

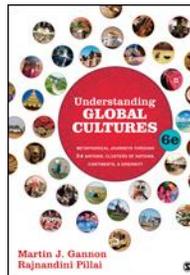
Global Cultures Week 9

[🔗](#) = leave page

 [canvas](#) [🔗](#)

[Syllabus](#) [🔗](#)

[Calendar](#) [🔗](#)



What's Happening this Week

[Main Due Dates](#) [🔗](#)

1. General Comments for the Week

This week we're off to China and Singapore, and to Malaysia where we'll have a look at Chinese pigs. We'll see the importance of pigs and eating pigs in the religions of the Chinese and Malay populations in Malaysia. We'll see how religious questions of what you eat or do not eat can tear families, and whole cultures, apart. And that's all part of their *religion*.

And, on the other hand, in "Food for Body and Spirit" we'll see how food as part of the Buddhist religion *holds Chinese culture together*. . . . We'll see a Taoist monastery, a sacred Taoist retreat high on Blue City Mountain in Sichuan Province, which has a thousand year history. . . .

Those two video presentations are part of *a controlled comparison*

involving Chinese : Buddhism : Food in China and Malaysia.

Remember from Weeks 1 & 2 that “The Comparative Method” is one of the main characteristics of American Anthropology? (cf., [.pptx](#))

And speaking about religion, we’ll see what the Pope has to say, and what you have to say about what the Pope has to say.

These are debates of the times. And some of the debates have been going on for two thousand years or more. Towards the end of the semester we’ll have a closer look at three of the perineal classic debates. Till then, we’re off to China, Singapore, and Malaysia.

2. In the-News This Week

[Fake News / Media Bias Chart](#)

Sign Up in “Collaborations:

<<https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/184180/collaborations>>



Global Cultures News-of-the-Week Summaries

F2020

China – tba

Singapore – Zachary F.

3. Live Chat: Open Forum / Office Hours

[Contact Information](#)

Tuesday, 27 October 2020 @ 7:00-8:00 p.m. (CDT)

“ZOOM”

[click  here]

or

e-mail anytime: <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>

[\[click ↑ here\]](#)



Live Chat is optional. Transcripts of the discussions will be available in your Chat folder.

4. Video Explorations

Real People . . . Real Places . . .

Videos for the Semester [↗](#)

[▶](#) *The Pig Commandments*

[Chinese and Malay in Malaysia]

(72 min., 2005)

On-line Access [↗](#)

[\[click ↑ here\]](#)

transcript

肉

course viewing guide

**In this film we see how religion *tears apart*
traditional Malaysian Chinese culture.**



Taste of China, Part 2,

[▶](#) **“Food for Body and Spirit”**

[China]

(29 min., 1984)

On-line Access [↗](#)

[\[click ↑ here\]](#)

[course viewing guide](#)



5. This Week's Slides

[Class Slides for the Semester](#)

No new slides this week

6. Readings for the Week

[Readings for the Semester](#)

China

Singapore

7. Other Assignment Information

[Main Due Dates](#)

[Calendar](#)

Week 9 Calendar

For other optional items for the week check

“Calendar” or “Syllabus”

Questions? Comments?

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Remember from Weeks 1 & 2 that "The Comparative Method" is one of the main characteristics of American Anthropology? (*cf.*, [.pptx](#) )

Major Characteristics of Anthropology

slides: ([.pptx](#))

([Download PowerPoint Viewer Free](#)) ([Download Adobe .pdf Reader Free](#))

[see note on slide formats]

(NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers some very important background information that will be referred to often as we go through the semester. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also.)

- the **four fields** of general anthropology
- **culture** as a primary concept
- **comparative method** as major approach
- **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
- **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

[WebPage Summary](#)

Chart: "[Anthropology and . . . It's Parts](#)"

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2. In-the-News This Week

[Fake News / Media Bias Chart](#)

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Global Cultures News-of-the-Week Summaries

F2020

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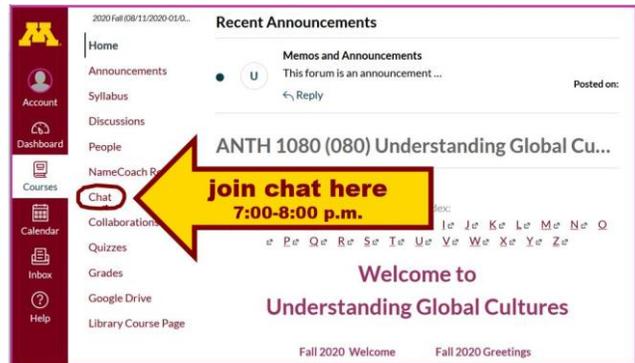
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[click ↑ here]



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4. Video Explorations

Real People . . . Real Places . . .

[Videos for the Semester](#)

 ***The Pig Commandments***
[Chinese and Malay in Malaysia]
(72 min., 2005)

[On-line Access](#)

[click ↑ here]

[transcript](#)

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[course viewing guide](#)

In this film we see how religion *tears apart* traditional Malaysian Chinese culture.

"To Chinese, pig symbolizes prosperity and health. Pork is the principle ingredient of the main course of Chinese feasts and it is the best choice of offerings. In contrast, pig is unclean to Muslims. It surely would not be found on their dining table. Conflict is inevitable when these two values meet. The scene is set in Malaysia, home to 12 million Muslims and 6 million Chinese. A group of Chinese who make their living in the pig business confronts Muslims who are forbidden to eat pork; Chinese Muslims are often caught in the crossfire. What is the solution to this deep-rooted ethnic dilemma?"

