

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Duluth Campus

*Department of Anthropology,
Sociology & Criminology
College of Liberal Arts*

*228 Cina Hall
1123 University Drive
Duluth, Minnesota 55812-3306*

*Office: 218-726-7551
<http://www.d.umn.edu/socanth>
Email: socath@d.umn.edu*

15 August 2019


Understanding Global Cultures Welcome



[Tim Roufs](#), Brisbane, Australia, 2017

Welcome to Understanding Global Cultures

Available on-line in your

 **canvas** folder at

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

**This will be a great course, and a great experience.
You will see. . . .**


Some people like to procrastinate. Others like to arrive early, and in some ways they're "pre-crastinators".

I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order the textbook on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading some of the interesting materials that we have for the class (if you are the kind of person who likes to do that sort of thing). Or you might want to start watching one or other of the internationally-award-winning films and videos that we have lined up for the class. If none of these options apply to you, and you feel like a little end-of-the-summer procrastination, just relax and enjoy the wonderful fall weather, or maybe even take a trip to the Minnesota State Fair.

Interest in Understanding Global Cultures has never been higher, and more important . . .

We'll have a look at Global Cultures, as well as at the folks in Global Cultures looking at us.

I am looking forward to meeting you in class on the 27th at 11:00 a.m. in Cina 214.

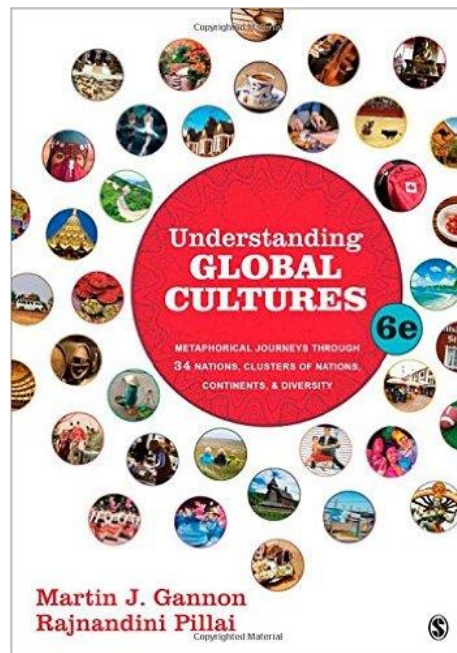
At your convenience, have a look at the information in your  canvas folder at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>.

**Detailed information
on the textbook for the course
can be found at**

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/fstext.html#title>.

The text is *Understanding Global Cultures: Metaphorical Journeys Through 34 Nations, Clusters of Nations, Continents, and Diversity, Sixth Edition*

(Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2015)



Understanding Global Cultures, Sixth Edition (2015) is currently available on-line for \$84.60 new, and \$37.00 used, and rent (from Amazon) \$21.82, and eTextbook from \$39.92 to \$68.00.

(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25).

[It has also been offered on-line for as much as \$333.28, or even more, so be careful to check prices.]

(8 August 2019)

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](#)
| [Direct Textbook](#) | |

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 the text you plan to use in the exams.

For the exams you should normally just need to read the text and other assigned works *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, or read them in the morning or on-line paper, because you were interested in the subject and wanted to know more about the subject, 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 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.

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 ". . . 'creativity' was the factor most crucial for success found in an I.B.M. survey of 1,500 chief executives in 33 industries." (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)

With all of the class materials **you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others** in the **Class Discussions**.

**In a nutshell, this course consists of
three main segments:**

I Orientation and Background

- **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 the Globe**

III Student Presentations on Term Research Projects

For the first part of the course much of the material for the week will be presented in the form of text materials and slide materials. **In the second section** of the semester, once you have mastered the basic information relating to Understanding Global Cultures, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 01) at a series of video materials from around the world. **The final section** will focus on your research projects.

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 rent a bus or charter a plane and fly 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, and we will do a lot of that this semester. More information on **Visual Anthropology** is available on-line at



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

In laying out a course one has many options. Given that time is limited one can, for example, opt for an approach that portrays basic features of a large number of cultures/countries, or one can focus more in-depth on a limited number of topics and cultures/countries. In class, we will focus more in-depth on topics and cultures/countries, focusing on a few rather than many. The readings, on the other hand, present a broader view, featuring over three dozen cultures/countries/regions. Together, the text plus the in-class materials should give you a "pretty good" Understanding of Global Cultures.

