

Anthropology of Europe



Happy Boxing Day!

Welcome to the Anthropology of Europe

Available on-line in your

 **canvas** folder at
<<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>

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

You will see. . . .

About the Course

The Course in a Nutshell

Textbook

(Free this Semester)

Exams

Where to Start

Thanks / Questions

I hope you are having a great holiday season.

I am sending this note out early primarily for the pre-crastinators who might be inclined to order the textbook on-line to let you know that **the textbook for the class is free on-line, courtesy of the UMD Library**. Details are on the [Course Textbook WebPage](#). And as it is the kind of book that you need primarily to *read* (rather than to study)—it's even called “A *Companion to the Anthropology of Europe*—I would recommend that you take that offer. (The text is currently available on-line from Amazon.com for \$149.00-\$161.34 hardcover, \$50.48 new pbk., \$140.00 [*sic.*] used, and \$43.99 Kindle.)

Also, (if you are the kind of person who likes to read ahead) this is to let you get started reading one or other of the interesting articles we have for the class. 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 either way, be sure to have some lentils on New Years' Day—[an old European tradition said to bring Good Fortune in the New Year](#)).

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 to balance things out with [The Guardian](#) (UK Edition), and [The New York Times](#).

There is an excellent **Media Bias Chart** available to help you sort out the fake news from the rest, and to give you some indicating of the biases of others not regarded as purveyors of fake news and “alternative facts.” **When looking up information for this course, try to stay with the sources listed inside of the green triangle at the very top on the Media Bias Chart**—unless, of course, your focus is on a topic something like the impact of fake news on European matters—which, as in America, can be substantial.

The Course in a Nutshell

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 1) 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.

Texbook

(Free this Semester)

Right off the bat you might be interested in the textbook for the course. One text is required and you should get to know it well as the **exams are open-book exams**. . . .

NOTE: Free Textbook

From **Matt Rosendahl** Director of the UMD Library:

Dear Tim,

Greetings from the library! In an effort to help ease the burden of textbook costs for students, we have partnered with the bookstore to identify the required course texts that are owned by the library or could be purchased in ebook format. This fall the library will provide free and unlimited access to ebook versions of more than 100 required texts. This is a library initiative to provide immediate access to the course materials at no charge to your students.

For your course ANTH 3635, students can access the text *A Companion to the Anthropology of Europe* via [this URL](#)

Please share this with your students in your communication about the course. In addition, when students log into Canvas this semester they

will see the new service called Library Course Pages and this service will provide the link for your students to access the text. [You can learn more about the new Library Course Page service, including links for assistance, via our website.](#)

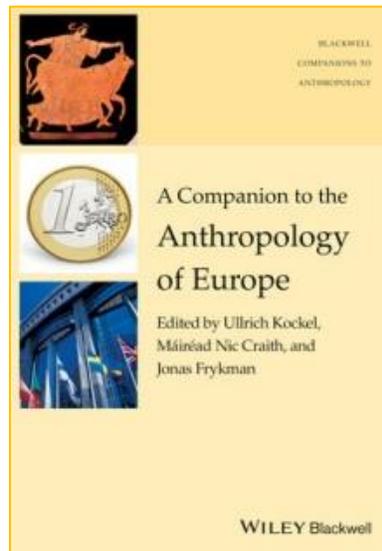
If you have questions, or need assistance, please reply to this email.

Thank you,

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Matt Rosendahl
Library Director

Kathryn A. Martin Library | University of Minnesota
Duluth
416 Library Drive | Duluth, MN 55812
Phone: [218.726.6562](tel:218.726.6562) | mrosenda@d.umn.edu
Pronouns I respond to: he/him/his



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 from Amazon.com for \$149.00-\$161.34 hardcover,
\$50.48 new pbk., \$140.00 [*sic.*] used, and \$43.99 Kindle.

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

(21 December 2019)

NOTE: This is *NOT* the Hardbound edition (which costs \$149.99-\$161.31).

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/trtextbooks.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

Exams will be open-book essays constructed from a list of study questions that you help create.

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).

