup> Fathallah, Zeina; Traboulsi, Fawwaz
Instructors:	<sup>P</sup> Agha, Dina; Azar, George; <sup>P</sup> Battah, Habib; Bibi, Karma M.; <sup>P</sup> Boustany, Nora; <sup>P</sup> Daou, Mark; <sup>P</sup> Ghanem, Samar; <sup>P</sup> Jaber, Rania; <sup>P</sup> Khoury, Rami; <sup>P</sup> Khoury, Rana; Osman, Zeina; <sup>P</sup> Saghieh, Khaled
Affiliated:	Sbaiti, Nadya

## Admission

Requirements for admission into the MA program in Anthropology or Sociology are consistent with those of the Faculty of Arts of Sciences. Admission to the MA in Anthropology is restricted to the fall term. Applicants are required to submit two letters of recommendation and a statement of goals/research interests and experiences. Each student may be interviewed upon application to determine her/his background and qualification.

## MA in Anthropology

The anthropology MA program offers students general training in sociocultural anthropology. AUB's program, especially with regard to its faculty's expertise in creative expression and arts production; mental health and well-being; cultural ethics; refugees; and medical, legal and historical anthropology, is distinguished by offering students the opportunity to develop a strong foundation in classical anthropological paradigms and to relate them to emerging concerns of modern Arab societies. Students will have the opportunity to study the development of the discipline by exploring classical and contemporary theories and by conducting original fieldwork or doing research on secondary sources. The program is designed to sensitize students to their responsibilities as anthropologists, expose them to fieldwork, help them acquire an understanding of anthropological theory and history, and inspire experimentation with the medium and form of ethnographic writing.

## MA in Sociology

---

The MA in Sociology program offers students the opportunity to develop solid training and to acquire the necessary knowledge in the field of sociology. The department's faculty members cover several areas of research expertise, including contemporary sociological theory, comparative sociology, economic and political sociology, and cultural sociology. Other substantive issues include citizenship and civil society, knowledge production, ethnicity and sectarianism, sociology of religion, transnationalism, migration and refugee studies, sexuality and gender studies, and sociology of war and violence. The program provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of key theoretical approaches in sociology in addition to getting a strong grounding in research methodology with training in both qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry. Students are expected to further develop their intellectual skills through the critical examination of contemporary social issues, especially as they pertain to the Arab world. In addition, the program encourages students to critically consider the relationship between theory, research, policy and practice, and to reflect on ethical considerations in doing social research. At the end of the program, students will put their acquired skills and knowledge to conduct original empirical research through a thesis.

## Graduate Studies in Anthropology and Sociology

---

Students pursuing either an MA in Anthropology or Sociology are encouraged to work with faculty from other humanities and social sciences departments, in particular, media studies, political science, and the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies. A master's degree in either field has a very wide application. Graduates in Anthropology and Sociology will be qualified to pursue doctoral level studies in their field. Alternatively, they will have acquired the research methods, exposure to scholarship and intercultural skills to work effectively in multicultural settings such as non-governmental and governmental organizations, as well as expertise applicable in such domains as business, education, law and public policy.

### Requirements

A candidate for the MA degree in Sociology or Anthropology is required to complete 21 graduate credit hours in addition to a thesis. Sociology students must complete SOAN 300 and SOAN 312, in addition to three courses in sociology; and anthropology students must complete SOAN 304 and SOAN 310, in addition to three courses in anthropology. Students wishing to learn Arabic for purposes of fieldwork may complete up to 6 credits of Arabic language classes towards their MA degree. Sociology students choosing a concentration in communication are also required to complete SOAN 313. The remainder of the requirements may be selected from other offerings in the department or in the FAS and other schools and faculties on campus, with the consent of the advisor and according to the interest of the graduate student.

