

Welcome to Understanding Global Cultures

Available on-line in your

Moodle

folder at [<moodle.umn.edu>](http://moodle.umn.edu)

**This will be a great course, and a great experience.
You will see. . . .**

**Some people like to procrastinate. Others like to arrive early,
and in some ways they're "pre-crastinators".**

I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order the textbook on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading some of the interesting materials that we have for the class (if you are the kind of person who likes to do that sort of thing). Or you might want to start watching one or other of the internationally-award-winning films and videos that we have lined up for the class. If none of these options apply to you, and you feel like a little end-of-the-summer procrastination, just relax and enjoy the wonderful fall weather, or maybe even take a trip to the Minnesota State Fair.

**Interest in Understanding Global Cultures has
never been higher, and more important . . .**

We'll have a look at Global Cultures, as well as at the folks in Global Cultures looking at us.

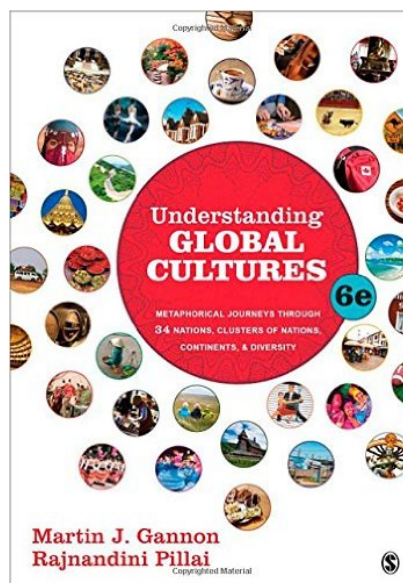
I am looking forward to meeting you in class on the 29th at 2:00 p.m. in Cina 214.

At your convenience, have a look at the information in your **Moodle** folder at <https://www.moodle.umn.edu/>.

Detailed information on the textbook for the course can be found at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/fstext.html#title>.

The text is *Understanding Global Cultures: Metaphorical Journeys Through 34 Nations, Clusters of Nations, Continents, and Diversity, Sixth Edition*
(Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2015)



Understanding Global Cultures, Sixth Edition (2015)
is currently available on-line for \$98.81 new, and \$61.88 used.

(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25).

[It is also being offered on-line for as much as \$333.28, or even more, **so be careful to check prices.**]

(20 August 2017)

Textbooks are available from the following vendors . . .

[UMD Bookstore](#) | [Amazon.com](#) | [Barnes and Noble](#)
[CampusBooks.com](#) | [Chegg \[rental\]](#) | [ecampus.com](#) | [half.com](#)
[booksprice.com](#) | [CheapestTextbooks.com](#) | [CourseSmart.com](#) | [TextbookMedia.com](#)
| [Direct Textbook](#) | |

The exams will be open-book essays constructed from a list of study questions that you help create, so it would be a good idea for you to have your own copy of the text you plan to use in the exams.

For the exams you should normally just need to read the text and other assigned works *carefully* and be able to discuss them *intelligently*. That is, you should read these as if you had picked it/them up at an airport or neighborhood bookshop, or read them in the morning or on-line paper, because you were interested in the subject and wanted to know more about the subject, like literally millions of people are doing in everyday life.

PLEASE NOTE: *Some students are used to principally memorizing facts in classes. This class is not one where that is the focus.* It is about investigating new topics, reading, listening, synthesizing ideas, thinking, exploring, and becoming familiar enough with the various subjects, peoples and places to carry on an intelligent conversation in modern-day society.

In short, this class aims to give you practice in critical thinking, and even creativity.

Critical thinking, involving **evaluation** and **synthesis**, has long been regarded as essential for success in the modern-day world. In recent years, actually for two decades, **creativity** has also become central to success, and "process skills" vital to creativity. Process skills involve "strategies to reframe challenges and extrapolate and transform information, and to accept and deal with ambiguity" (Pappano, "Learning to Think Outside the Box," *The New York Times EducationLife*, 9 February 2014, 8). Laura Pappano, writer in residence at Wellesley Center for Women at Wellesley College, points out that "In 2010 'creativity' was the factor most crucial for success found in an I.B.M. survey of 1,500 chief executives in 33 industries. These days 'creative' is the most used buzzword in LinkedIn profiles two years running" (2014, 8).

