

Duluth Campus

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8 January 2017

Peoples and Cultures of Europe Week 1

Available on-line in your

Moodle

folder at

<moodle.umn.edu>

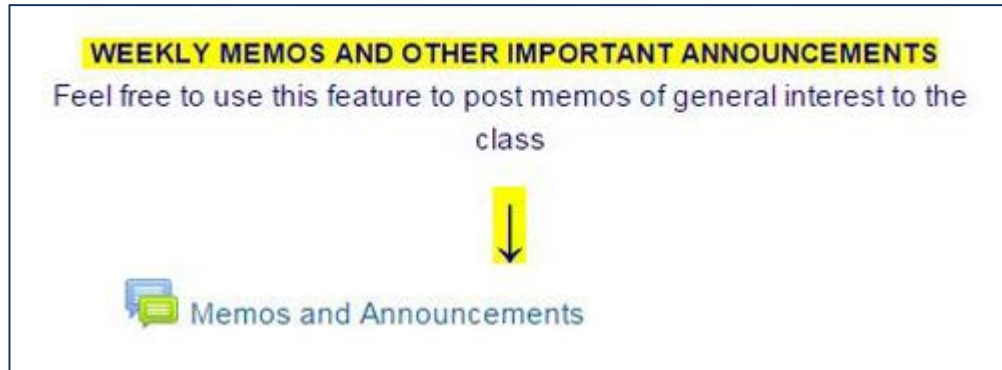
Getting Started

I'm looking forward to Thursday.

Peoples and Cultures of Europe gets underway at 11:00 in Cina Hall 214.

As I mentioned in my first memo, you can see in the newspapers and other media that lots of interesting things are happening in the world of the Anthropology of Europe. For an up-to-date review of what's happening in Europe see **BBC News Europe** (from the world's largest broadcast news organization, required by Royal Charter to report impartially), or have a look at the **UK News** from **The Telegraph** ("center-right" / conservative) or **The Guardian** ("center-left" / liberal).

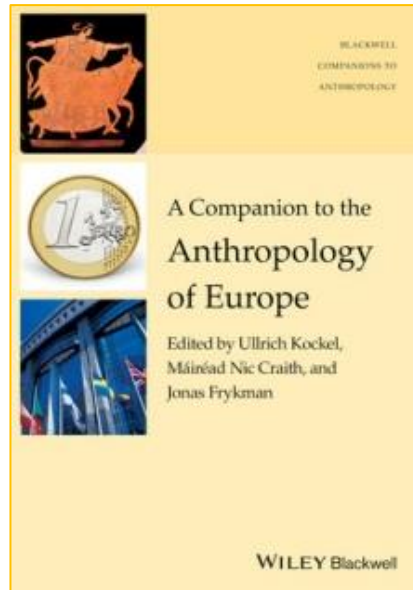
If you haven't read my [Welcome Memo of 26 December 2016](#), please do that as it contains useful and important information about the course. **Weekly Memos and Other Important Announcements** for the semester are located in your **Moodle** older towards the top of "Block One."



These weekly memos contain lots of valuable and timely information, so pay careful attention to them . . .

- The Weeks' **Assignments and Activities Schedule**
- Due Dates for the Week
- **Reminders** for the Week
- Suggestions and Hints for Exams
- **Interesting tidbits** of the week, including occasional **For-Fun Trivia** . . .
- **Optional links** that might be generally interesting and/or useful for Extra Credit Papers
- Information on In-Class Films and Videos (of which there will be many, starting next week)
- **Breaking News Items**

The **anchor textbook** for the course 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>.

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

As I mentioned in my earlier memo, **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.

For the exams you should normally just need to read the book *carefully* and be able to discuss its articles *intelligently*. That is, you should read these as if you had picked the book up at an airport or 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 WHAT I MENTIONED EARLIER: *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).

