I’m sorry we missed class last week. Weather, dangerous driving conditions, and a medical helicopter closing down I-35 at Lino Lakes to transport a crash victim, all combined to turn what should have been an easy six-hour trip from Des Moines, Iowa, to a hazardous almost-two-day event.

In any event, I hope your first week with the Senior Seminar materials went well, and that your efforts so far have been enjoyable, and that you are liking the readings and other materials.

Each week as we go along I will send you a memo like this about the highlights for the coming week, usually on Sunday. The memos will talk about the main items and issues for the weeks, and they will also contain a few important reminders.
These memos will also be available in your “Memos and Announcements” section in Block 1 of your Moodle Folder (the top of “Main Course Page”), along with the other items. So if you prefer to go there for the information, that’s fine. It will be the same on-line as in the e-mail memos.

If you are curious about the others in class, have a look at the "Introduce Yourself" Moodle Page—if you haven’t already. And if you haven’t already checked in and completed that introduction of yourself, please do that now. You’ll find the item at “Introduce Yourself to the Class” notice in the Week 1 block. Say "hi" to the others in class.

If you are curious about me, more than you probably want (or ought) to know is available on the Meet Your Professor page. More that you or anyone needs to know is available, with some nice photos, at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/anthfood/PowerPoint/af-meet_your_prof.pptx>

Not long ago one of the students seemed to especially like the part where the older folks in my home town of Winsted, MN, talk about the time I burnt the Town Hall by my dad’s restaurant down (which I didn’t, I only burnt half of the back side off.)

(If you need to upgrade your PowerPoint viewer, you can do that free at <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=13>.)

You should be thinking about the questions . . .
Why have a Senior Seminar?
What is a seminar anyway?
What should a Senior Seminar should focus on?
What things should not be discussed?

And you should be coming up with some answers with which you feel comfortable.

If you have not yet entered your personal list of topics and items you think a Senior Seminar should focus on, and what the main ethical precepts of Anthropology should be, please do that right now . . .

Freelisting: List the topics and items you think a Senior Seminar should focus on

Freelisting: List the main ethical precepts of Anthropology

Over the next couple of weeks we’re going to review the basic analytic, methodological, theoretical and historical frameworks of American Anthropology. This material should provide a little refresher on the background and analytical tools you might find useful in making sense out of the specific content topics that unfold as we go along, such as the topic you pick for your Panel Discussion and the topic you pick for your Group Project. . . .
In the Senior Seminar you will need to lead two panel discussions on chapters from *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems, Sixth Edition*, and actively participate in and contribute to a group research project. I’ll talk about these as we go along, but here’s a preview of the Panel Discussion material . . .

**For your Panel Discussions . . .**

This week carefully look over the "*Table of Contents*" to *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems, Sixth Edition*

- Look carefully at the contents of Chapters 1-7, taking note of the problems/issues in which you are (or might be) particularly interested

- Start thinking about what anthropology "has to say" about the issues that you have selected

- Start talking with/texting others in class who might have similar interests

  - Each panel discussion should have no more than three Presentation leaders, with "audience" participation

  - You should be on two panels with different people

- **This week, or by the end of Week 3**, Sign up to be a discussion leader for two Panel Presentations (in Block One of your Moodle folder . . . note that the Ch. 1 Panel is Wednesday of Week 4)
• **Sign up early for choice selections.** If your first choices have already been taken, please select (an) alternate(s). (Three persons per Chapter/Panel)

Refer to the "**Table of Contents**" to *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems, Sixth Edition* for chapter details

- **Ch. 1: Week 4 Day 6 Wednesday, 1 February 2017**

- **Ch. 2: Week 6 Day 10 Wednesday, 15 February 2017**

- **Ch. 3: Week 8 Day 14 Wednesday, 1 March 2017**

- **Ch. 4: Week 9 Day 16 Wednesday, 15 March 2017**

- **Ch. 5: Week 10 Day 18 Wednesday, 22 March 2017**

- **Ch. 6: Week 11 Day 20 Wednesday, 29 March 2017**

- **Ch. 7: Week 12 Day 21 Monday, 3 April 2017**
This week and next we’ll also explore class projects.

