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Peoples and Cultures of Europe Week 8

Éire

Ireland: The Emerald Isle, The Island of Saints and Scholars

This is going to be a long “week”—*two* weeks long in fact.

Week 8 starts this week and ends after Spring Break. That should give you a chance to rest up—so you can focus when you return to business on the Vernal equinox. Except for, of course, celebrating St. Patrick’s Day on Tuesday, 17 March 2015, just in time for looking at Ireland in class.

This “week” we’re off to Ireland. Everyone loves Ireland, and the Irish love the world and everyone in it. We’ll start off with an orientation to Ireland, all of them. You will see that with Ireland you will test your skill at keeping the **Units of Analysis** straight. (Remember those from Weeks 1-2?)

One of the great films of all time is Robert Flaherty’s *Man of Aran*. It’s a classic, from just this side of silent movie days. *Man of Aran* is also a “Master Text” for Ireland and for Anthropology of Europe as a whole. *Man of Aran* did almost *all* of those things “Master Texts” and “Classics” are supposed to do—including create lasting images that become the popular conceptions of a people, and **it formulated the people as myth.**

Next week, Week 9, after Spring Break, we’ll return to the Aran Islands and let the people—including some of the very same people who “starred” in *Man of Aran*—tell you what *they* think, in ***How the Myth Was Made.***

And before and after *Man of Aran* and *How the Myth Was Made*, we’ll take a walk around ***Inis Óirr*** (*Inish Beag* to John C. Messenger) and many other parts of the Emerald Isle.

We’ll continue our travels with the Irish “Traveller” **Nan Donohoe** in *Nan: The Life of an Irish Travelling Woman*. As I mentioned in class, Nan will be one of those people you remember forever—just as people generally remember their first trip to Ireland forever. If you have been there, you’ll know what I’m talking about. And if you’re going—soon, or sooner or later—you’ll see.

If you haven't already done so, **schedule some serious time blocks to work on your Project**. And be sure to ask, if you have any questions about your Promissory Abstract, your Working Bibliography, or even about your Proposal itself.

One thing you should already have **started to think about is how you might present your findings**. Generally it is a good idea to pretty much finish your paper before you do too much work on your presentation, but, having said that, it is still a good idea to at least start thinking about what your presentation might be like.



If you took the exam the results are in your Moodle Gradebook (check the upper left-hand corner of your Moodle HomePage under "Administration").

Profs "grading" exams is a lot like an ump in Major League Baseball calling balls and strikes. The Major League rules are clear

<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cegrades.html#strikezone>> as are the stated criteria for written projects and exams <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cegrades.html#title>>.

But, in the end, they are both human judgments.

The biggest difference between a Major League Umpire calling balls and strikes and a professor calling a grade is that you get ejected from the baseball game if you argue balls and strikes (see Section 9.02 Official Baseball Rules <http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp> is that one **should** really question the prof if they didn't like the call, and that is especially true for midterm exams as one can often learn quite a bit that is helpful on the final by looking over and discussing a midterm exam.

Maybe a better analogy would be judging **Olympic Figure Skating, or Gymnastics, or Ski Jumping, Diving** and the

like . . . <<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cegrades.html#gymnastics>>.



If your style is to look at charts, the grading “chart” is at

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

So if, for whatever reason, you didn't like “the call,” e-mail or stop in (Cina 215).

Please pay attention to what the numbers mean in terms of the final course letter grade:

Numerical Example:
 $18/20 + 93/100 + 372/400 = 483/520$
 $= 92.9\%$
 $= A$
(the highest grade the UM system allows)

As usual, if you have any other general or specific questions—especially on your Project, Promissory Abstract and Working Bibliography, or on the Midterm Exam Results, or about the Final Exam—please let me know: <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

EXTRA CREDIT

If you didn't do quite as well as you might have liked on the Midterm Exam, or if you did better than you even hoped on the Midterm exam but want to “bank” some insurance points for your final course grade, think about doing one (or even two—one of each) of the optional extra credit papers.

There are **two Extra Credit options: (A) a case study**, and/or **(B) a review** of a lecture or an approved film (*other* than one of the films we see in class). For the review option you may also *compare* two or more films. (Remember from Week 1, one of the main features of anthropology is that it is *comparative*?)

Details on the extra credit are on-line at

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/extra_credit/ceextracredit.html#title

For this week our course developer, has prepared an on-line survey of the class. Please help us by filling it out honestly, and promptly. Your views are very important in the future development of this course.

The survey is part of our main “Activity” of the week . . .




Student Survey

<<https://ay14.moodle.umn.edu/mod/feedback/view.php?id=389490>>

-  Response to the film Man of Aran (Due End of Week 8, Friday, 13 March 2015; Your Name Will Be Logged) Feedback






Share your ideas with others. It’s always a good idea to share your ideas with others. You can discuss them on-line with the others in class. And you should do that.

s2015 **Student Collaboration Space** for your own personal use

-  [Live chat for Project Collaboration](#) (NOTE: This is NOT the link for the Exam Live Chats)
-  Wiki for Project Collaboration
-  General Student Discussion Area Forum
- QUICKMAIL (see **Moodle** sidebar)

The above items will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under “Student Collaboration Space”.

Remember to check the results of the class Video Responses from earlier weeks when they close. You can find the results in the **Moodle** Blocks where they first appeared. This week have a look at . . .

-  [Results--Kypseli I s2015 File resource](#)
-  [Results--Life Chances: Four Families in a Changing Cypriot Village s2015 File resource](#)
-  [Results--Siileyman the Magnificent s2015 File resource](#)
-  [Results--The Buried Mirror: The Virgin and the Bull s2015 File resource](#)
-  [Results--"Strange Relations" s2015 File resource](#)

In the meantime, if you have any general or specific questions, please let me know <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

Your **Topics** and **Reading Assignments Listings** are available in the Week 8 Block of your **Moodle** folder. **Activities** are listed in your **Moodle** folder.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