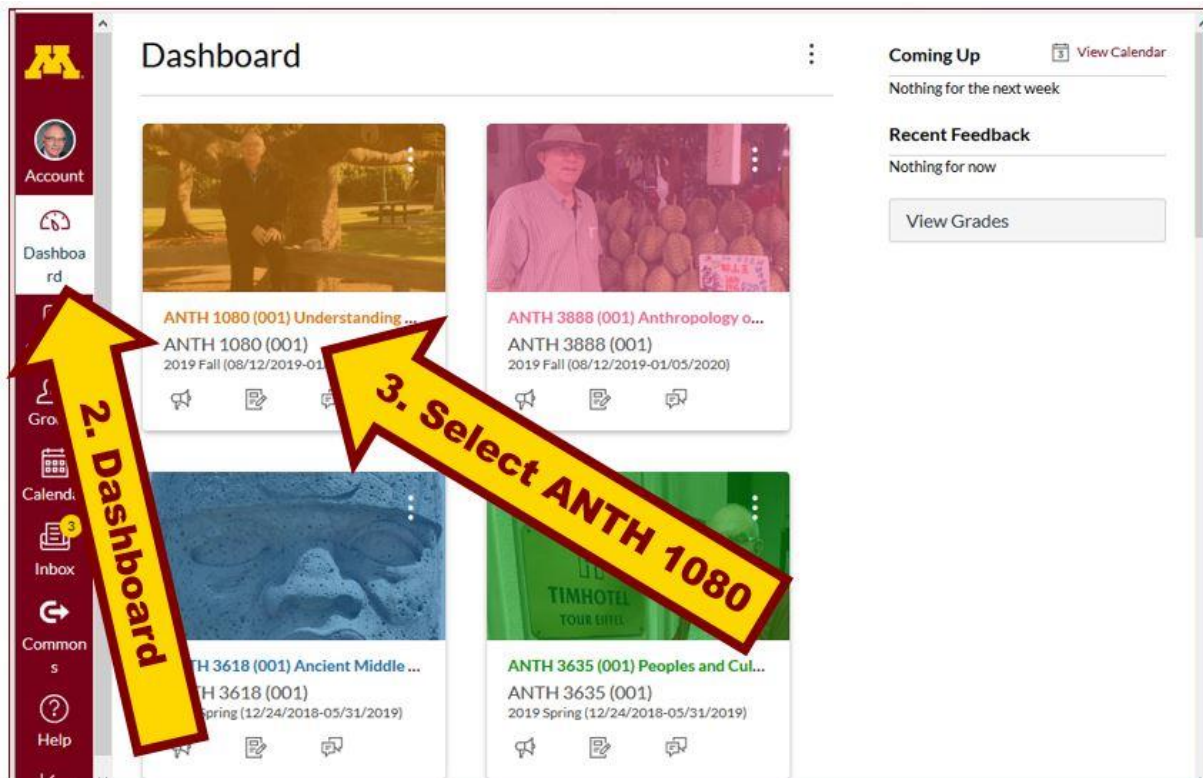
**You will find that there is
"an awful lot" of materials on-line—
maybe even too many!**


Where to start?

