Duluth Campus

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Anthropology of Europe Week 1



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 <u>BBC News Europe</u> (from the world's largest broadcast news organization, required by Royal Charter to report impartially), or have a look at the UK News from <u>The Telegraph</u> ("center-right" / conservative) or <u>The Guardian</u> ("center-left" / liberal), and <u>The New York Times</u>.

If you haven't read my Welcome Memo of 26

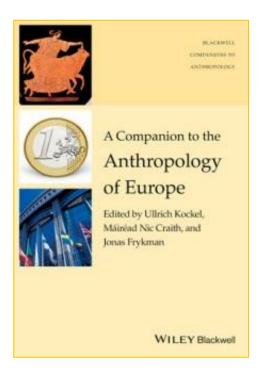
December 2017, please do that as it contains useful and important information about the course. Weekly Memos and Other Important Announcements for the semester are located in your canvas folder in the "Announcements", "Syllabus", and "Assignments" sections, and on your canvas "Calendar".

HINT: You can synchronize your canvas calendar with your UMD Google calendar, if you want.

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

- The Weeks' Assignments and Activities Schedule
- **<u>Due Dates</u>** 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 <u>Extra Credit Papers</u>
- Information on **In-Class Films and Videos** (of which there will be many, starting next week)
- Breaking News Items

The **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.

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.

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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 Nenw 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).

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

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!

Where to start?

Have a look at the course "**Home**" page of your Anthropology of Europe canvas folder http://canvas.umn.edu/. It will look something like this . . .

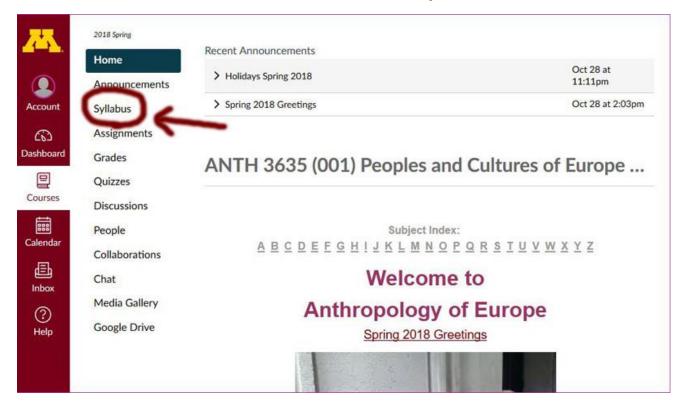


As I mentioned in the Welcome Memo, probably the best place is by having a quick look at the

"First Day Handout"

on-line at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cehandout first-day.html#title>.

Then have a look at your or canvas "Syllabus" folder,



Then check out the items for the week . . .



Then have a look at your canvas Gradebook folder, which gives a nice listing of the actual requirements and due dates for the course.



So once again, welcome to Anth 3635 Anthropology of Europe. This *will be* a great course, and a great experience.

You will see. . . .

Your **Assignments and Activities listings** are available in both the "**Syllabus**" and "**Assignments**" sections of your **Calendar**".

If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the canvas "Discussions", 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 12:00 in Cina 214! I'm looking forward to the class.

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs

http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/>

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 course management system before, you might find it helpful to view the Canvas Student Guide.