

9 January 2019

Anthropology of Europe



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.

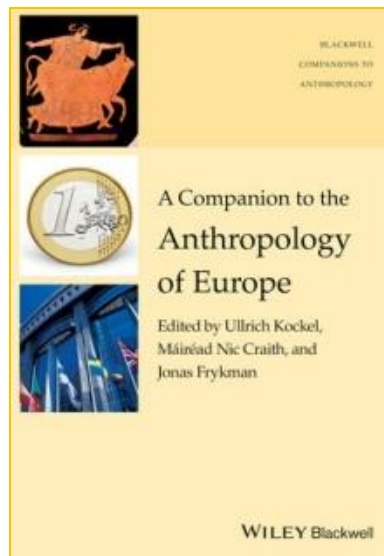
I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order the textbook on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading one or other of the interesting articles we have for the class (if you are the kind of person who likes 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. I hope you had some lentils on New Years' Day—[an old European tradition said to bring Good Fortune in the New Year](#)). . .

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 \$46.09 new ppbk., \$43.23 used, and \$54.95 Kindle

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

(3 January 2018)

[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,
and the **final exam** information is at 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).

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>.

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.

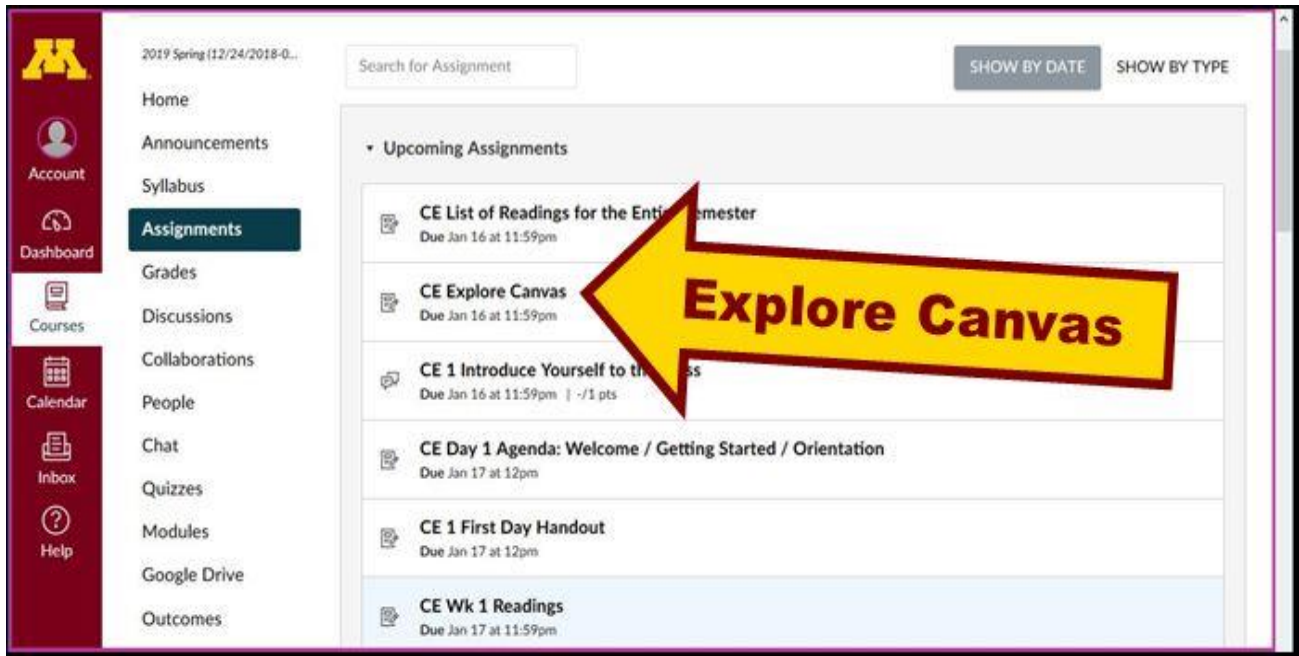
Also have a look at the course **"Home"** page of your  canvas folder <http://canvas.umn.edu/>. It will look something like this . . .