"This fascinating film illustrates how religious differences, even on the basic level of dietary prohibitions, can affect the way neighbors interact. It focuses on Malaysia, home to 12 million Muslims and 6 million Chinese. Islam bans the eating of pork, considering it unclean, while the Chinese have treasured pork for thousands of years. The ancient Chinese character for 'home' was a pig. For the Chinese the pig is a symbol of prosperity and all celebrations involve a pig roast."

"*Pig Commandments* outlines the ways in which the Muslim prohibition to eat pork affects the relationship between the Chinese and Muslims in this part of the world. There is legislation to keep pig farms away from the Muslim population. Many Chinese in Malaysia have converted to Islam. For them, the Koran has been translated into Chinese; and four chapters of the Koran deal with the prohibition to eating pork. One Chinese convert describes the problem with eating with her family. Only once a year when the Chinese celebrate the New Year with a vegetarian meal, can she join her family at dinner."

"*The Pig Commandments* shows how dietary laws can divide people or bring them closer together. It demonstrates dramatically the social effects of food regulations and the sensitivity of people who are offended by another culture's eating habits. Scholars, religious leaders, and people of both religions express their feelings about this contentious issue. In addition we see how generations of pig farmers are proud of their succulent product."



 **Taste of China, Part 2,**
“Food for Body and Spirit”
[China]
(29 min., 1984)

[On-line Access](#) 

[click  here]

[course viewing guide](#)



"Investigates the impact of religious influences on Chinese cuisine. Takes the viewer into a Taoist temple kitchen and an herbal medicine restaurant. A visit to a monastery illustrates the role of Buddhism in the development of China's extensive and elaborate vegetarian cuisine."

"The Tao of cooking and eating – the Way to health and well-being! This film investigates the impact of religious influences on Chinese culture and cuisine. This is the second film in the classic four-part series, 'A Taste of China,' which remains perhaps the best introduction for Westerners to traditional Chinese culture."

"At a sacred Taoist retreat, high on Blue City Mountain in Sichuan Province, a priestess marinates pickling vegetables and demonstrates how the contrasting forces of yin and yang are balanced and harmonized in food and cooking."

"Following a look behind the scenes of one of China's oldest and best-known herb shops, the film visits an unusual herbal medicine restaurant where the *maitre d'* 'prescribes' meals according to the ailments of each diner."

"Visits to two monasteries illustrate the role of Buddhism in the development of China's extensive and elaborate vegetarian cuisine. At the first, monks demonstrate the making of tofu in the time-

honored way. The second monastery, Ling Ying in the city of Hangzhou, is famous both for its enormous golden Buddha and its enormously popular restaurant. Here water chestnuts are cut to resemble cooked shrimp and a fanciful vegetarian 'fish' takes shape in the hands of a talented chef."

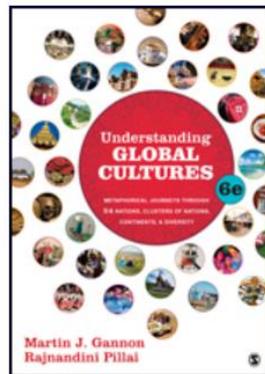
5. This Week's Slides

[Class Slides for the Semester](#)

No new slides this week

6. Readings for the Week

[Readings for the Semester](#)



News-of-the-Week

- China
- Singapore

PART VIII: THE BASE CULTURE AND ITS
DIFFUSION ACROSS BORDERS
(CLUSTERS OF NATIONS): THE EXAMPLE
OF CHINA

**Chapter 23: China's Great Wall and Cross-
Cultural Paradox**

**Chapter 24: The Chinese Family Altar: The
Expatriate Chinese Outside of China**

**Chapter 25: The Singapore Hawker
Centers**

Video

The Pig Commandments
[Chinese and Malay in Malaysia]

(72 min., 2005)

[on-line access](#)

[course viewing guide](#)

Food for Body and Spirit
[China]

(29 min., 1984)

[on-line access](#)

7. Other Assignment Information

[Main Due Dates](#)

[Calendar](#)

Week 9 Calendar

REM: Links on screenshots are not “hot” (active)

REM: Click “Agenda” for notebook-style

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:01a GC What's Happening Week 9?	8:01a GC Wk 9 Readings . . .	8:01a GC Wk 9 Video: The Pig Commandment (72 min.)	8:01a GC Wk 9 Video: Food for Body and Spirit (29 min.)	1a UMD Fall Break Cancelled by UM	1a UMD Fall Break Cancelled by UM	
(optional) GC Wk 9 For Fun Trivia: What is the smallest country [sovereign entity] recognized by international law?		8:02a GC Wk 9 Black Swans -- Nassim Nicholas Taleb			GC Wk 9 Discussion: What Role Should the Pope Play in Global Cultures?	
		7p (optional) GC Wk 9 Live Chat: (It's fine to stop by for just a few minutes and say hello.)				

Live Chat
Tuesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The links to the videos are on your Canvas calendar

If you have any **questions or comments** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the canvas “Discussions”, or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or ZOOM <https://umn.zoom.us/my/troufs> (E-mail is fastest, and most generally best as quite often URLs need be sent.)

Have a Great Halloween Weekend,

Tim Roufs

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

<https://umn.zoom.us/my/troufs>

[other contact information](#)

P.S. REM: From time to time check the **[Canvas Student Guide](#)**.