## Course Descriptions

### **SOAN 300 Graduate Research Methods 3.0; 3 cr.**

An advanced course in the formulation of research problems, research designs, and techniques of data collection including quantitative and qualitative methods and micro versus macro approaches to social reality. Students participate in actual research projects and apply various techniques of data collection and analysis to interpret research findings. *Annually.*

### **SOAN 301 The Ethnographer's Craft 3.0; 3 cr.**

Anthropology or any sociocultural research is not simply the gathering of data. The course will expose students to the classic and cutting-edge texts in anthropology today. Readings include the works of Mauss, Evans-Pritchard, Malinowski and texts that have had the most impact in the field in the last decade. Close attention to the crafting of ethnographies will teach students an analytical method of reading that will help them understand the choices of theory, methodology and style that have been made to create classic anthropological knowledge. Thus, this course will enable students to conceive, devise and write-up their own ethnographic research. *Alternate years.*

### **SOAN 302 Culture and Mental Health 3.0; 3 cr.**

This graduate seminar explores anthropological approaches to the study of mental health and illness. It will introduce students to theoretical traditions in medical and psychological anthropology. Addressing ethnographies from different settings, the course treats works on subjective experiences, becoming cultural beings as well as on mental health as scientific practice and objects of knowledge and intervention. *Occasionally.*

### **SOAN 303 Art, Aesthetics and Social Change 3.0; 3 cr.**

This course combines cultural anthropology, art studies, urban studies and history to look at the role of sensuality and aesthetics in social movements that involve envisioning a different future. Focusing on case studies from the Arab world, the US and the former Soviet Union, the course will expose students to the most recent literature in affect theory, critical art theory and Middle East studies, as well as the classic texts on power, social hierarchy and structuralism. *Occasionally.*

### **SOAN 304 Anthropological Research Methods 3.0; 3 cr.**

This course is about the various methods of enquiry and interpretation used in anthropological research. Though ethnographic methods are shaped by each research situation and its particular historical and cultural circumstances, they are also guided by broad theoretical questions. This course takes the perspective that research is comprised of three interrelated domains: creative theoretical speculation, methodological 'operationalization' of theoretical questions and concrete research practices. The trick (or 'magic') of ethnographic research is to relate empirical and observational data in many forms to the theories that motivate their collection. We explore the politics and ethics of research, kinds of observation, effective interviewing strategies, note-taking, conducting surveys, examining archives, ways of 'coding' or indexing information, data analysis and approaches to writing. *Annually.*

**SOAN 307 Graduate Seminar in Transitional Justice 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 The seminar is an exploration of the strategies and courses of action for post-conflict societies. Consistent with the perspectives and premises of transnational justice, this seminar examines the ways in which states and the international community attempt to achieve justice in periods of political transition. Some of the leading theories and applied dimensions will be critically assessed in light of the operation of international and domestic criminal, historical and administrative justice. *Annually.*

**SOAN 308 Empires, Colonialism, Decolonization 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course provides students with an overview of the decolonization processes and their main intellectual legacies and outcomes in the formerly colonized world. It engages the main debates in post-colonial and later decolonial theory, and the major themes and thinkers of the anti-colonial struggles of the 20th century. *Occasionally.*

**SOAN 310 Seminar in Anthropological Theory 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 An in-depth survey of the major theoretical developments in sociocultural anthropology. The seminar focuses on both chronological treatment of issues and theories as well as on the contributions of leading theorists. *Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Annually.*

**SOAN 312 Seminar in Sociological Theory 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 The seminar critically explores some of the enduring controversies and major developments in sociological theory. An effort is first made to elucidate the origins, strategies, and ideological antecedents and components of sociological theory. A special focus is placed on the reformulations of the classic tradition and recent postmodern and other promising directions. *Annually.*

**SOAN 313/ MCOM 301 Seminar in Communication Theory and Research 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 The seminar introduces student to trends in mass communication research and theoretical approaches to the communication process and communication context (small group communication, media processing and effects, media and society, culture and communication). Focus is placed on contemporary communication theories that have emerged in the discipline since the 1950s. *Annually.*

**SOAN 314 Palestinians in the Arab World**  
 This course provides an overview of the contemporary social, political and cultural experience of the Palestinians through case studies of different Palestinian communities. It identifies key events and themes in the modern Palestinian experience, and draws on different full-time and visiting faculty research expertise to examine themes relating to the Nakba and memory, settler-colonialism, transnational Palestine, refugees and migration, art, medicine, religion and kinship, among others. *Occasionally.*

**SOAN 315 Seminar in Middle Eastern Culture and Society 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A seminar exploring social structures, cultural patterns, processes and agents of social and cultural change. This course includes presentation and analysis of field data. *Occasionally.*

