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26 December 2017

Senior Seminar Week 1



Welcome to Anthropology 4653 Senior Seminar

Available on-line in your



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

I hope you are having a great holiday season.

I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order textbooks on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading one or other of the interesting articles we have for the class (if you are the kind of person who likes to read ahead). 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 be sure to have some lentils on New Years' Day—[an old European tradition said to bring Good Fortune in the New Year](#)). . .

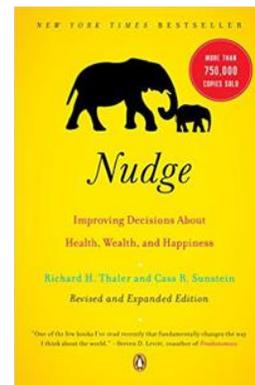
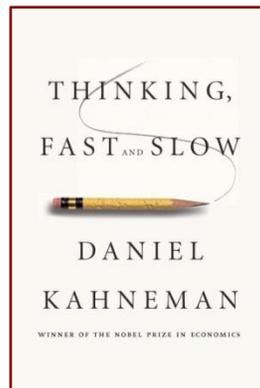
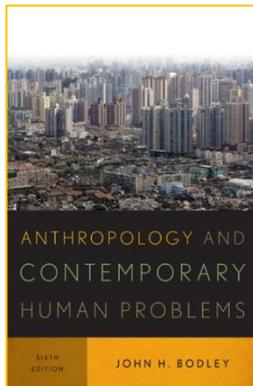
What is a seminar anyway?

Give that some thought in the next few weeks. . . .

Whatever a seminar is, this will be a great one, and a great experience. You will see. . . .

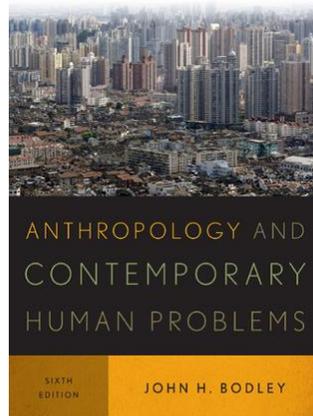
Right off the bat you might be interested in the textbooks for the course. Three texts are required, and as **exams are open-book exams** you should have your own copy of each text. . . .

The Textbooks



Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems, Sixth Edition

by John H. Bodley
(Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 2012).



ISBN-13: 978-0759121584

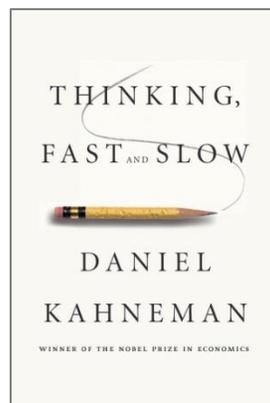
Currently available online new for \$41.40 ppbk., or used from \$9.77
(+ s/h, but currently with "free" shipping from Amazon.com on orders over #25)

(17 November 2017)

Thinking, Fast and Slow

by Daniel Kahneman

(NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013)



ISBN-13: 9780374533557

is currently available on-line new for \$8.36 (ppbk), or used from \$3.03,
or Kindle for \$9.99, and audio from \$43.48.

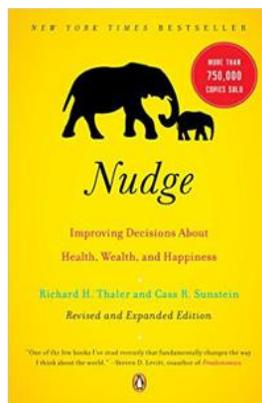
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).

(17 November 2017)

Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness, Revised and Expanded Edition

by [Richard H. Thaler](#) and [Cass R. Sunstein](#)

(NY: Penguin, 2009)



ISBN-13: 978-0143115267

is currently available on-line new for \$15.16 (ppbk), or used from \$13.07 (+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).

(17 November 2017)

More information on the text for Senior Seminar can be found at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/sstext.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](#)

More information on textbooks in general can be found at

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

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.

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.