For your Class Group Project, start with something that you and the others in your group, are personally interested in, and we’ll work things out from there.

The Group Project is something with which you should be able to have fun. It consists of a Group Research endeavor, culminating in a Group Presentation and a Group Report (Term Paper)

It’s a good time to have a look at the information for your class project, which you can find at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/ssproject.html#title>.

Demosthenes Practising Oratory (1870)  Charles Dickens (1842)

Details of Presentation  Details of Term Paper
Your *Informal Project Statement, or Project Proposal*, is due by the end of Week 5, *Saturday, 11 February 2017*. Basically that’s a short informal summary personal statement of what you are interested in doing, how you think you might go about it, and what resources you are thinking about using. It can be as simple as the following:

“For our project we’re thinking about X, or Y, and these are the items we’re thinking about using [add short list]. This is why we’re interested in this/these project(s) [add your reason(s)]. . . .

It is an informal statement. A more formal statement will come later on (in Week 7).

We will talk a little bit about Picking a Topic for your Class Project in class. If you have trouble getting started on your project—which right now is basically just selecting a subject or two that might work for you—let me know and I’ll help you work out an interesting topic.

**Major Due Dates** are listed at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/ssdue-dates.html#title>

[Including Term Paper / Exams / Extra Credit Papers . . . not including *Forum* and Review assignments. . . . Weekly assignments are virtually all due by the end of the week in which they are assigned.]

Do you want a list of all of the due dates for assignments? Click on "Grades" in the upper-left-hand corner of your Moodle screen?
If you have any questions about the Panels/Chapters or Research Projects, please do not hesitate to bring them up in class, or post them on the Moodle "Messenger", or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu.

A final note: Students in the past have commented that there is TOO MUCH INFORMATION available on the class Moodle and supporting WebSites.

Yes, there is a lot of information, no doubt about it, and it can be confusing at first. It’s helpful when starting out to remember that the required information for the course is contained in the middle panel of your Moodle folder. The information in the sidebars and many of the links are just there should you find those interesting and/or helpful (especially for your Term Project).
Clicking on the little square symbol on the upper right-hand side of Block 1 (circled above) will clear your screen of the sidebar materials, and will focus on the Main Panel.
Use the no-clutter screen for most tasks . . .

Please heed the earlier word of caution. Moodle recommends that you use the Firefox browser (available free at <http://firefox.com>). The Windows Internet Explorer (IE) occasionally will not display items on your screen. These items will simply not be there on IE when they are fine on or even on Chrome. Microsoft Word should likewise not be used to cut and paste things to Moodle: bad things can happen to your file if you do—randomly. Almost every time you are asked to enter text in Moodle, you will see the message, “Please do not copy/paste text directly from Microsoft Word. See explanation here <http://www1.umn.edu/moodle/issues.html#11p>.” Please pay attention to that request.

Your Assignments and Activities listings are available in the Week 2 Block of your Moodle folder. Be sure to check the details of the activities and assignments of the week in your Moodle folder. With the Week 2 “Activities” we’d like to get an idea of what you think a Senior Seminar should be, and get you started thinking about your Project. . . .
This week the Assignments and Activities include . . .

**Reading and Review Assignment for Week 2**

Remember: the exams will be open-book essays, so you should have your own copy of the texts. Midterm exam information is at [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/ssexams_midterm.html#title](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](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4653/ssexams_final.html#title).

**Sign Up for Your Panel Presentation this Week, or by the End of Week 4**

**Have a look at and start thinking about your Semester Group Project. Talk about it with others in class.**

**Start talking with others in class about forming a Research Group**

If you have any questions right now, about the class and/or the assignments, Panels, or Group Project—or whatever—please do not hesitate to post them on the Moodle “QUICKMAIL”, "Messenger", or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop in before or after class across the hall at Cina 215.

**A Reminder: Your Typical Week in Senior Seminar looks like this . . .**
Have a great Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Best Regards,

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