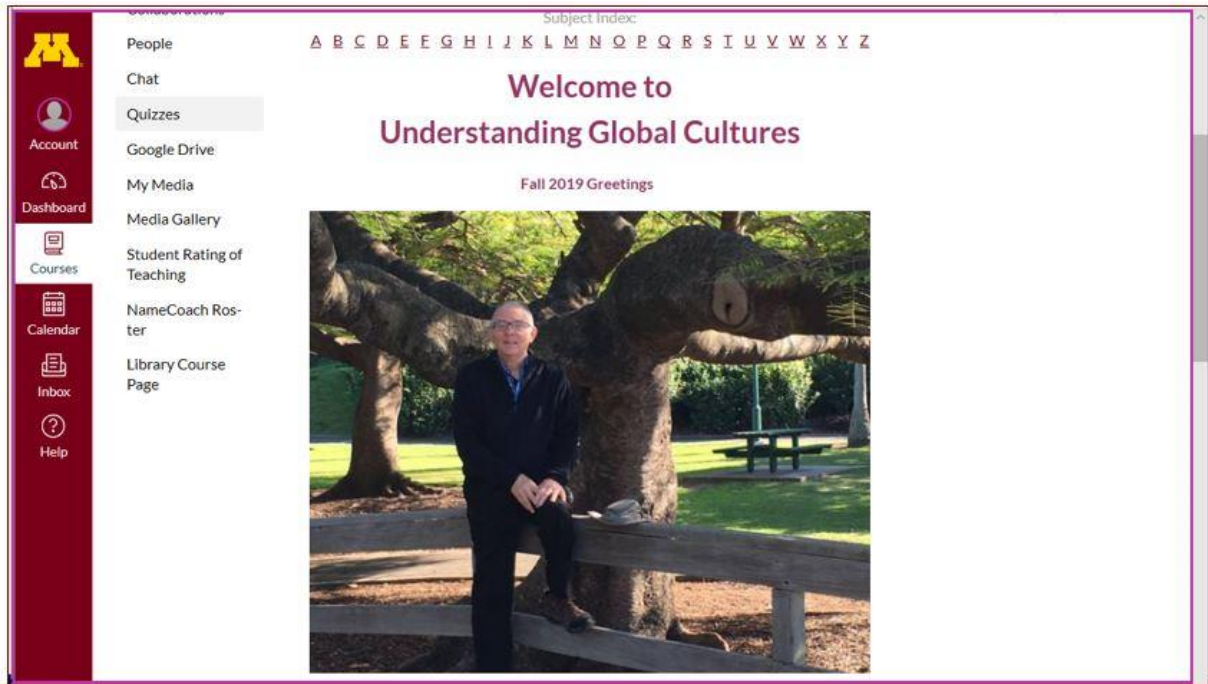
Probably the best place is by having a quick look at the "[First Day Handout](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/gcfhandout_first-day.html#title)" on-line at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/gcfhandout_first-day.html#title>.

1. Open your  **Folder and have a look around** (once it is made available on-line) . . .
<<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>
2. Go to your  **Dashboard, and . . .**
3. **Select ANTH 1080 . . .**

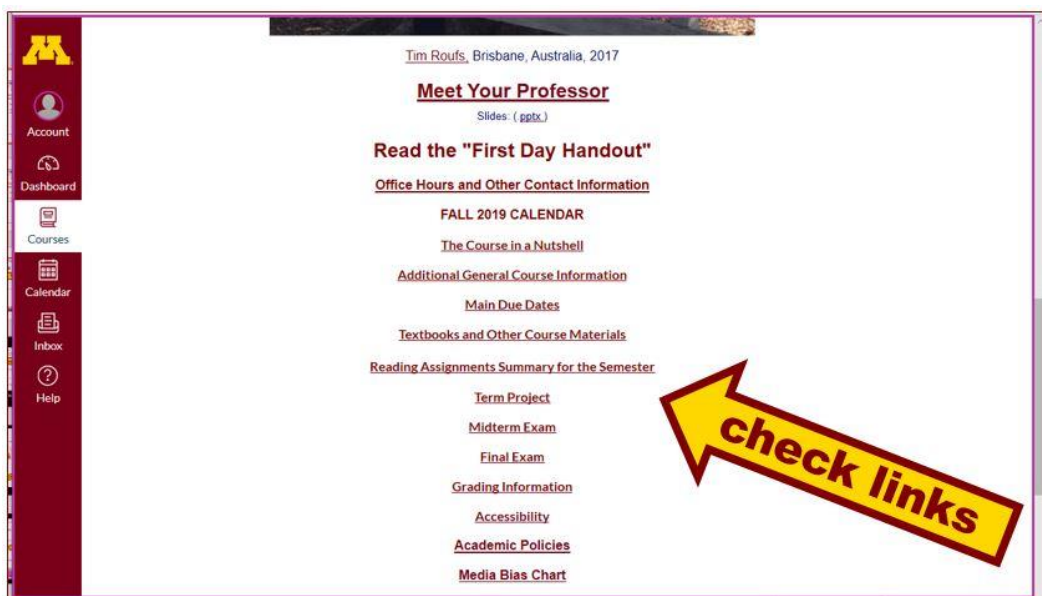
It will look something like this . . .



