Getting Started

Introduction to Anthropology / Orientation to the Course

I’m looking forward to Tuesday.
Understanding Global Cultures gets underway at 2:00, in Cina 214.

If you haven’t read my Welcome Memo of 21 August 2017, please do that as it contains useful and important information about the course. Weekly Memos and Other Important Announcements for the semester are located in your Moodle folder towards the top of “Block One” (“General”).

These weekly memos contain lots of valuable and timely information, so pay careful attention to them . . .

- The Weeks’ (1) Readings and (2) Activities Schedules
• **Due Dates** for the Week

• **Reminders** for the Week

• Suggestions and Hints for **Exams**

• **Interesting tidbits** of the week

• **Optional links** that might be generally interesting and/or useful for **Extra Credit Opportunities**

• Information on **In-Class Films and Videos**

• **Breaking News Items**

In the Welcome Memo I mentioned that Interest in Understanding Global Cultures has never been higher, and more important. We will be exploring relevant issues throughout the semester, usually including a “**What’s in the News?**” feature at the beginning of each class session. You will be responsible for one five minute report during the semester, so sometime this week have a look at the countries that will be featured in the “What’s in the News?” segments. More information can be found on-line on the “In the News Report” WebPage <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/gc_in_the_news_report.html#title>.

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


As I mentioned in my last memo, **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.

**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 WHAT I MENTIONED EARLIER: *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.*

**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 "In 2010 'creativity' was the factor most crucial for success found in an I.B.M. survey of 1,500 chief executives in 33 industries. These days 'creative' is the most used buzzword in LinkedIn profiles two years running" (2014, 8).

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

It is not accidental that **TAPS, Canada’s leading Beer Magazine**—in fact it’s **THE BEER MAGAZINE**—features this item from a related class in an editorial (Winter 2011-2012, p. 2); at least one major Editor in Chief thinks it’s worth noting and imitating.  

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/index_online.html#KarlaDudley>
As I mentioned in my earlier memo, overall, 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.

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

But you will find that the required materials are center stage in your Moodle folder. Most of the rest of the materials are optional, but you may find that material useful in working on your Class Project (and Extra Credit papers, if you feel like doing them).
Where to start?

As I mentioned in the Welcome Memo, probably the best place is by having a quick look at the "First Day Handout" on-line at

Then have a look at the basic layout for the materials that appear in each week’s Moodle “Block.” You will find that information in “Block One” (at the very top of your Moodle folder) Your Typical Week in Understanding Global Cultures . . .
Then have a look at your **Moodle Gradebook folder**, which gives a nice listing of the actual requirements and due dates for the course. (You'll find the link for that in the upper-left-hand corner of the top of Block 1. See the figure in the “First Day Handout” <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/gcfhandout_first-day.html#title>.)

Then have a look at the "Course Overview" in Block 1 ("General" the top of page one) of your **Moodle folder** <https://moodle.umn.edu/>. See the figure in the “First Day Handout.”
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 **Moodle** 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#10>.” Please pay attention to that request.

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

You will see. . . .

Your **Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 1 Block** of your **Moodle** folder. **This week they include . . .**

- **Reading Assignments for Week 1**
- **Introduce Yourself to the Class** *(Due by the end of Week 1—Saturday, 2 September 2017)*
- **Sign up for an In-the-News Report** *(Report Information)*
- **Complete or Update Your Moodle Profile as Part of Your Introduction**
If you have any questions right now, 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 in Cina 215.

See you Tuesday at 2:00 in Cina 214! I’m looking forward to the class.

Best Regards,

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