

Duluth Campus

Department of Sociology -Anthropology  
College of Liberal Arts

228 Cina Hall  
1123 University Drive  
Duluth, Minnesota 55812-3306

Office: 218-726-7551  
Fax: 218-726-7759

26 December 2015

## Welcome to Anthropology 3635 Peoples and Cultures of Europe (Anthropology of Europe)

Available on-line in your

**Moodle**

folder at <<https://moodle.umn.edu/>>

### I hope you are having a great holiday season.

I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order textbooks on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading one or other of the interesting books we have for the class (if you are the kind of person who likes to read ahead). If neither of these options applies to you, and you feel like a little end-of-the-holiday season procrastination, just relax and enjoy the wonderful winter weather, and, the rest of your break (but be sure to have some lentils on New Years' Day).

### Peoples and Cultures of Europe will be a great course, and a great experience. You will see. . . .

Interest in world cultures—and especially the peoples and cultures of Europe—has never been higher. You can see that in the news and editorial pages of the weekly papers and the other news media. Lots of things are happening on the European front . . . virtually every day. **One of the best sources for up-to-date news on Europe is [BBC News Europe](#).** I also like [The Telegraph](#) and, to balance things out, [The Guardian](#) (UK Edition), and [The New York Times](#). For news specific to Anthropology, [Anthropology World News](#) from [Texas A&M Anthropology](#) is the best.

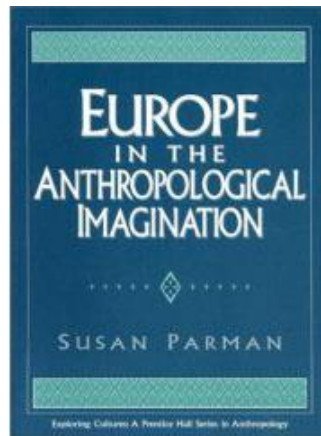
I am looking forward to meeting you in class on the 14<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, you might want to peruse the information in your **Moodle** folder at <<https://moodle.umn.edu/>>.

Right off the bat you might be interested in the **textbooks** for the course—there are five, *in proper European tradition*. . . . (You only need to *read* them, you do not have to memorize their contents—

see note on open-book exams below.) Believe it or not, you will love them all. . . well most of them anyway. And they're all inexpensive (buy used copies).

**A note on the textbooks:** Since this is a course on and about Europe, it will be taught European style, that is, as far as the texts are concerned, we will use several original books and one anthology rather than an American-style textbook edited specifically for classroom use.

The course anchor text is *Europe in the Anthropological Imagination . . .*



Parman, Susan.

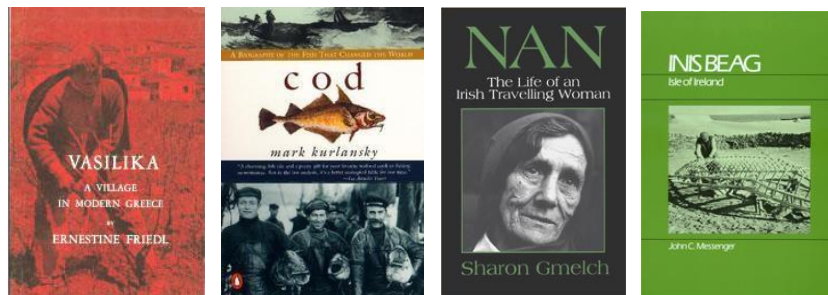
Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.

—currently available on-line for \$31.32-83.80 new, and \$2.25 used [buy a used one]

(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).

(24 December 2015)

The other texts include . . .



Ernestine Friedl's *Vasilika: A Village in Modern Greece*—a “master text” and a genuine classic in the study of the Anthropology of Europe—is available on-line for \$00.01 used [don't even think about buying a new one]

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

(24 December 2015)

***Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World,***

is currently available online from about \$11.82 new / \$0.01 used, \$12.99 Kindle [buy a used one]  
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).  
(24 December 2015)

***Nan: The Life of an Irish Travelling Woman,***

one of the really great anthropological biographies on a European  
is currently available online from about \$24.95 new / \$2.94 used, \$9.99 Kindle [buy a used one]  
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).  
(24 December 2015)

***Inis Beag: Isle of Ireland,***

is currently available online from about \$24.99 new / \$12.94 used [buy a used one]  
(+ p/h, where applicable).  
(24 December 2015)

**Full information on the texts for Peoples and Cultures of Europe can be found at**

[<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cetexts.html#title>.](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cetexts.html#title)

Textbooks are available from the following vendors . . .

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

More information on textbooks in general can be found at [<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/tr/trtextbooks.html>.](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/tr/trtextbooks.html)

And thousands of books are available free online, full text versions,

[<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/reference/books.html>.](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/reference/books.html)

and might occasionally be useful in one or more of your other courses. One of those—a classic on the Aran Islands of Ireland [Inis Beag as the pseudonym above] on a featured site in this class,

***The Aran Islands* by John M. Synge**

[<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cetexts.html#AranIslands>.](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cetexts.html#AranIslands)

Have a look.

**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 each text, and it is a good idea that you take your reading notes right in your copy of the text itself.

**One thing that you should keep in mind when approaching these readings, which I will talk more about as the class progresses, is that as mentioned above the exams are open-book.** And for that you should normally just need to read the books 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 on the way to some place like Dornoch, Scotland, or at neighborhood bookshop

because you were interested in the subject and wanted to know more about it, 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).

## **Overall, 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 Europe**

### **III Student Presentations on Term Research Projects**

Throughout the semester we will look (generally comparatively, cf., Main Characteristics of Anthropology) at a series of video materials from around Europe. We will start that the second day of class, but we'll focus on visual case study video more towards the second half of the semester. **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 charter a plane and fly off to Europe 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#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual_anthropology.html#title).

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.

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

But don't worry. 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/anth3635/cehandout\\_first-day.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout_first-day.html).

**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 upper-left-hand corner of the top of Block 1.)

Then have a look at the "**Course Overview**" in **Block 1** (the top of page one) of your **Moodle** folder <https://moodle.umn.edu/>.

**A word of caution.** Moodle recommends that you **use the Firefox browser** (available free at <http://firefox.com>). 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.

If you are new to the world of "technology" in general or Moodle in particular, 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. (And they *will* work better in Firefox and if you do not cut and paste from your Word documents.)

**So once again, welcome to Anth 3635 Peoples and Cultures of Europe.**  
***This will be a great course, and a great experience. You will see. . .***

**Thanks for signing on for the Anthropology of Europe. I'm looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, in Montagu Hall 208, at high noon.**

**Best of the Holiday Wishes to you . . .**

I hope you had a great Boxing Day, and are having a good Christmas-Hanukkah-Kwanza season. Have a great New Year's Evening and New Year's Day and a great New Year.

In Vienna and Budapest and throughout much of Europe people will be eating lentils on New Year's Day. Eating lentils helps you have a great new year. I've tried them in both places, and it seems the Hungarian lentils work just slightly better than elsewhere. A Hungarian professor friend recently passed on some important information about New Year's Day lentils: “Gabriella says that the heart (seeds) are important for the coming fortune. . . .” **So on New Year's Day, eat plenty of lentils and pay special attention to the hearts. . . .**

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 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.

Your **Moodle** site is now on-line. Have a look at it at [moodle.umn.edu](http://moodle.umn.edu).

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to post them on **Moodle** or e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu).

See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you enjoy the holidays, and have a great New Year's celebration!

Best Warm Wishes,

Tim Roufs  
Duluth, MN  
26 December 2015

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**.