- SOAN 317/  
MCOM 302**      **Seminar in Arab Media and Society**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
A seminar on the political, social and economic effects of the new communication technologies on modern Arab society. Special attention is given to the effects of cultural deviance in the media on children and the effects of communication media on social and cultural change. *Alternate years.*
- SOAN 318**      **Human Migration**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
This graduate seminar explores sociological and anthropological approaches and theories to the study of migration. A comparative study of the causes and effects of human migration worldwide. This course covers issues concerned with voluntary and forced migration as well as with temporary labor migration and voluntary migration and resettlement, with an emphasis on current refugee crises in the Arab region and diasporic movements. *Alternate years.*
- SOAN 320**      **Graduate Tutorial in Anthropology**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
This, like other graduate tutorials in sociology and communication, is open to graduate students preferably during the second term of their first year of program study. Tutorials provide opportunities for students to pursue directed readings and preliminary grounded research of relevance to their envisaged fields of concentration. *May not be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- SOAN 321**      **Graduate Tutorial in Sociology**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May not be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- SOAN 323**      **Special Topics in Anthropology**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
This, like other special topics in sociology and communication, is normally devoted to SOAN faculty or visiting professors and recognized scholars to explore topics of current interest. *May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- SOAN 324**      **Special Topics in Sociology**      **3.0; 3 cr.**  
*May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*
- SOAN 395A**      **Comprehensive Exam in Anthropology**      **0 cr.**  
Successful defense of thesis proposal. *Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.*
- SOAN 395B**      **Comprehensive Exam in Sociology**      **0 cr.**  
Successful defense of thesis proposal and 3000- to 5000- word report of 10 public lectures/events (organized by SOAM) attended during graduate years of enrollment. *Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.*
- SOAN 314**      **Palestinians in the Arab World**
- SOAN 399**      **Thesis**      **9 cr.**

# MA in Media Studies

---

## Mission Statement

The AUB MA in Media Studies offers students a broad-based multidisciplinary liberal arts curriculum grounded in the social sciences that teaches students media theory and research, and focuses on the role of media in society. The program offers a regional and global scope and stresses a liberal arts approach that emphasizes theory, research and critical skills. In addition to exploring media theories, students learn different research methods and critical inquiry into the nature, processes and consequences of traditional and new media. The program stresses the university's commitment "to creative and critical thinking and civic responsibility."

## Admission

Requirements for admission into the MA program are consistent with those of the Faculty of Arts of Sciences. Admission to the MA in Media Studies is restricted to the fall term. Applicants are required to submit the following: two letters of recommendation, and a statement of goals/research interests and experiences. Each student may be interviewed upon application to determine her/his background and qualification.

## Requirements

The MA in Media Studies follows a liberal curriculum grounded in the social sciences. Its curriculum is intended for returning professionals, and AUB and non-AUB graduates who aim to build fundamental knowledge in the theories, research methods and critical skills of the field.

The MA program offers two tracks. Students may choose either a thesis option or a project option. Both options require 30 credits. Students must decide which track they want to pursue by the time they successfully complete the comprehensive exam, which is normally at the end of the second term for full-time students. Based on their comprehensive exam performance, students will be advised to pursue one track or the other.

- The thesis option requires eight courses (24 credits), the comprehensive exam (0 credits) and a 6-credit thesis (MCOM 399).
- The project option requires nine courses (27credits), the comprehensive exam (0 credits) and a 3-credit project (MCOM 398).

All candidates for the MA in Media Studies must complete MCOM 300, MCOM 301, MCOM 302 and MCOM 395 (comprehensive exam), and at least two courses from the list of department electives. The remainder of the courses may be selected from the department electives, the approved general electives or other unlisted graduate courses upon the advisor's consent.

**Core Courses:** MCOM 300, MCOM 301 and MCOM 302.

**Department Electives:** MCOM 313, MCOM 314, MCOM 315, MCOM 316, MCOM 317, MCOM 362, MCOM 363, MCOM 390, MCOM 391, SOAN 310, SOAN 312, SOAN 315.