Midterm exam information is at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/ssexams_midterm.html#title, and the **final exam** information is at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/ssexams_final.html#title.

One thing that you should keep in mind when approaching these readings, which I will talk more about as the seminar progresses, is that, as mentioned above, the exams are open-book. You should read the texts *carefully* and be able to discuss the materials therein *intelligently*. That is, you should read the texts as if you had picked them up at an airport or neighborhood bookshop on the way to Austria or the South Seas *because you were interested in the subjects and wanted to know more about them*, 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 and discussing 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).

Related to that, here are two recent interesting articles, the first from Minnesota Public Radio . . .

A Memo to My Students Re: College and the Real World

-- Maryellen Weimer, Faculty Focus (17 August 2016)

How to choose college classes: 6 tips

--Tracy Mumford, Minnesota Public Radio News (10 September 2015)

**In a nutshell, ANTH 4653 Senior Seminar consists of
three main segments:**

I Orientation and Background (slides; on-line slides)

Introduction

Basic Concepts (Review)

Professional Ethics

History (Review)

Theory (Review)

Methods and Techniques (Review)

Applications

II Explorations

Comparative / Cross-Cultural

Holistic

**Ethnographic Case Studies and Projects from the Real World:
Real People . . . Real Places from Around the Globe**

Anthropology Day Class Project

Panel Discussions on John H. Bodley's *Anthropology and*

Contemporary Human Problems Materials

Contemporary Readings from the "Real World"

Semester Group Research Project: Group Presentation and Group Report (Term Paper)

IIIA Student Panel Discussions

IIIB Student Presentations on Term Group Research Project

Additional General Course Information

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 charter a plane or rent a coach and take 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. So we'll do that occasionally. More information on Visual Anthropology is available online at

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual_anthropology.html#title.

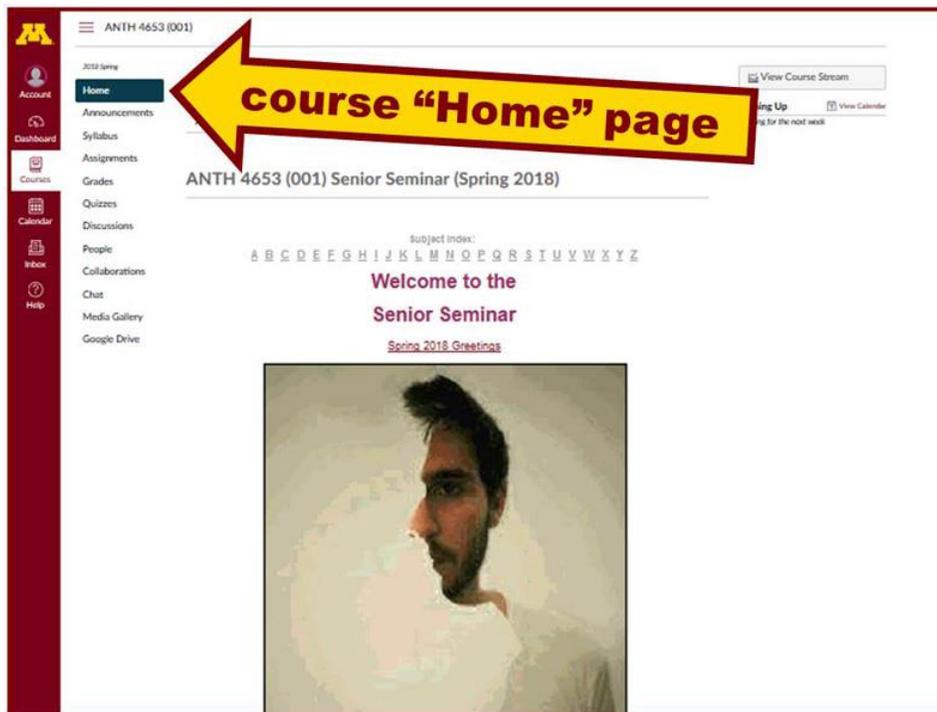
With all of these materials you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others in the **class *Forums* and wikis and general discussions**, and in your **Panel Discussions**, and in your **Group Presentations** and **Group Reports**, and **Anthropology Day** Project Participation. I'm looking forward to that.

