Getting Started

I’m looking forward to Wednesday.

The Senior Seminar gets underway at 4:00 in Cina Hall 214.

Why have a Senior Seminar?

What is a seminar anyway?

What should a Senior Seminar should focus on?

What things should not be discussed?

Think about that a bit.
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
- 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 Paper
- Information on In-Class Films and Videos (of which there will be many, starting next week)
- Breaking News Items
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


Currently available online new for $45.06 ppbk., or used from $8.94 (+ s/h, but currently with "free" shipping from Amazon.com on orders over $25)
Thinking, Fast and Slow
by Daniel Kahneman
(NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013)


is currently available on-line new for $9.69 (ppbk), or used from $5.03,
or Kindle for $9.99, and audio from $23.52.
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for Amazon Prime).

Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness, Revised and Expanded Edition
by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein
(NY: Penguin, 2009)
As I mentioned in my last memo, the 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 each, 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>.

For the exams you should normally just need to read the books carefully and be able to discuss them intelligently. That is, you should read these as if you had picked it/them up at an airport or neighborhood bookshop on the way to Austria or the South Seas 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.

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 Education Life, 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 is an interesting article from Minnesota Public Radio . . .

**A Memo to My Students Re: College and the Real World**
-- Marvellen Weimer, Faculty Focus (17 August 2016)

With all of the class materials you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others in the class Discussions and wikis. And, of course, you will share your ideas in your Panel Discussions, and in your Group Presentations and Group Reports. I'm looking forward to that.

As I mentioned in my earlier memo,

**overall, this course 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

Keep in mind that 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. Anthropology, is basically a **“bottom-up” approach** (rather than a “top down” approach) to studying people and their culture(s). 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](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1604/visual_anthropology.html#title).

And remember too that another of the main characteristics of American Anthropology is that it is **holistic**.
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 Senior Seminar [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/anth4653/sshandout_first-day.html#title>.

Then have a look at your canvas "Syllabus" folder:

![Canvas Syllabus Link]

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 4653 Anthropology Senior Seminar. 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 canvas folder, and on your canvas “Calendar”. This week they include . . .

📖 Reading Assignments for Week 1
Introduce Yourself to the Class (Due by the end of Week 1—Saturday, 13 January 2018)

Complete or Update Your Canvas Profile as Part of Your Introduction

Complete or Update Your Canvas Notification Preferences

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 Wednesday the 10th at 4:00 p.m. 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.