## Course Descriptions

---

- MCOM 300 Graduate Research Methods in Media Studies 2.2; 3 cr.**  
 This course teaches students how to critically read, design and implement scientific research and use quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods and data analysis techniques to address research questions common in the field of media studies. Students participate in actual research projects and apply various techniques of data collection, analysis and interpretation. *Prerequisite: Restricted to major or instructor consent. Annually.*
- MCOM 301/ Seminar in Communication Theory and Research 3.0; 3 cr.**  
**SOAN 313**  
 The seminar introduces students to trends in media studies research and theoretical approaches to the media and communication process. Focus is placed on contemporary media and communication theories. *Prerequisite: Restricted to major or instructor consent. Annually.*
- MCOM 302/ Seminar in Arab Media and Society 3.0; 3 cr.**  
**SOAN 317**  
 A seminar on the political, social and economic effects of the Arab media on modern Arab society. Special attention is given to the relationship between communication media on social and sociocultural change. *Prerequisite: Restricted to major or instructor consent. Annually.*
- MCOM 313 Seminar in Communication and Development 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 A seminar on the role of communication in developing societies, with focus on the media as a modernizing agent and on questions that are relevant to the understanding of the socioeconomic developmental process in less developed cultures. *Occasionally.*
- MCOM 314 Issues in Transnational Media Studies 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 In this graduate seminar, students will be introduced to some of the key debates and issues facing the field of media studies in our increasingly global era. In the last twenty years, “globalization” has become an academic buzzword. What does globalization mean for the production, distribution and reception of media texts, including film, television, social media and music? In this course, students will be introduced to a variety of issues in transnational media studies. Readings will deal with questions of media industries, transnational distribution practices, methods of surveillance and security, and social media activism. *Occasionally.*
- MCOM 315 Race and Media 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 In this graduate seminar, students will be introduced to several important ongoing debates regarding the intersection of race and media. After looking at a variety of scholarly approaches to race, students will closely examine an array of contemporary interventions in media and race studies. Topics may include lynching photography, Hollywood orientalism, music videos, race on the Internet, zombie horror cinema and the racialization of bodies in the era of drone warfare. *Occasionally.*
- MCOM 316 Media, Belief and Conflict 3.0; 3 cr.**  
 This course examines the complex relationship between media, modern forms of belief, and their role in contemporary social and political conflict. The course takes

a comparative approach, drawing connections between critical theory and current interdisciplinary conversations to open up the three terms in the title. *Occasionally.*

**MCOM 317      Sex, Gender and Media in the Middle East      3.0; 3 cr.**

This seminar examines media's central role in the production and circulation of narratives and counter-narratives of gender oppression and sexual liberation in the region. Through critical readings in film, television and literature, we consider how representations of male dominance, women's emancipation and LGBT rights have shaped Middle Eastern politics with particular emphasis on decolonization, the War on Terror and immigration. *Occasionally.*

**MCOM 362      Media Representations      3.0; 3 cr.**

This course examines the role of the media in constructing our social reality through an examination of media practices both historically and in the present. It particularly examines the representations of Arabs and the Arab world in the Western media, and the US in the Arab media. It covers politics of culture and identity as they shape and intersect with today's globalized media. *Occasionally.*

**MCOM 363      Historical Approaches to Media      3.0; 3 cr.**

This course situates the history of communication – from the telegraph to today's social media – as more than a history of technology, and discusses the complexity with which the social world is constructed. Both technology and history enter into conversation, opening up points of critical engagement of modern understandings of the world. *Occasionally.*

**MCOM 390      Special Topics in Media Studies      3.0; 3 cr.**

This course is normally devoted to MCOM faculty or visiting professors and recognized scholars to explore topics of current interest. *May be repeated for credit. Occasionally.*

**MCOM 391      Graduate Tutorial in Media Studies      3.0; 3 cr.**

This course is open to graduate students preferably during the second term of their first year of program study. Tutorials provide opportunities for students to pursue directed readings and preliminary grounded research of relevance to their envisaged fields of concentration. *May not be repeated for credit.*

**MCOM 395A/B      Comprehensive Exam      0 cr.**

*Prerequisite: Consent of advisor.*

**MCOM 398      MA Project      3 cr.**

**SOAN 314      Palestinians in the Arab World**

This course provides an overview of the contemporary social, political and cultural experience of the Palestinians through case studies of different Palestinian communities. It identifies key events and themes in the modern Palestinian experience, and draws on different full-time and visiting faculty research expertise to examine themes relating to the Nakba and memory, settler-colonialism, transnational Palestine, refugees and migration, art, medicine, religion and kinship, among others. *Occasionally.*

**MCOM 399      MA Thesis      6 cr.**