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

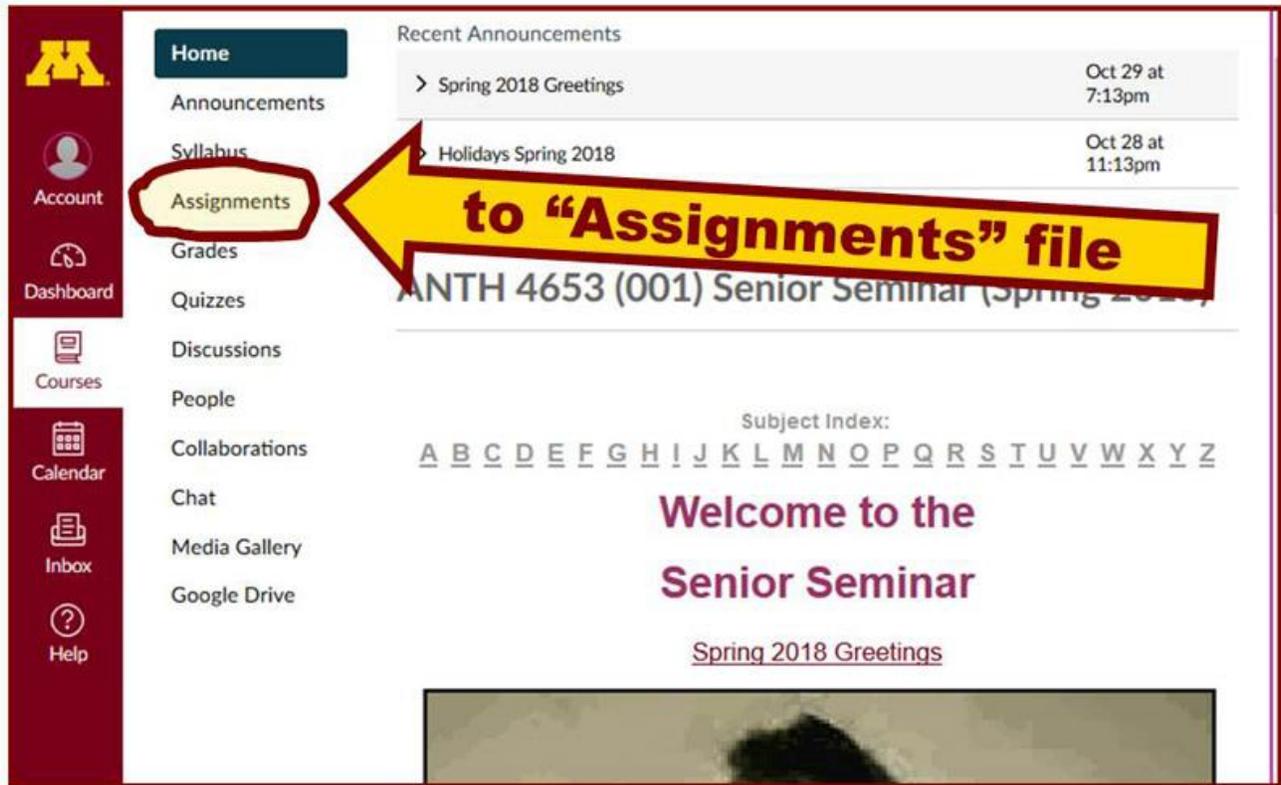
Where to start?

Probably the best place to start is with the **"First Day Handout"**,
online at http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/sshandout_first-day.html#title.