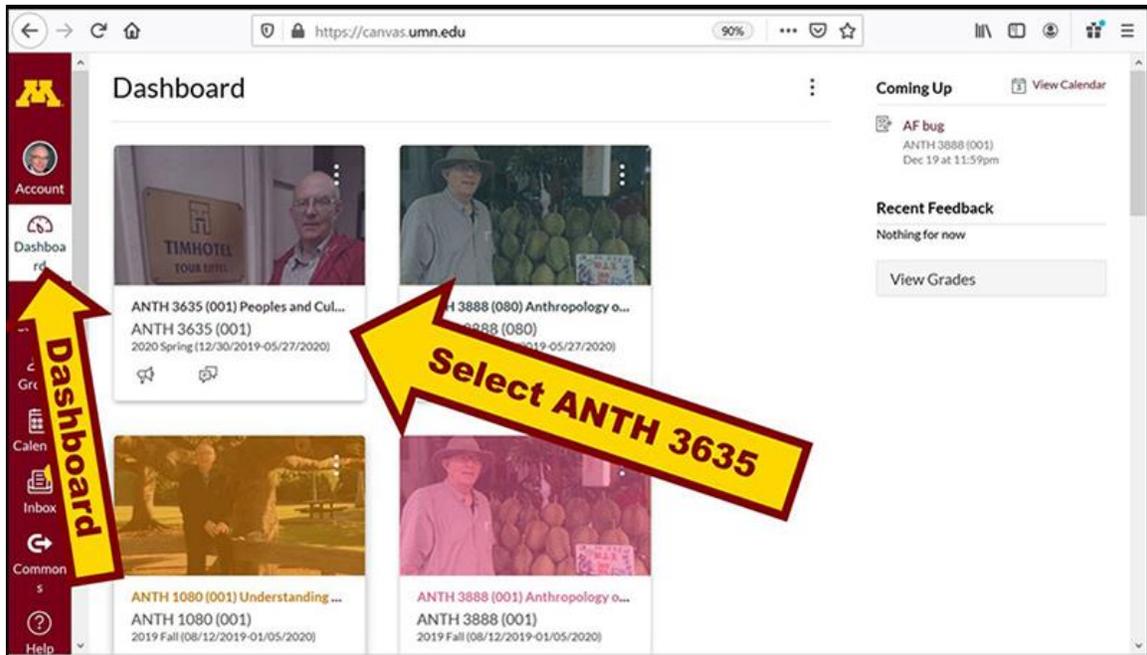
**You will find that there is
"an awful lot" of materials on-
line—maybe even too many!**

Where to start?

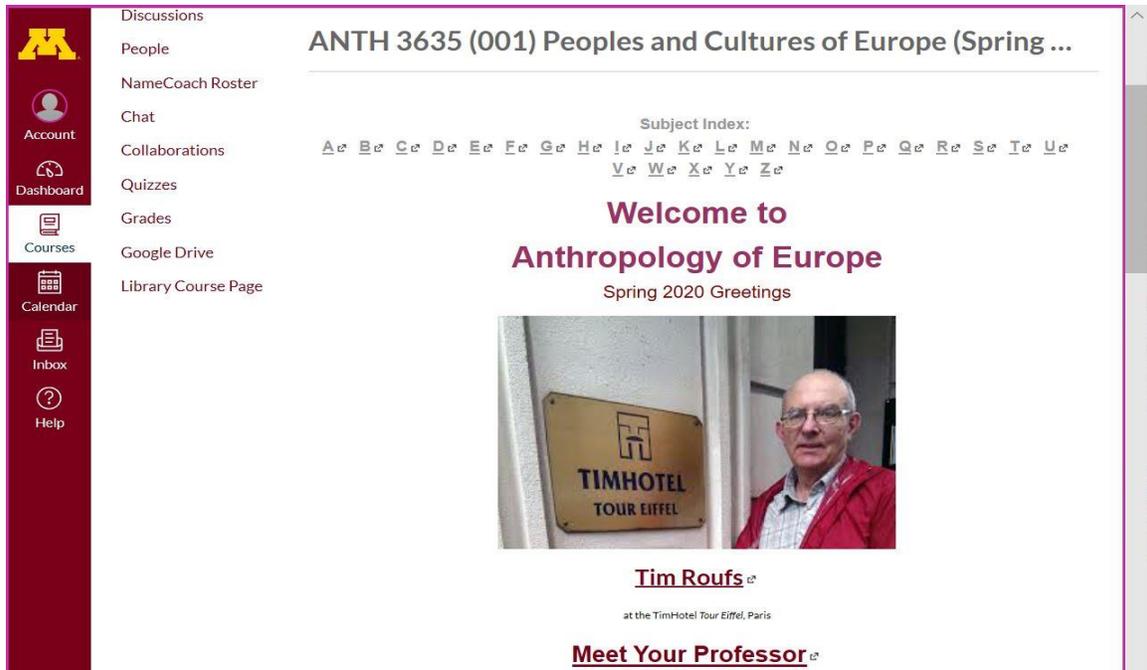
Probably the best place to start is with the **"First Day Handout"**, online at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout_first-day.html#title.

