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## 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 articles 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—[an old European tradition said to bring Good Fortune in the New Year](#)). . .

### [The Strangest New Year's Eve Traditions around Europe](#)

-- [Chris Ciolli](#), [AFAR](#) (4 December 2015)

### [How Eastern Europeans Celebrate New Year's](#)

-- [Barbara Rolek](#), [about food](#) (30 November 2016)

### [6 of the Best Cities to Celebrate New Year's Eve in Europe](#)

--[Trafalgarblog.com](#) (05 December 2016)

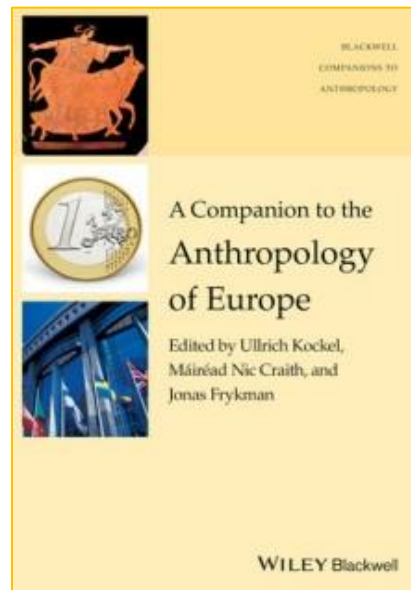
## Peoples and Cultures of Europe will be a great course, and a great experience. You will see. . . .

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](#).

I am looking forward to meeting you in class on the 12<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, you might want to peruse the information in your **Moodle** folder at [<https://moodle.umn.edu/>](https://moodle.umn.edu/).

Right off the bat you might be interested in the textbook for the course. The course anchor text is . . .



**Ullrich Kockel, Máiread Nic Craith, and Jonas Frykman (Eds.)|**

## ***A Companion to the Anthropology of Europe***

Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.

is currently available on-line for \$54.95-\$41.04 new, \$43.00 e-book, and \$41.03 used  
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).

ISBN: 978-1-119-11162-7 (paperback)

[Buy a used one if you can]

**NOTE:** This is NOT the Hardbound edition (which costs \$228.95).

If you simply search on Amazon.com for the book,  
you might only see the expensive hardbound copy towards the top of the list.

(23 December 2016)

**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](#)  
[booksprice.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/trtextbooks.html>.](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/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 the 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, avoiding rote memorization if possible. Please keep that in mind when thinking about, and getting ready for, the exams.

**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).

Here's an interesting article from Minnesota Public Radio . . .

### **How to choose college classes: 6 tips**

--Tracy Mumford, Minnesota Public Radio News (10 September 2015)

**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 with one of the great classic ethnographic films of all time, but we'll focus on visual case study video more towards the second half of the semester.**

**Towards the second half of the semester**, once you have mastered the basic information relating to the People and Cultures of Europe, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology) at a series of video materials from around Europe. As mentioned, we will actually 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/cia/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual\\_anthropology.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cia/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"** online 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). It's the syllabus ([s2017 .pdf version](#)).

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 12<sup>th</sup>, in Cina Hall 214.**

**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. And have a good Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as well.

In Vienna and Budapest and throughout much of Europe people will be eating lintels on New Year's Day. Eating lintels 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>.](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 12<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 2016

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**.