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



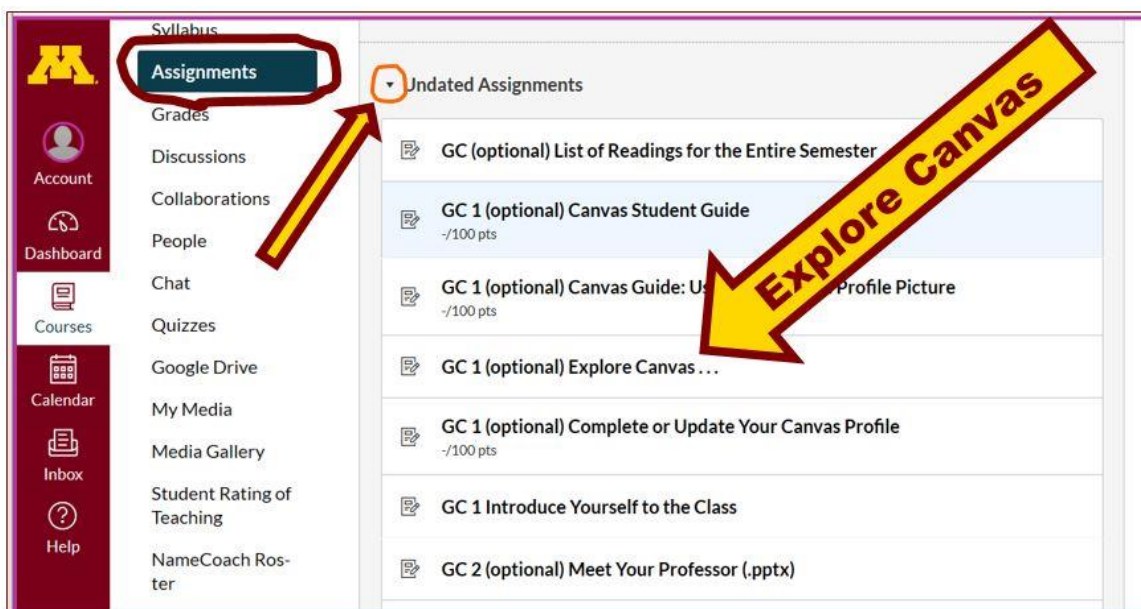
Check the links on your **“Home”** page . . .