The image shows a Canvas LMS interface. On the left is a dark red sidebar with icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main content area has a white background with a purple border. At the top, it says "Welcome to Anthropology of Europe" in purple, followed by "Spring 2019 Greetings". Below this is a photo of a man in a red jacket standing in front of a sign that reads "TIMHOTEL TOUR EIFFEL". Under the photo, the name "Tim Roufs" is displayed, along with the text "at the Tim-Hotel Tour Eiffel, Paris". At the bottom, it says "Meet Your Professor". In the top right corner, there are two notification boxes: "CE List of Readings for the Entire Semester" (posted Jan 16 at 11:59pm) and "CE 1 First Day Handout" (posted Jan 17 at 12pm).

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

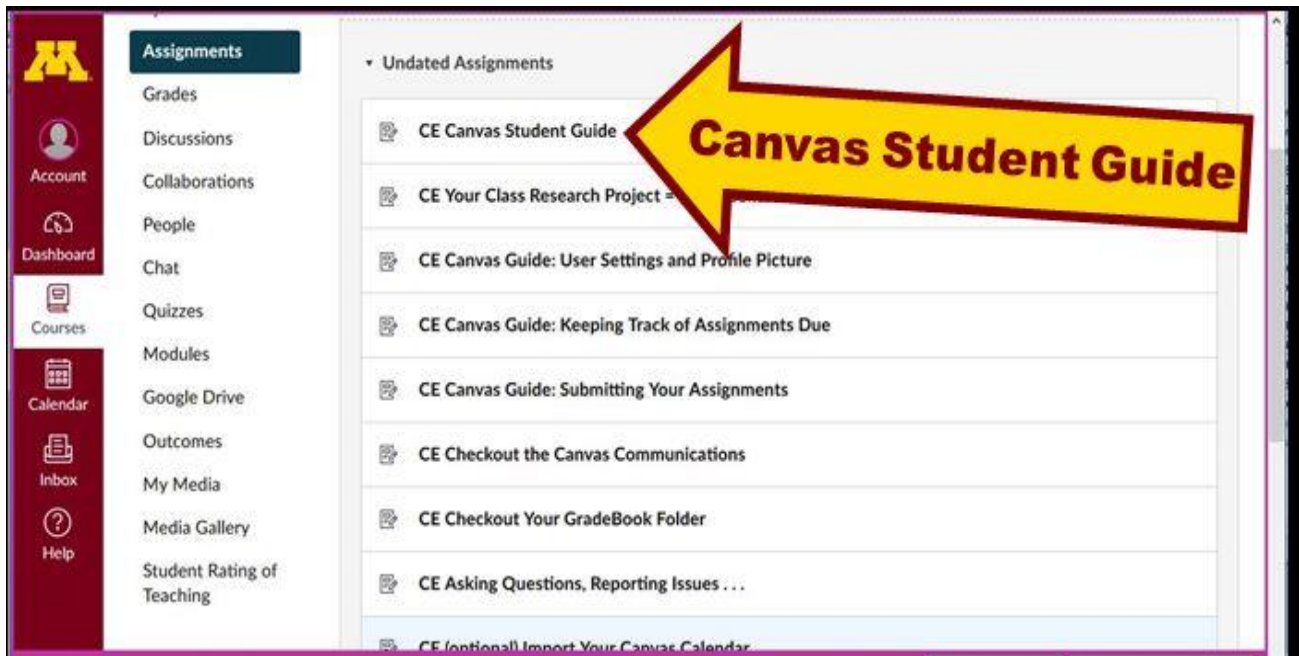
The image shows the Canvas LMS Home page. The left sidebar is the same as in the previous image. The main content area has a white background with a purple border. At the top, it says "2019 Spring (12/24/2018-0...)". Below this is a "Recent Announcements" section with two entries: "CE Spring 2019 Greetings" (posted Jan 4, 2019 at 4:15am) and "Spring 2019 Greetings[click here]" (posted Jan 4, 2019 at 3:56am). A large yellow arrow with a red outline points from the "Assignments" link in the sidebar to the "Assignments" link in the main content area. Below the announcements is a section for "ANTH 3635 (001) Peoples and Cultures of Europe (Spring 2...)". At the bottom, there is a "Subject Index" with a list of letters: 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. The "Welcome to Anthropology of Europe" text is partially visible at the bottom.

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".

This screenshot shows the Canvas dashboard interface. On the left is a dark red sidebar with navigation icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main content area is titled 'Assignments' and lists various assignment items under the heading 'Undated Assignments'. A yellow arrow with the text 'User Settings' points to the third item in the list: 'CE Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture'.

