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Anthropology of Europe Week 1



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

Available on-line in your



folder at <http://canvas.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)

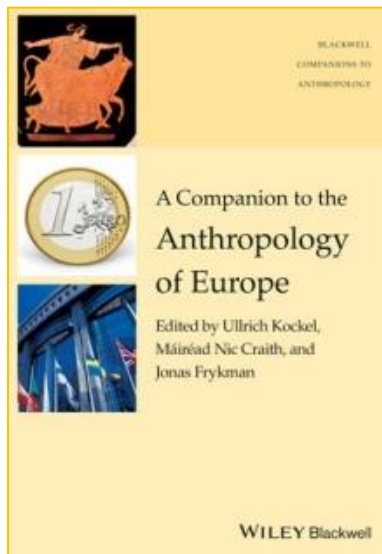
[6 of the Best Cities to Celebrate New Year's Eve in Europe](#)

--[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](#).

Right off the bat you might be interested in the textbook for the course. One text is required, and as you should have your own copy of it as the **exams are open-book exams. . .**



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

## *A Companion to the Anthropology of Europe*

Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.

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

is currently available on-line for \$37.39 new, \$42.65 Kindle, and \$36.59 used  
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).

(17 November 2017)

[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.

**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>.

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/tr/textbooks.html>.

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

<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>.

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.

**Midterm exam** information is at [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/ceexams\\_midterm.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/ceexams_midterm.html#title), and the **final exam** information is at [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/ceexams\\_final.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/ceexams_final.html#title).

**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).

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)

# **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 the Anthropology of Food, 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](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual_anthropology.html).

With all of these materials **you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others** in the Class Discussions 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!**

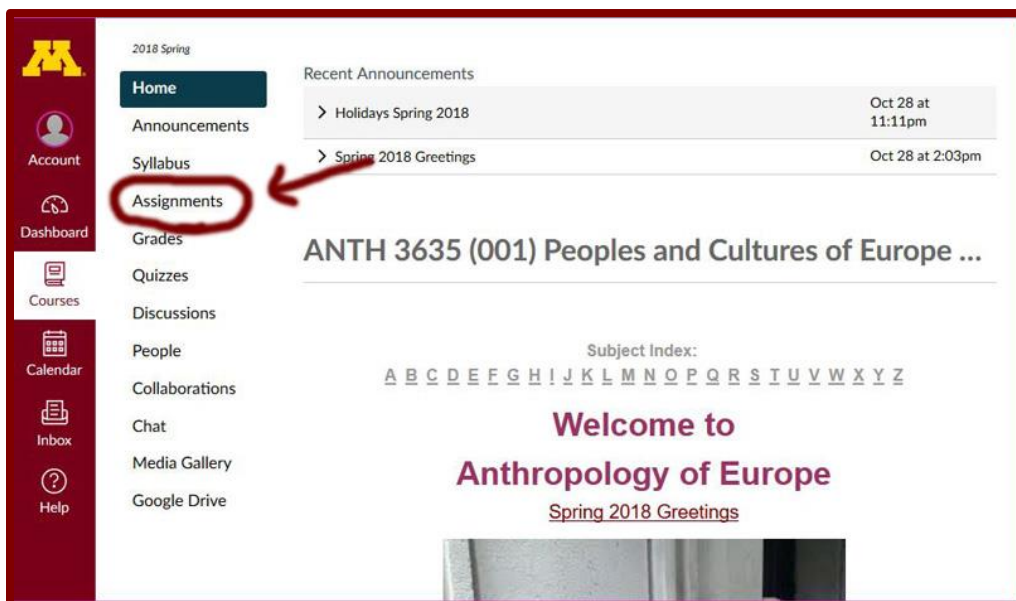
**Where to start?**

Probably the best place to start is with the **"First Day Handout"**, online at [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout\\_first-day.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout_first-day.html#title).

Also have a look at the course **“Home”** page of your Senior Seminar  folder <<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>. It will look something like this . . .

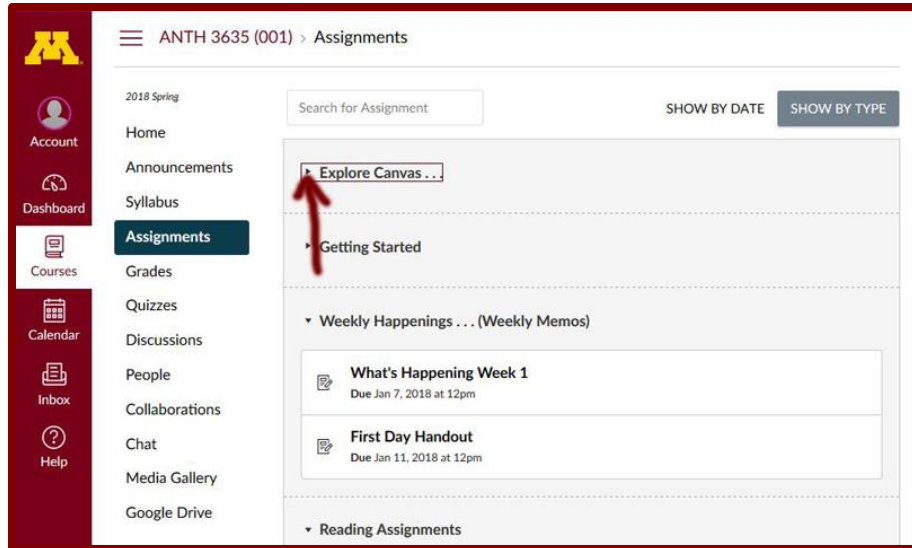


Play around with your Canvas folder materials. . . . From your **“Home”** page go to **“Assignments”** . . .



