Welcome to Prehistoric Cultures
Available on-line in your

folder at

<https://moodle2.umn.edu/>

In addition to the Moodle site the Companion Course Calendar for Fall 2012 is available on-line at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pccal-f2012-CE.html#title>

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

I am looking forward to meeting you in person on the 10th (we do not have class the first week of the semester because of Labor Day). . . . In the meantime, you might want to have a look at the information in your folder, or the companion on-line materials, which you can find on the web at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pccal-f2012-CE.html#title>.

Right off the bat you might also be interested in the textbook for the course. Detailed information on the textbook can be found at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pctext.html#title>.

Understanding Humans, 11th Edition

Barry Lewis, Robert Jurmain, Lynn Kilgore
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Understanding Humans, 11th Ed. is currently available online from about $89.55 new, with an Amazon.com "Buyback Price" of $52.53. (+ p/h, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over $25). The Amazon Book Trade-In Program will buy it back (the current Amazon Buyback price is $52.53 (in the form of a gift card), which means the Amazon Price After Buyback would be $37.02 --a real bargain, even with p/h added). (19 August 2012) Amazon.com also currently is has another special offer available for MP3 credit.

Other on-line and brick and mortar stores should have comparable offers.


Thousands of other books are available free online, full text versions <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/reference/books.html#title>, and might occasionally be useful in one or more of your other courses.

And more information on textbooks in general can be found at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/tr/trtextbooks.html#title>.

One of the four main characteristics of American Anthropology is fieldwork, "a primary research technique, involving "participant observation," which usually means living and working 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, and to tour archaeological sites firsthand. 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 film. More information on Visual Anthropology is available on-line at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual_anthropology.html#title>. Be sure to have a look at that.

Detailed information on these sorts of activities will be provided as we go along, but you can have a preview look in your Moodle home anytime you like.

You may find the names of some of the prehistoric people and places confusing at first—don't let that bother you. After about six weeks they will start sounding familiar to you.

With all of these materials you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others in the class Forum and wikis. I'm looking forward to that.

My office hours (and regular schedule information) can be found at your Moodle "Home" and on-line on the regular UMD WebSite at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pcoffice.html#title>.
Finally, laptops are welcome 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.

So once again, welcome to Prehistoric Cultures. This will be a great course, and a great experience. You will see. . . .

Have a great Labor Day. . . .

If you have any questions right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the Moodle "Messenger" or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop in before class at Cina 215 [map](http://www.d.umn.edu/~giscalab/images/campus_map.gif).

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs
18 August 2012

[P.S.](http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs) 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.