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

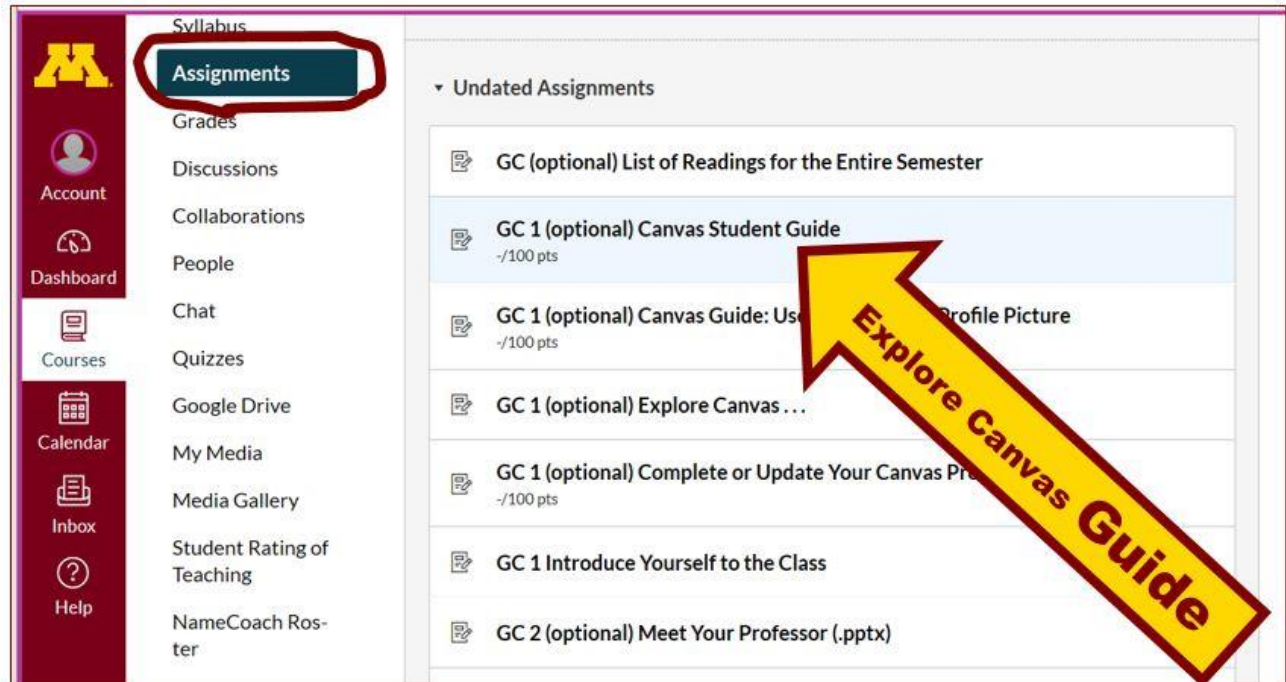


Then look at your Canvas folder materials by clicking the triangle of the “Explore Canvas . . .” drop-down menu.

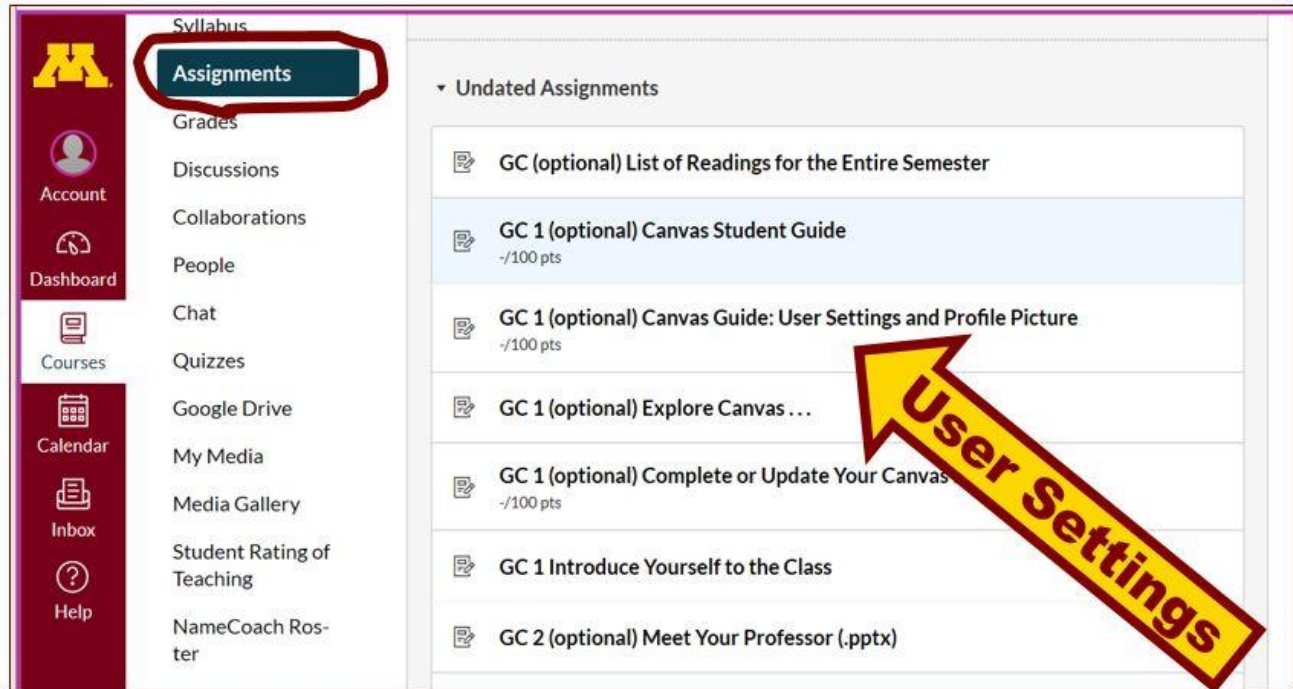


When the "Explore Canvas . . ." menu drops down, checkout the "Canvas Student Guide".