1. Go to open your  **canvas** folder and have a look around (once it is made available on-line) . . .
<<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>
2. Go to your  **canvas** Dashboard . . . and,
3. Select ANTH 3888 . . .

Your  **canvas** **Dashboard** will look different than the one below



You will find basic course information links on the course **Home Page**



REM: Links on screenshots are not "hot" (active)

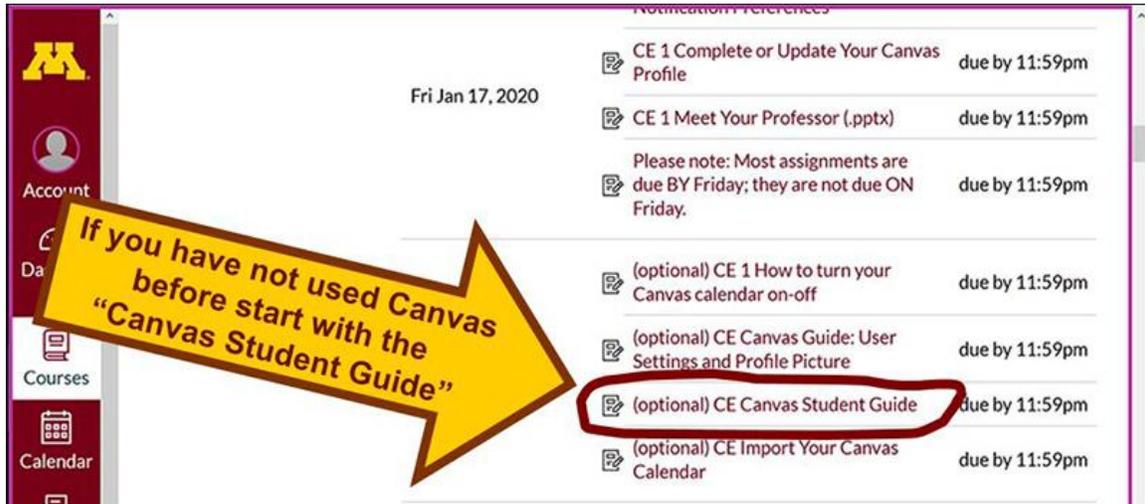
Then go to the **"Syllabus"** section
(using the *Course Navigation Panel*)

Home
Welcome!
Announcements
Posted on:
Dec 20, 2019 at 8:45pm
Syllabus
Discussions
People
NameCoach Roster
Chat
Subject Index:
Ae Be Ce De Ee Fe Ge He Je Ke Le Me Ne Oe Pe
Qe Re Se Te Ue Ve We Xe Ye Ze
ANTH 3635 (001) Peoples and Cultures of E...
Welcome to
Anthropology of Europe
Spring 2020 Greetings

Clicking on **"Syllabus"** will bring you to a page that looks like this . . .

Sun Jan 12, 2020	CE Week 1 Memo	due by 1am
	MLK UM Holiday	12am
Mon Jan 13, 2020	CE List of Readings for the Entire Semester	due by 11:59pm
	CE Wk 1 Readings	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 15, 2020	CE Explore Canvas	due by 11:59pm
	CE Wk 1 Day 1 Orientation	due by 12pm
	CE Wk 1 First Day Handout	due by 12pm
Thu Jan 16, 2020	CE Wk 1 Getting Started	due by 12pm
	CE 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class	due by 11:59pm

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



Have a look at <<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>.

Thanks / Questions

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 Thursday

the 16th 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 

**Enjoy the Course and Enjoy the holidays.
Best of the Holiday Wishes to you . . .**

I hope you have 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)

Have we all underrated the humble pencil?

-- Tim Harford, BBCNews (26 June 2019)

**Most students take a laptop with them to lectures. But are there times when they
might be better off taking a pad and pen?**

-- Claudia Hammond, BBCFuture (27 November 2019)

**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?**

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.

Best of the warm Holiday Wishes to you . . .

I hope you have 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 2020

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**.