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12 March 2017

Peoples and Cultures of Europe Week 9

## Ireland

### Man of Aran

“How the Myth Was Made”

Brief Presentation on Thursday, 16 March 2017

**UMD Study Abroad opportunities . . .**



More information is available on-line at <<https://studyabroad.wp.d.umn.edu/>>

**W**elcome back to Spring Semester. I hope you had a grand Spring Break. This week we're off to Ireland.

**On Tuesday** we'll have a look at Ireland, focusing on Robert Flaherty's *Man of Aran*.



*Man of Aran* created lasting images and formulated the insular people of Ireland as a popular myth.

What do the people of the Aran Islands think about that?

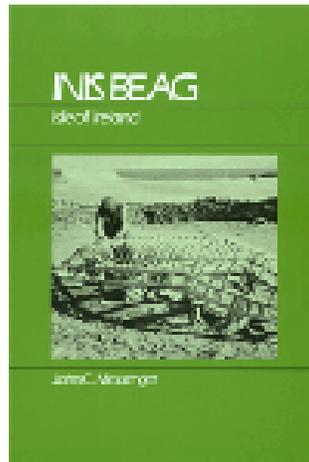
We'll see about that on Thursday in "**How the Myth was Made**".

**“... The work of anthropologists is not only to invent, explore, and make useful the general concept of ‘culture’ but also to invent particular cultures”**

-- Roy Wagner (1975), quoted in Susan Parman,  
[\*Europe in the Anthropological Imagination\*](#) (1998), p. 2

"How the Myth was Made" is a sixty minute documentary about the making of *Man of Aran*, where you will see the actors themselves reflect on the film, and find out what their neighbors think about it.

Next week on Tuesday, Week 10, we'll visit Inish Óirr (aka *Inish Beag*), the smallest of the three Aran Islands. We'll visit the knitters of the famous "Irish Fisherman Sweaters", and have a look around the island, and "the mainland", before we say *Slán agat*.



[Ireland](#)



**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](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.

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



**And this week it's time to . . .**

## **Sign up for your Class Presentation Time**

(See Week 9 **Assignments and Activities**)

**A major part of this course is your research project—not just for the points, but because researching a topic you are interested in and presenting your findings to others, and then writing the results up as a formal paper, is one of the best ways to learn things.** (Lectures, as it turns out, research suggests, are one of the worst ways—keeping in mind that one must separate “learning” from the “*perception* of learning.”) So this week be sure to spend some time working on your **Paper and Presentation**. (Remember that your Presentation is a “work in progress” report on your paper.)

**If I can be of help with your project, please let me know.**

**(Right now there are enough time slots for everyone to sign up. Do not wait until the last minute, or until after the Presentation Sessions have gone by, and then argue that you cannot give your presentation because there is not a time available.)**

The **class Presentations WebPage**, if you would like to review, is at

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

**Sign up below, or in the [Assignments and Activities](#) section of your **Week 9 Moodle Block****

## Take the Student Survey

**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 “Assignments and Activities” of the week . . .**

We greatly appreciate your participation in the course survey. If you didn't fill the Student Survey out yet, please do that (with the “Activities” for Week 8)

### **Student Survey**

<https://ay16.moodle.umn.edu/mod/feedback/view.php?id=772586>

**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.

s2017 **Student Collaboration Space**  
for your own personal use



[Wiki for Project Collaboration](#)

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

Your **Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 9 Block** of your **Moodle** folder, including . . .



[Readings for Week 9](#)



REM: [Student Survey](#) (as discussed above)

## Sign up for Your Class Presentation Time



[Sign up for Class Presentations Session I: Week 13 Day 25, Thursday, 13 April 2017](#)



[Sign up for Class Presentations Session II: Week 14 Day 26, Tuesday, 18 April 2017](#)



[Sign up for Class Presentations Session III: Week 14 Day 27, Thursday, 20 April 2017](#)



[Sign up for Class Presentations Session IV: Week 15 Day 28, Tuesday, 25 April 2017](#)



REM: [The Course in a Nutshell](#) . . .

In a nutshell, ANTH 3635 Peoples and Cultures of Europe consists of three main segments:

**I Orientation and Background** ([slides](#))

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 Europe

**III Student Presentations on Term Research Project**

## Rate and Rank the Film / Video

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 . . .



[\*\*Response to the film \*Man of Aran\*\*\* \(Due End of Week 9, Saturday, 18 March 2017; Your Name Will Be Logged\) Feedback](#)



[\*\*Response to the film "How the Myth was Made"\*\* \(Due End of Week 9, Saturday, 18 March 2017; Your Name Will Be Logged\) Feedback](#)



[Results--\*The Buried Mirror\*: "The Virgin and the Bull" s2017](#)



[Results--"Strange Relations" s2017](#)



[Results--\*Süleyman the Magnificent\* s2017](#)



[Results--\*Life Chances: Four Families in a Changing Cypriot Village\* s2017](#)



[Results--\*Kypseli I\* s2017](#)

If you have any **questions**, post them on the **Moodle** "QUICKMAIL", "Messenger", or e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu), or stop in before or after class across the hall at Cina 215.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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