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

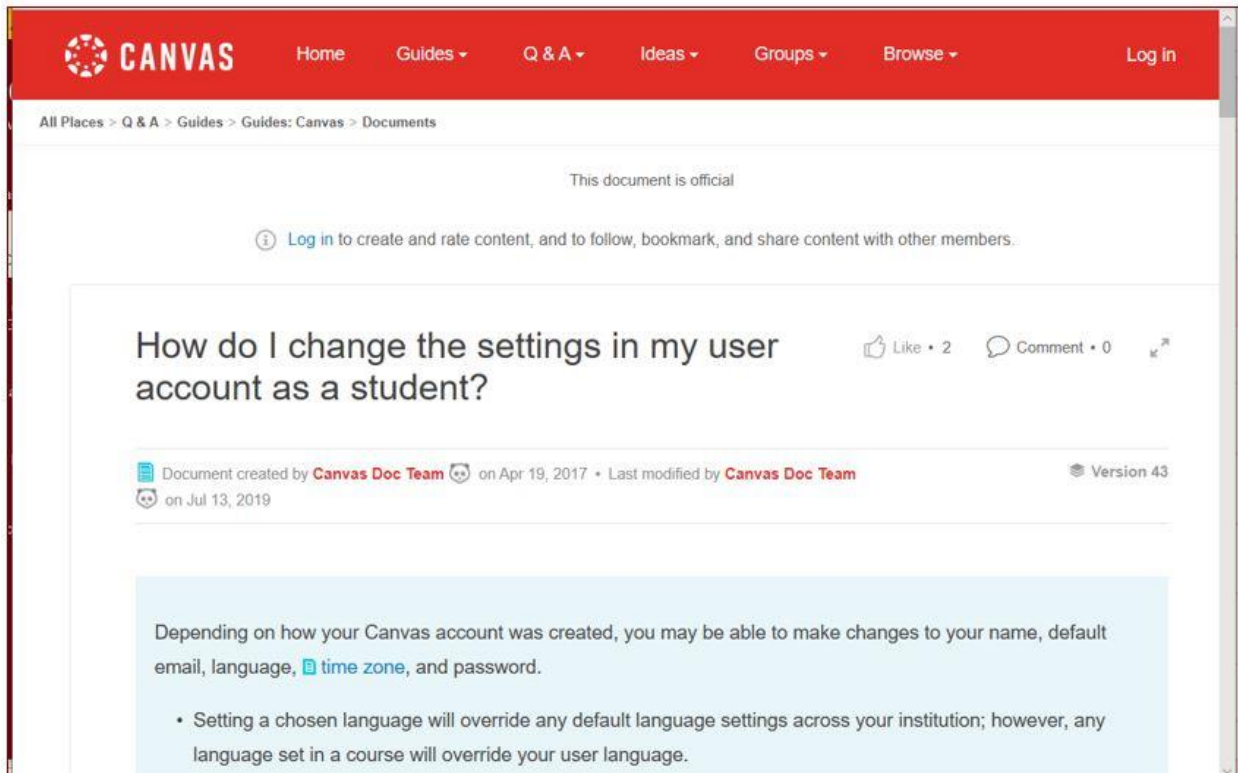



Then checkout the other items that interest you most.
Then set/update your Canvas (1) **"User Settings"** and **"Profile Picture"**.
Complete or update your (2) **"Canvas Profile"**.
Then set your (3) **"Canvas Notification Preferences"**.



Your Canvas User Settings information looks like this . . .

link: <<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10614-4212710341>>



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.)



2019 Fall (08/12/2019-01/0...

Grades for Test Student

Print Grades

Arrange By

Due Date

Name	Score	Out of
(optional) GC List of Readings for the Entire Semester	-	0
GC Wk 1 Readings		Aug 26 by 11:01am
GC Wk 1 Orientation		Aug 27 by 11am
GC Wk 1 First Day Handout		Aug 27 by 11:01am

Your  canvas site is now open.

Have a look at it at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>.

**So once again, welcome to Anth 1080
Understanding Global Cultures.
This *will be* a great course, and a great
experience.
You will see. . . .**

**I'm looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, the 27th,
in Cina 214, at 11:00 a.m.**

Thanks for signing on for Global Cultures. I am looking forward to “meeting” you in. 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>.

Finally, **laptops** are welcome, in fact encouraged, in the classroom. Many find a laptop quite useful in following the lectures as all lectures are web supported. You can, for example, download all of the slide materials used in class.




**Having said that, consider the latest research that suggests that . . .
"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).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to post them on  canvas or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu.

See you soon.

Tim Roufs
Duluth, MN
15 August 2019

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**.