Related to that, here are two recent interesting articles, the first from Minnesota Public Radio . . .

A Memo to My Students
Re: College and the Real World
-- Maryellen Weimer, Faculty Focus (17 August 2016)

How to choose college classes: 6 tips
-- Tracy Mumford, Minnesota Public Radio News (10 September 2015)

With all of the class materials **you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others** in the **Class Forums and wikis**.

It is not accidental that *TAPS*, Canada's leading Beer Magazine—in fact it's *THE BEER MAGAZINE*—features this these kind of exams in its editorial of Winter 2012, p. 2; at least one major Editor in Chief thinks it's message is worth noting and imitating.

**In a nutshell, this course consists of
three main segments:**

I Orientation and Background

- **Introduction**
- **Basic Concepts**
- **History**
- **Theory**
- **Methods and Techniques**

II Explorations

- **Comparative / Cross-Cultural**
- **Holistic**
- **Ethnographic Case Studies from the Real World: Real People . . . Real Places from Around the Globe**

III Student Presentations on Term Research Projects

For the first part of the course much of the material for the week will be presented in the form of text materials and slide materials. **In the second section** of the semester, once you have mastered the basic information relating to Understanding Global Cultures, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 01) at a series of video materials from around the world. **The final section** will focus on your research projects.

One of the four main characteristics of American Anthropology is fieldwork, "a primary research technique, involving "participant observation," which usually means living among the people one is interested in learning from and about. It would be wonderful if for anthropology classes we could just rent a bus or charter a plane and fly off for a year or more to learn first-hand from the people themselves. Money, time, and practicality prohibit that, so the next best things—when it comes to studying anthropology—is going to places and viewing subjects by video, and we will do a lot of that this semester. More information on **Visual Anthropology** is available on-line at

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual_anthropology.html.

In laying out a course one has many options. Given that time is limited one can, for example, opt for an approach that portrays basic features of a large number of cultures/countries, or one can focus more in-depth on a limited number of topics and cultures/countries. In class, we will focus more in-depth on topics and cultures/countries, focusing

on a few rather than many. The readings, on the other hand, present a broader view, featuring over three dozen cultures/countries/regions. Together, the text plus the in-class materials should give you a "pretty good" Understanding of Global Cultures.

**You will find that there is
"an awful lot" of materials on-line—
maybe even too many!**

BUT, you will find the *required* materials center stage in your **Moodle** folder. Most of the rest of the materials are optional, but you may find that material useful in working on your class project.

Where to start?

Probably the best place is by having a quick look at the "**First Day Handout**" on-line at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/gcfhandout_first-day.html#title.

The screenshot shows the Moodle interface for the course 'ANTH 1080 Understanding Global Cultures (sec 001) Fall 2017, Duluth'. The main content area is titled 'General' and includes a subject index (A-Z), a warning about copying text, a 'Fall 2017 Calendar' by Tim Roufs, and a note about a cluttered Moodle screen. A central image features a globe with the text 'Understanding GLOBAL CULTURES'. The right sidebar contains 'SECTION LINKS' (1-16), 'QUICK LINKS FOR STUDENTS' (orientation, guides, forums, email), 'MESSAGES' (no messages), and 'COURSE RESOURCES' (library, video schedule).

Then have a look at the "**Course Overview**" in **Block 1** (the top of page one) of your **Moodle** folder <<https://www.moodle.umn.edu/>>. See the figure in the "First Day Handout," which is like the "Nutshell" outline above.

The Course in a Nutshell

In a nutshell, ANTH 1080 Understanding Global Cultures consists of three main segments:

I Orientation and Background (slides)

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- History
- Theory
- Methods and Techniques

II Explorations

- Comparative / Cross-Cultural
- Holistic
- Ethnographic Case Studies from the Real World: Real People . . . Real Places from Around the Globe

III Student Presentations on Term Research Project

Then have a look at your **Moodle** Gradebook folder, which gives a nice listing of the actual requirements and due dates for the course. (You'll find the link for that in the left sidebar of Block 1. See the figure in the "First Day Handout.")

