



Global Cultures Week 10



Direct Links  
to Canvas



Available on-line in your  canvas folder at  
<<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>

s2022 [Canvas Modules](#)  
([Module 10](#))

(click links for details)

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

## What's Happening Week 10?

**This week we visit dying pilgrims at the Ganges River in India; it's all part of their traditional "Life Cycle". It's another one of those "Rituals, Gatherings, and Ritual Gatherings" as we witnessed Weeks 7 and 8.**

**And we'll have other news this week from India**

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

(click links for details)

[🔗](#) = leave page



### GENERAL COMMENTS FOR THE WEEK

#### Death is in the Air

This week we're going to the city of Varanasi in India, located along the banks of the sacred Ganges River, where several families share with us their very last moments with their beloved relatives. We'll visit with families who are saying goodbye to their relatives. To die in the city of Varanasi, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, is one of the most cherished of Hindu religious aspirations in India. It is a way of life and death not familiar to most of us.

In anthropology "Life Cycle" events involving life and death have always been of great interest, including how living folks interact with both their departing and departed ancestors, and how the transition from this life to the next (for those who believe in a next life) takes place.

### IN-THE-NEWS WEEK 10

[Media Bias Chart](#)

[Fake News](#)

Sign Up in your Course Google Drive Folder:

s2022 external<<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IbtFKL5IaJmKdZErBz9vhTvFwQG5Uzmff0LFwOspuuE/edit?usp=sharing>>

[India](#) – Ian W.



Global Cultures News-of-the-Week Summaries

(optional) **LIVE CHAT: OPEN FORUM / OFFICE HOURS . . .**

(Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 CDT, or E-mail)

[Contact Information](#)

**VIDEO EXPLORATIONS WEEK 10**

**Real People . . . Real Places . . .**

[Videos for the Semester](#)

 **Ganges: River to Heaven**

[India]

(52 min., 2003)

**WEEK 10 SLIDES**

[Class Slides for the Semester](#)

**“Units of Analysis”**

(.pptx)

[click ↑ here]

**View the “Units of Analysis” slides and use that information to check the Units of Analysis that you are using for your Project . . .**

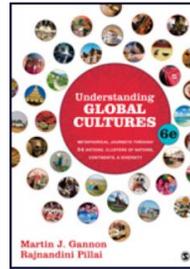
as mentioned in the “Orientation”  
**units of analysis may include:**

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”
- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- the world
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”

**READINGS FOR WEEK 10**

[Readings for the Semester](#)

[Textbook Information](#)



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)

## **OTHER ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION**

Main Due Dates[↗](#)

s2022 **Module 10 – Week 10**[↗](#)

**Life Cycle: Death**[↗](#)

## **PROJECT INFORMATION . . .**

Basic Information[↗](#)

Main Due Dates[↗](#)

REM: **Project Time**

REM: **Project**[↗](#) = **Presentation**[↗](#) + **Term Paper**[↗](#)

**It's time to put some real effort into your Project, both your Term Paper and your Presentation. Start outlining and drafting both.**

**View the “Units of Analysis” slides above and use that information to check the Units of Analysis that you are using for your Project . . .**



## **DISCUSSION WEEK 10 . . .**

No Canvas Discussion this Week.  
Focus on Working on your Project.

(optional) **FOR FUN TRIVIA**

[Trivia HomePage](#)

No Trivia this Week.  
Focus on Working on your Project.

(optional) **EXTRA CREDIT . . .**

[Basic Extra Credit Information](#)

Extra Credit is available in this class.

**OTHER (optional) . . .**

**QUESTIONS? / COMMENTS?**

# General Comments for the Week

## Death is in the Air

This week we're going to the city of Varanasi in India, located along the banks of the sacred Ganges River, where several families share with us their very last moments with their beloved relatives. We'll visit with families who are saying goodbye to their relatives. To die in the city of Varanasi, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, is one of the most cherished of Hindu religious aspirations in India. It is a way of life and death not familiar to most of us.

In anthropology **"Life Cycle"** events involving life and death have always been of great interest, including how living folks interact with both their departing and departed ancestors, and how the transition from this life to the next (for those who believe in a next life) takes place.

And we'll have a look at the week's news from India.

## IN-THE-NEWS WEEK 10

**Be sure to have a look at the news reports of the week . . .**

Sign Up in your Course Google Drive Folder:

s2022 external<<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IbtFKL5IaJmKdZErbZ9vhTvFwOG5Uzmff0LFwOspuuE/edit?usp=sharing>>

[click ↑ here]

**India** – Ian W.



**Global Cultures News-of-the-Week Summaries**

(optional) **LIVE CHAT: OPEN FORUM / OFFICE HOURS . . .**

[Contact Information](#)

Tuesday, 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.

**VIDEO EXPLORATIONS WEEK 10 . . .**

**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**



"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."

## WEEK 10 SLIDES . . .

[Class Slides for the Semester](#)

## **“Units of Analysis”**

(.pptx)

[click ↑ here]

**View the “Units of Analysis” slides and use that information to check the Units of Analysis that you are using for your Project . . .**

**Are the Units of Analysis you are planning to Use for Your Project OK?**

as mentioned in the “Orientation”

### **units of analysis may include:**

- one person**
- the family**
- the community**
- a region**
- a “culture area”**
- a culture / “subculture”**
- a nation**
- the world**
- an item or action itself**
- a “cultural metaphor”**

**And Review the  
“Main Characteristics of Anthropology”**

(.pptx)

[click ↑ here]

**Ask yourself,**

## "How do these characteristics relate to my Term Paper and Presentation?"

Do you use all of them that are appropriate for your topic?

### 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

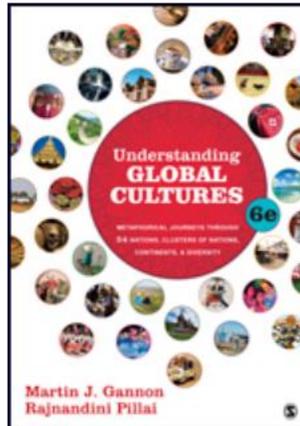
[WebPage Summary](#)

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

## READINGS FOR WEEK 10 . . .

[Readings for the Semester](#)

[Textbook](#)



PART IX: INDIA, TRADITION,  
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**Chapter 26: India: The Dance of  
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(assigned readings are in **bold** letters)

## OTHER ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION . . .

[Main Due Dates](#)

s2022 [Module 10 – Week 10](#)

f2021 [Life Cycle: Death](#)

## PROJECT INFORMATION . . .

[Basic Information](#)

[Main Due Dates](#)

REM: **Project Time**

**REM: Project = Presentation + Term Paper**

**It's time to put some real effort into your Project, both your Term Paper and your Presentation. Start outlining and drafting both.**

**View the “Units of Analysis” and “Major Characteristics of Anthropology” slides above and use that information to check the Units of Analysis that you are using for your Project . . .**



*Demosthenes Practising Oratory* (1870)

**[Details of Presentation](#)**



*Charles Dickens* (1842)

**[Details of Term Paper](#)**

**DUE: DISCUSSION WEEK 10 . . .**

No Canvas Discussion this Week.  
Focus on Working on your Project.

(optional) **FOR FUN TRIVIA FOR THE WEEK**

No Trivia this Week.  
Focus on Working on your Project.

(optional) **EXTRA CREDIT . . .**

[Basic Extra Credit Information](#)

Extra Credit is available in this class.

**OTHER (OPTIONAL) . . .**

**QUESTIONS? / COMMENTS . . .**

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](mailto: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 Wishes,

Tim Roufs

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

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

[other contact information](#)