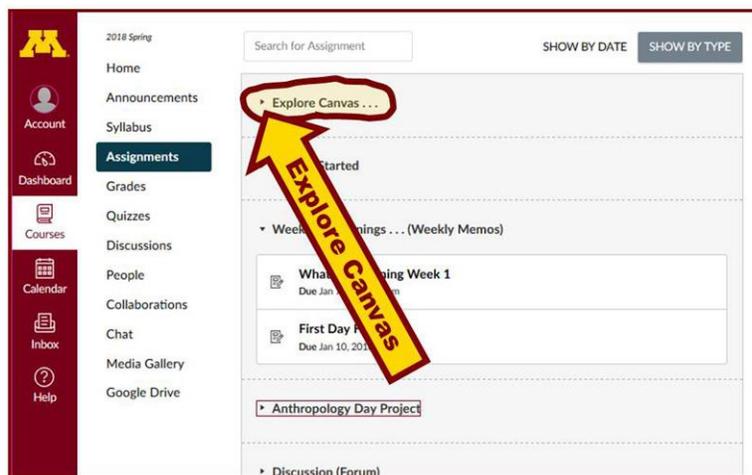
Also have a look at the course **"Home"** page of your Senior
Seminar  canvas folder <http://canvas.umn.edu/>. It will look something like
this . . .



Play around with your Canvas folder materials. . . From your “Home” page go to “Assignments” . . .

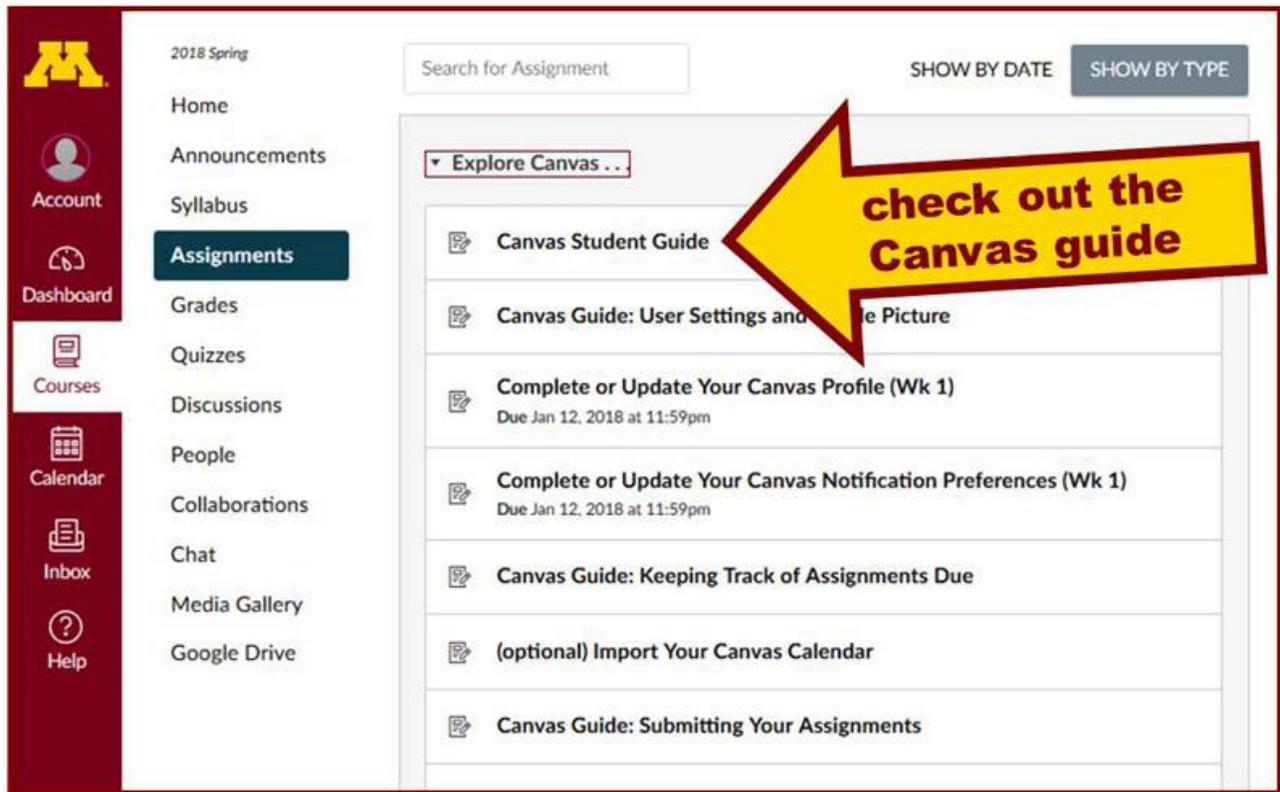


Then look at your Canvas folder materials by clicking the triangle of the “Explore Canvas . . .” drop-down menu.



