Dear students,

Welcome to ANTH1300: People & Language! My name is Anthony J. Harb (you can call me Anthony), and I will be your instructor this fall.

I'm very much looking forward to meeting you, and wanted to take this opportunity to share a little bit about me: I am a Palestinian from Chicago who also lived in Minnesota, Peru, and Spain before landing in New York about 4 years ago to work on my PhD in Latin American, Iberian and Latino Cultures at the CUNY Graduate Center. I speak English, Spanish, and Arabic (depending on who you ask), and am a lover of all things language, media, and education. When I'm not working, I'm either watching The Terrell Show on YouTube or trying to convince myself to do some exercise.

I have been thinking hard about how to make this class work best for all of our mental and physical health, while also guiding you through a positive and enriching learning experience. I thank you in advance for joining me, and for your patience and flexibility as we adapt to our ever changing educational and life structure these days. Attached you will find our Course Syllabus for you to get an idea of what the course structure will look like. You'll notice we will be using Google Classroom for all course materials, but I will help everyone get set up with that on the first day; don't fret!

Our first synchronous meeting is on Tues, Aug 31 from 11a-12:15p. As I said in an email earlier this summer, you will be able to attend this class session in-person <u>or</u> via Zoom (link forthcoming). Attending in person is not required, but I'll be there and would love to see you! I will introduce the course and its requirements and assign your working groups, so it will be a particularly important day for everyone to be present.

If you have any questions or can't make it to our first meeting, please reach out to me at anthony.harb@brooklyn.cuny.edu. In the meantime, I hope you are all finding moments of peace and joy this summer and gearing up for a semester of care and imagination!

In solidarity,
Anthony