- Grades
- Discussions
- Collaborations
- People
- Chat
- Quizzes
- Modules
- Google Drive
- Outcomes
- My Media
- Media Gallery
- Student Rating of Teaching

Undated Assignments

- CE Canvas Student Guide
- CE Your Class Research Project = (1) Presentation + (2) Term Paper
- CE Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture**
- CE Canvas Guide: Keeping Track of Assignments Due
- CE Canvas Guide: Submitting Your Assignments
- CE Checkout the Canvas Communications
- CE Checkout Your GradeBook Folder
- CE Asking Questions, Reporting Issues ...
- CE (optional) Import Your Canvas Calendar

This screenshot shows the Canvas user profile page for a user named 'Test Student' (TS). The 'Account' icon in the sidebar is highlighted with a red box. A yellow arrow with the text 'Set Canvas Profile' points to the 'Settings' option in the user profile menu. The background shows a blurred view of the dashboard assignments.

Account

Test Student

Logout

- Profile
- Settings**
- Notifications
- Files
- ePortfolios

SHOW BY DATE SHOW BY TYPE

Assignments

Canvas

11:59pm

Introduce Yourself to the Class

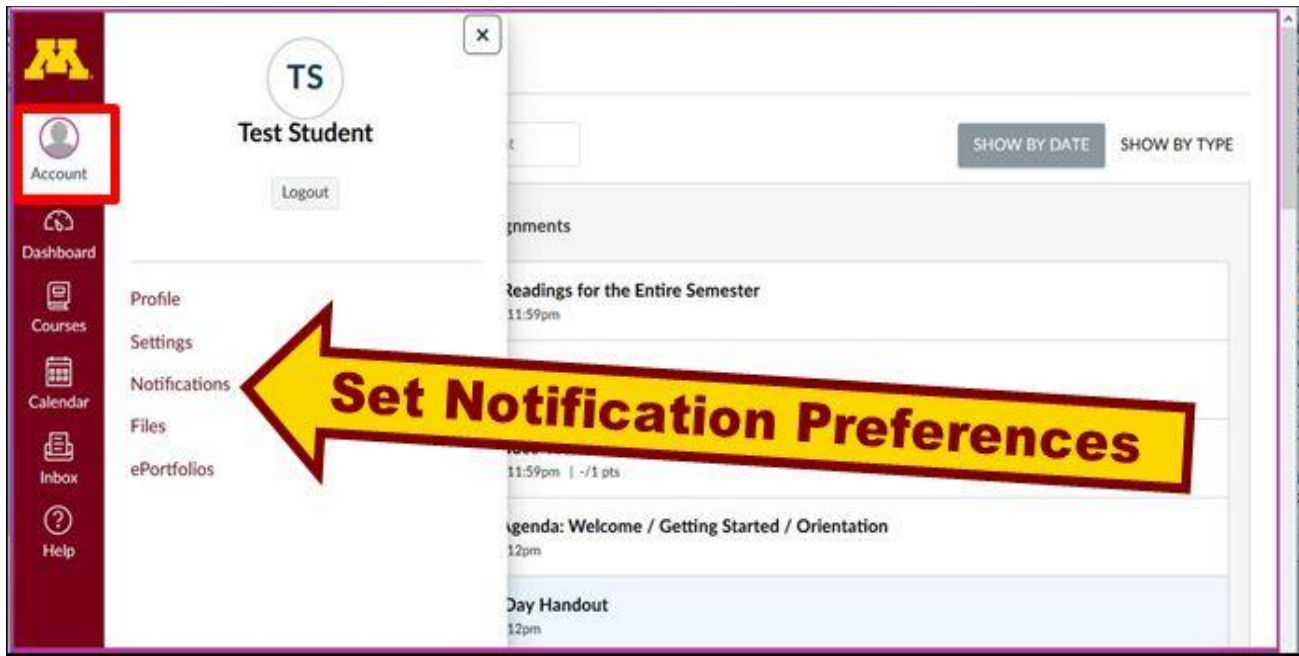
11:59pm | -/1 pts

Agenda: Welcome / Getting Started / Orientation

12pm

Day Handout

12pm



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 were 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?


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 17th 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.

See you on the 17th.

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
Port Arthur, Tasmania, Australia
9 January 2019

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**.