As I mentioned in my earlier memo, **overall, this course consists of three main segments:**

I Orientation and Background

Introduction

Basic Concepts

History

Theory

Methods and Techniques

II Exploration

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 on-line slide materials. **In the second section** of the semester, once you have mastered the basic information relating to the Peoples and Cultures of Europe, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 01) at a series of video materials about **Real People . . . Real Places . . .** and about **research** from around Europe. **The final section will focus on your research projects.**

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

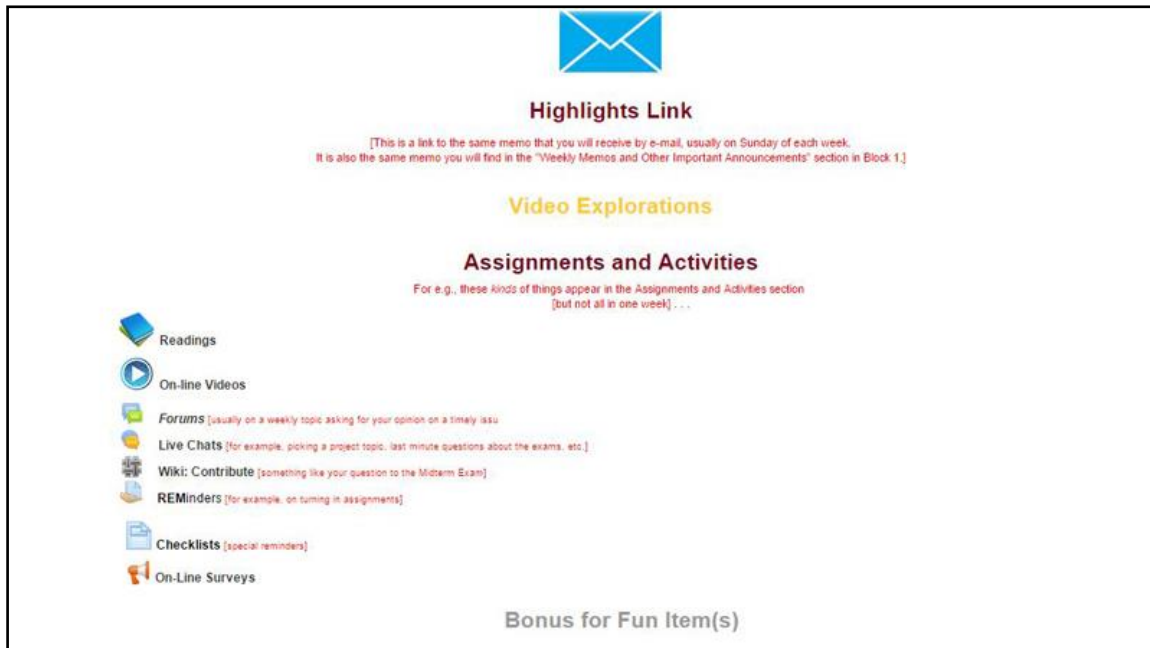
But you will find that **the *required* materials are center stage in your Moodle folder**. Most of the rest of the materials are optional, but you may find that material useful in working on your **Class Project** (and **Extra Credit** papers, if you feel like doing them).



Where to start?

As I mentioned last week, 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.

Then have a look at **the basic layout** for the materials that appear in each week's **Moodle "Block."** You will find that information in "Block One" (at the very top of your **Moodle** folder) **Your Typical Week in Peoples and Cultures of Europe. . . .**



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. See the figure in the "First Day Handout.")

Then have a look at the "**Course Overview**" in **Block 1** (the top of page one) of your **Moodle** folder <moodle.umn.edu>. See the figure in the "First Day Handout."

Please heed the earlier 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>>." Please pay attention to that request.

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. . . .

Your **Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 1 Block** of your **Moodle** folder. **This week the Activities include . . .**



[Readings for Week 1](#)



[Introduce Yourself to the Class](#) (Due by the end of Week 1—Saturday, 14 January 2017)



[Complete or Update Your Moodle Profile as Part of Your Introduction](#)

If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the **Moodle** “QUICKMAIL”, "Messenger" or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop in before or after class across the hall in Cina 215 [\[map\]](#).

See you Thursday at 11:00 in Cina 214! I'm looking forward to the class.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

[<http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/>](http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/)