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
ANTH 1080 Understanding Global Cultures (sec 001) Fall 2017, Duluth
(Hidden from Students)

Dashboard > Courses > ANTH1080_001F17D > August 27 - September 2

NAVIGATION

- Dashboard
- Site home
- Site pages
- Current course
- My courses
- Courses
 - ANTH1080_001F17D
 - Participants
 - Badges
 - Grades
 - General
 - August 27 - September 2
 - September 3 - September 9
 - September 10 - September 16
 - September 17 - September 23
 - September 24 - September 30
 - October 1 - October 7

General

Subject Index
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

Please do not copy/paste text directly from Microsoft Word. See explanation here. Notepad with Windows
Moodle is too cluttered for you? (one solution)

SECTION LINKS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16

QUICK LINKS FOR STUDENTS

- Watch online orientation
- User guides
- Student support forums
- Email: moodle@umn.edu

MESSAGES
No messages
Messages

COURSE RESOURCES

- Library
- Video Schedule

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
ANTH 1080 Understanding Global Cultures (sec 001) Fall 2017, Duluth: View: Student View
(Hidden from Students)

Dashboard > Courses > ANTH1080_001F17D > Grade administration > Student View

Student View - Tim Roufs

Student View

Grade item	Calculated weight	Grade	Range	Contribution to course total
ANTH 1080 Understanding Global Cultures (sec 001) Fall 2017, Duluth				
News-of-the-Week Presentation				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> News-of-the-Week Presentation	- (Empty)	-	0-30	-
Σ News-of-the-Week Presentation total	1.49 %	-	0-30	-
Semester Project: Paper and Presentation				
<input type="checkbox"/> Part 1: Informal Project Proposal (Due by the end of Week 4—Saturday, 23 September 2017)	3.70 %	-	0-20	0.00 %
<input type="checkbox"/> Part 2: Project Promissory Abstract and Working Bibliography (Due by the end of Week 6—Saturday, 7 October 2017)	3.70 %	-	0-20	0.00 %
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 4: Project Term Paper (Due by the end of Week 14)	74.07 %	-	0-400	0.00 %
Σ Semester Project: Paper and Presentation total	34.16 %	0.00	0-540	-

Please heed the earlier word of caution. Moodle recommends that you use the Firefox browser (available free at <<https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/update-firefox-latest-version>>). The Windows Internet Explorer (IE) occasionally will not display items on your screen. These items will simply not be there on IE when they are fine on Moodle or even on Chrome. Microsoft Word should likewise not be used to cut and paste things to Moodle; bad things can happen to your file if you do—randomly.

Almost every time you are asked to enter text in **Moodle**, you will see the message, “Please do not copy/paste text directly from Microsoft Word. See explanation [here](http://www1.umn.edu/moodle/issues.html#10) <<http://www1.umn.edu/moodle/issues.html#10>>.” Please pay attention to that request.

**So once again, welcome to Anth 1080
Understanding Global Cultures.
This *will be* a great course, and a great experience.
You will see. . . .**

**Thanks for signing on for Understanding Global
Cultures.**

**I’m looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, the 29th,
in Cina 214, at 2:00 p.m.**

My **office hours** and contact information (and other regular schedule information) can be found at <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pcoffice.html>>.

Finally, **laptops** are welcome, in fact encouraged, in the classroom. Many find a laptop quite useful in following the lectures as all lectures are web supported. You can, for example, download all of the slide materials used in class.



**Having said that, consider the latest research that suggests that . . .
"For better learning in college lectures, lay down the laptop and pick up a pen"
-- Susan M. Dynarski, Evidence Speaks Series, Brookings (10 August 2017).**

**Your Moodle site is now on-line.
Have a look at it at <moodle.umn.edu>.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to post them on Moodle or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu.

See you on the 29th.

I hope you enjoy the State Fair weather, or maybe even the State Fair itself.

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs
Duluth, MN
21 August 2017

P.S. If you are new to the world of "technology" don't worry too much about that. Things may not "work" for you at first, but hang in there and we'll help you along. If you have not used Moodle course management system before, you might find it helpful to view **the [orientation tutorial](#)**.