

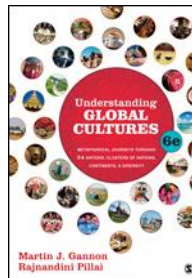
Global Cultures Week 10

[🔗](#) = leave page

 [canvas](#) [🔗](#)

[Syllabus](#) [🔗](#)

[Calendar](#) [🔗](#)



What's Happening this Week

[Main Due Dates](#) [🔗](#)

1. General Comments for the Week

Death is in the Air

This week most of us celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day—Halloween to some. In anthropology “Life Cycle” events have always been of primary interest, including how living folks interact with their departed ancestors, and how the transition from this life to the next (for those who believe in a next life) takes place.

This week visit with families in India who are saying goodbye to their relatives at a sacred location along the Ganges River, in the city of Varanasi. To die in the city of Varanasi, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, one of the most cherished of Hindu religious aspirations in India.

And we'll also have a look at the week's news from India, courtesy of Luke V.

Celebrate with the Dead . . .

Have a look at what happens to celebrate death in Mexico, on *El Dia de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead. It's optional, but very interesting, and short (5:38 min.). I once partied all night with families and friends in a cemetery in Apan, Hidalgo, Mexico, an old Aztec town. It was one of the great experiences of my life. My friends there do that annually, like most Mexicans, as they visit with their deceased relatives who return for the fiesta. You remember how important the Fiesta is to Mexicans from your readings of two weeks ago.

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

India – Luke V.

3. Live Chat: Open Forum / Office Hours

[Contact Information](#)

Tuesday, 3 November 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 [↗](#)

This week we have a look at the internationally acclaimed film . . .

▶ *Ganges: River to Heaven*

[India]

(52 min., 2003)

On-line Access [↗](#)

[click ↑ here]

course viewing guide

"Trigger Alert"

**Warning:
This Film Contains Graphic Images**



(optional)

 **Day of the Dead,
El Día de los Muertos** 

[Oaxaca, Mexico]

(5:38 min., 2003)

 **On-line Access** 

[click  here]



5. This Week's Slides

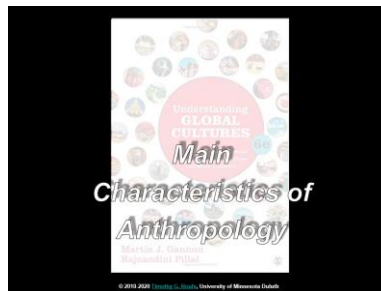
Class Slides for the Semester 

Review (one more time) . . .

“Main Characteristics of Anthropology” 

(.pptx) 

[click  here]



6. Readings for the Week

Readings for the Semester 

India

7. Other Assignment Information

[Main Due Dates](#) 

[Calendar](#) 

Week 10 Calendar

For other optional items for the week check

“Calendar”  or **“Syllabus”** 

Questions? Comments?

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[click  here]

[course viewing guide](#)

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"This documentary explores one of the most cherished of Hindu religious aspirations: to die in the city of Varanasi, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, in the faith that dying here assures liberation from the cycle of earthly life."

"In the city of Kashi [in the location of modern-day Varanasi] the power of Ganga, the Hindu mother-goddess of the Ganges River, is strongest. Each dawn she calls her children to the *ghats*, the steps leading down to the water's edge. The young and strong purify themselves in Ganga's polluted waves. The old and the infirm, too weak for rituals, wait for death. In time, Ganga carries their souls, released from the bondage of reincarnation, to heaven. Their bodies, as ash afloat her crests or flesh submerged in her depths, return to the river. Once privy only to the dead and those who mourned them, the final journey of the devout Hindu is the subject of Gayle Ferraro's latest film, 'GANGES: River to Heaven.'"

"Filmed in a hospice for the dying and on the *ghats* of Kashi, India's religious heart, 'GANGES' follows four families' struggle to grant a loved one's final wish: to go to heaven. In their common quest the families become a fraction of the hordes of Hindus drawn to Kashi's holy promise of freedom from reincarnation. As the clans prepare for death, the citizens of Kashi manage life—praying for health, dumping industrial waste, begging for pocket change, bathing their children, selling to tourists, monitoring fecal chloroform levels, cremating their mothers—all along the banks of the Ganges River. The families' preparations go virtually unnoticed on the river, where death is a daily part of life."

"GANGES: River to Heaven investigates the inextricable bond between a river and its people with unparalleled intimacy and depth. From the *ghat* workers gathering wood for the next cremation, to the chemists gathering water samples for contamination testing, each perspective sheds new light on India's evolving society and its unchanging veneration of the Ganges. The documentary of a sacred river, polluted from years of overuse, 'GANGES' wonders if the natural force strong enough to sculpt the peaks of the Himalayas and the beliefs of a nation will survive the adoration of generations to come."

(optional)

 **Day of the Dead,**
El Día de los Muertos 

[Oaxaca, Mexico]
(5:38 min., 2003)

 [On-line Access](#) 

[click  here]



Beneath our differences, we are all the same — or as famed Mexican printmaker and creator of the symbolic La Catrina, José Guadalupe Posada, once said, "Todos somos calaveras" — "we are all skeletons." Join Beautiful Destinations creators Cory Martin and Arman Mitchell as they explore the city of Oaxaca, Mexico during Dia de los Muertos, a three-day celebration dedicated to remembering the lives of those who've passed and to support them on their spiritual journey; it's a time to celebrate life, not mourn the loss of it. Have you celebrated life today?

5. This Week's Slides

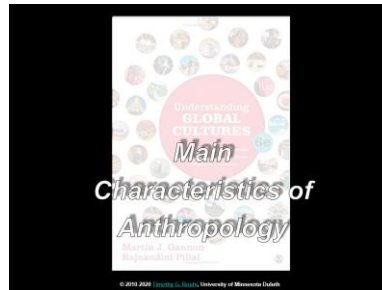
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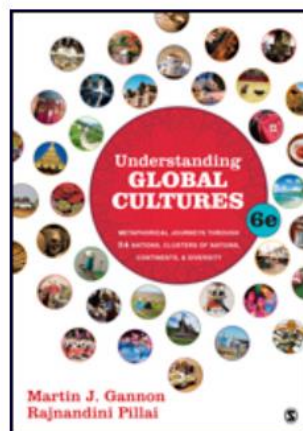
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6. Readings for the Week

[Readings for the Semester](#)



News-of-the-Week

- India

Video

Ganges: River to Heaven
[India]

(52 min., 2003)

[on-line access](#)

[course viewing guide](#)

PART IX: INDIA, TRADITION, MODERNITY,
AND DIVERSITY

Chapter 26: India: The Dance of Shiva

**Chapter 27: India: A Kaleidoscope of
Diversity**

(assigned readings are in bold letters)

7. Other Assignment Information

[Main Due Dates](#)

[Calendar](#)

Week 10 Calendar

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

REM: Click "Agenda" for notebook-style

Dia de los Muertos

Video On-line

Live Chat

Project

Readings

The links to the videos are on your Canvas calendar

Live Chat Tuesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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.)

Best Regards,

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](#)** .