When the "Explore Canvas . . ." menu drops down, checkout the "Canvas Student Guide".

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



Then checkout the other items that interest you most.

Then set/update your Canvas (1) **"User Settings"** and **"Profile Picture"**.

Complete or update your (2) **"Canvas Profile"**.

Then set your (3) **"Canvas Notification Preferences"**.

The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS dashboard for the 2018 Spring semester. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Announcements, Syllabus, **Assignments** (highlighted), Grades, Quizzes, Discussions, People, Collaborations, Chat, Media Gallery, and Google Drive. The main content area shows a search bar and buttons for 'SHOW BY DATE' and 'SHOW BY TYPE'. Below these is a section titled 'Explore Canvas...' containing a list of guides: 'Canvas Student Guide', '1 Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture', '2 Complete or Update Your Canvas Profile (Wk 1) Due Jan 12, 2018 at 11:59pm', '3 Complete or Update Your Canvas Notification Preferences (Wk 1) Due Jan 12, 2018 at 11:59pm', 'Canvas Guide: Keeping Track of Due Dates', '(optional) Import Your Canvas Profile', and 'Canvas Guide: Submitting Your Assignments'. A large yellow arrow with a red outline points from the 'Grades' link in the sidebar towards the '1 Canvas Guide: User Settings and Profile Picture' item.

Then have a look at your  **Gradebook folder**, which gives a nice listing of the actual requirements and due dates for all of the requirements of the course. (You'll find the link for that in the Course Navigation column on the left-hand side of your "Home" page.)

The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS Home page. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home (highlighted), Announcements, Syllabus, Assignments, **Grades** (circled in yellow), Quizzes, Discussions, People, Collaborations, Chat, Media Gallery, and Google Drive. The main content area shows 'Recent Announcements' with two items: 'Spring 2018 Greetings' (Oct 29 at 7:13pm) and 'Holidays Spring 2018' (Oct 28 at 11:13pm). Below this is a 'Subject Index' with letters A through Z. At the bottom, it says 'Welcome to the Senior Seminar' and 'Spring 2018 Greetings'. A large yellow arrow with a red outline points from the 'Grades' link in the sidebar towards the 'Subject Index' area.

2018 Spring

Grades for Test Student Print

Home

Announcements

Syllabus

Assignments

Grades

Quizzes

Discussions

People

Collaborations

Chat

Media Gallery

Google Drive

Account

Dashboard

Courses

Calendar

Inbox

Help

Arrange by

Assignment Group

Name	Score	Out of
(optional) Import Your Canvas Calendar		0
Due: Introduce Yourself to the Class (Wk 1)	Jan 13, 2018 by 11:59pm	
What's Happening Week 1	Jan 7, 2018 by 8am	- 0
First Day Handout	Jan 10, 2018 by 4pm	- 0
What things should not be discussed in this seminar? (Wk 2)	Jan 17, 2018 by 4:45pm	- 1

set your preference

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

I hope you had 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 will be 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)

**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?**

The University is scheduled to open your  **canvas** site on January 3rd.
Have a look at it at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>.

**So once again, welcome to the
Anthropology Senior seminar. This *will*
be a great course, and a great
experience.**

You will see. . . .

Thanks for signing on for the Anthropology Senior Seminar. I am looking forward to meeting you in class at 4:00 p.m. on the 10th 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 

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.

See you on the 10th.

Best of the warm Holiday Wishes to you . . .

I hope you had 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 2017

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**.