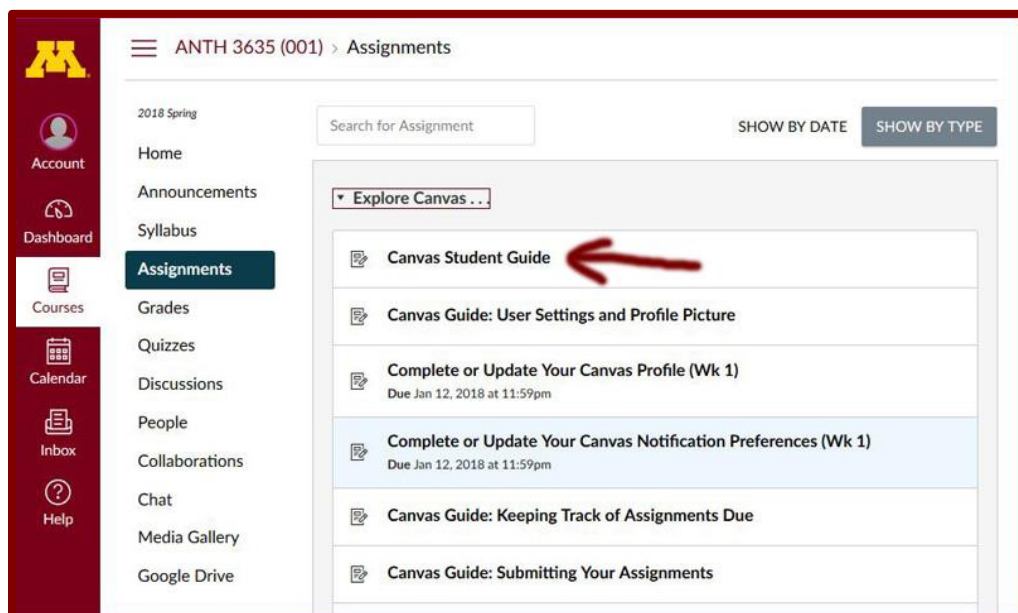


Then look at your Canvas folder materials by clicking the triangle of the **“Explore Canvas . . .”** drop-down menu.



When the "Explore Canvas . . ." menu drops down, checkout the "Canvas Student Guide".

Start with the **"Canvas Student Guide"** if you are new to Canvas.






**Then checkout the other items that interest you most.**

**Then set/update your Canvas (1) "User Settings" and "Profile Picture".**

Complete or update your **(2) "Canvas Profile"**.

Then set your **(3) "Canvas Notification Preferences"**.

The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS interface for the course ANTH 3635 (001) in the Assignments section. On the left is a dark red navigation sidebar with icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main content area has a header with the course name and a search bar. Below the header is a list of navigation options: Home, Announcements, Syllabus, Assignments (highlighted), Grades, Quizzes, Discussions, People, Collaborations, Chat, Media Gallery, and Google Drive. The Assignments list includes: Canvas Student Guide, Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture (marked with a red '1'), Complete or Update Your Canvas Profile (Wk 1) (marked with a red '2', due Jan 12, 2018 at 11:59pm), Complete or Update Your Canvas Notification Preferences (Wk 1) (marked with a red '3', due Jan 12, 2018 at 11:59pm), Canvas Guide: Keeping Track of Assignments Due, and Canvas Guide: Submitting Your Assignments. At the top right of the main area are buttons for 'SHOW BY DATE' and 'SHOW BY TYPE'.

**Then have a look at your  **Gradebook folder**, which gives a nice listing of the actual requirements and due dates for all of the requirements of the course. (You'll find the link for that in the Course Navigation column on the left-hand side of your "Home" page.)**

2018 Spring

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Recent Announcements

- > Holidays Spring 2018 Oct 28 at 11:11pm
- > Spring 2018 Greetings Oct 28 at 2:03pm

View Course Stream

Coming Up View Calendar

Nothing for the next week

## ANTH 3635 (001) Peoples and Cultures...

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

### Welcome to Anthropology of Europe

Spring 2018 Greetings

ANTH 3635 (001) > Grades > Test Student

2018 Spring

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## Grades for Test Student

Print

Arrange by

Assignment Group

Name	Due	Score	Out of
Introduce Yourself to the Class (Wk 1)	Jan 13, 2018 by 11:59pm	-	1
Take the Turkey Test! (Wk 4)	Feb 2, 2018 by 11:59pm	-	20
Discussion: To Burka or Not to Burka (Wk 4)	Feb 2, 2018 by 11:59pm	-	20

## **Enjoy the Course and Enjoy the holidays. 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 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. . . .**

**Laptops** are welcome in the classroom. Many find a laptop quite useful in following the lectures as all lectures in this class are web supported. You can, for example, download all of the slide materials used in this class, and annotate them.



**Having said that, consider the latest research that suggests . . .**

**"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).

**Laptops Are Great. But Not During a Lecture or a Meeting.**

-- Susan Dynarski, The New York Times (26 November 2017)



**So, if you use a computer in class, and your computer is so equipped,**

**how about compromising and writing on your laptop with an electronic digital smart pen?**

The University is scheduled to open your  canvas site on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Have a look at it at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>.

**So once again, welcome to the Anthropology 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 am looking forward to meeting you in class at noon on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. In the meantime, you might want to peruse the information in your  canvas folder at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>. The  canvas **Student Guide / Overview / Tour** can be very helpful.

**Student Guide** -- written guides with step-by-step instructions for Canvas tools 

**Canvas Student Overview** (6:47 min) 

**Canvas Student Tour** -- course site with video resources 

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>.

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to post them on**


 canvas or e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu).

See you on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Best of the warm 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.

Tim Roufs  
Duluth, MN  
26 December 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  canvas course management system before, you might find it helpful to view the [\*\*Canvas Student Guide\*\*](#).