

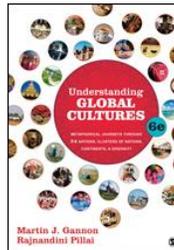
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2 January 2022

Welcome to the Global Cultures Class!



Direct Links
to Canvas



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

s2022 [Canvas Modules](#)

 = leave page



Scotland Celebrates their New Year [Hogmanay](#) traditions, and [Up Helly Aa](#) in the Northern Isles of Scotland

Scotland's [Hogmanay traditions old and new](#) -- BBCNews (n.d.)

Happy New Year!

Welcome!

General Orientation to the Course

I hope you had a great Boxing Day and are having a good Christmas-Hanukkah-Kwanza season. I hope you also had a great New Year's Evening and New Year's Day and are off to a great New Year.

In Vienna and Budapest and throughout much of Europe people were eating lentils on New Year's Day. Eating lentils helps you have a great new year. It is an old European tradition said to bring Good Fortune in the New Year). I've tried them in both places, and it seems the Hungarian lentils work just slightly better than elsewhere. A Hungarian professor friend recently passed on some important information about New Year's Day lentils: "Gabriella says that the heart (seeds) are important for the coming fortune. . . ." **So next year on New Year's Day, eat plenty of lentils and pay special attention to the hearts. . . .**

Spanish eat "Twelve Grapes for Twelve Bells" at the stroke of midnight on New Years Eve, as tradition has it that eating twelve grapes, one for each stroke of midnight, will bring prosperity and luck in the new year.

(Spanish News Today)

If you missed out on these you can always go for the hidden gold coin or figure in the "King's Cake" on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January, a custom which is followed throughout the Christian world. (CNN travel; King's Cake - Wikipedia)

I'm looking forward to Getting Underway.

If you haven't read my memos . . .

["Greetings" Memo](#)

(Textbooks)
of 26 December 2021 [↗](#),

my [”Canvas ‘Modules’ / ‘Sunday Memos’”](#)
(General Organization of Stuff)
Memo of 28 December 2021 [↗](#).

and my [“Using the Canvas Modules” Memo](#)
(Keeping Track of Assignments and when things are Due)
Memo of 30 December 2021 [↗](#),

**... please do that as they contain useful and important information
about the course that will make your life much easier.**

**These are not required reading,
but it would be a good idea to read them anyway.**

(That’s a lot of stuff to read, but the “stuff” lightens up after next week.)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NOTE:

Weekly Memos / Announcements

In the News

Media Bias Chart

REM: Textbook

A Note on the Exams

REM: The Course in a Nutshell

Structure

Content

Assignments

Readings for the Semester [↗](#)

Thanks / Questions / Comments

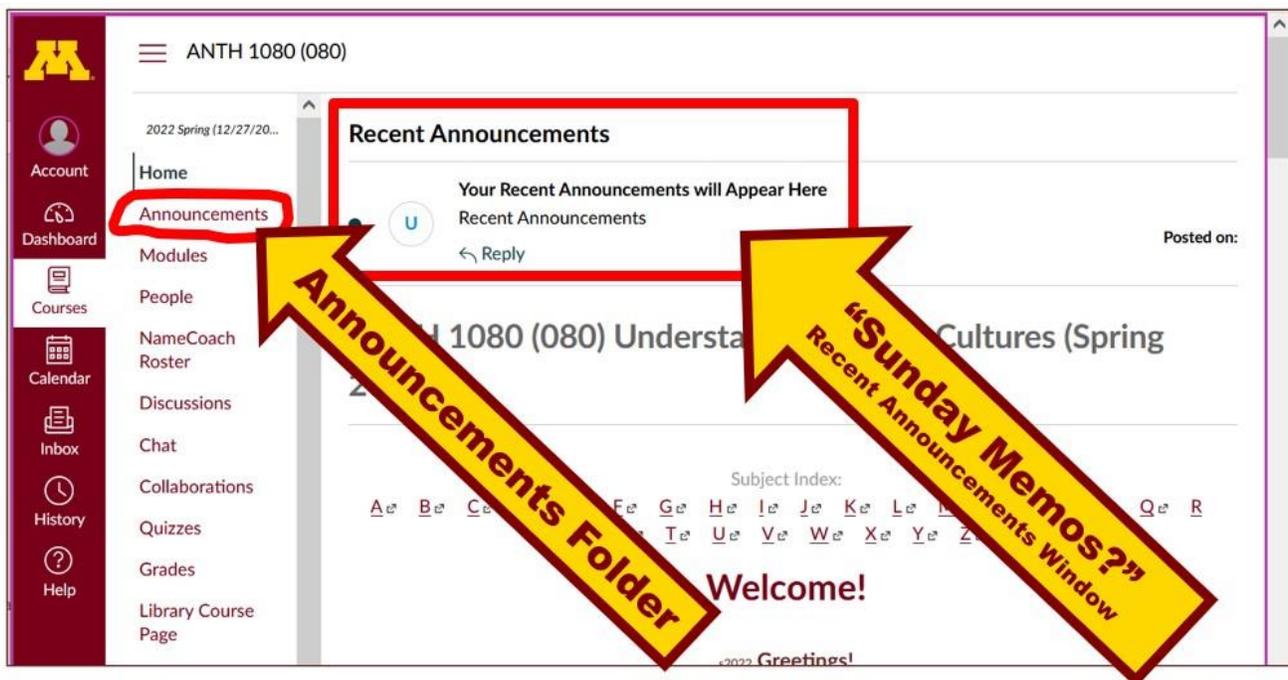
Weekly Memos / Announcements

Every week—usually on Sunday—you will receive a .pdf memo like this, which outlines what’s happening for the week.

Each week you will get the “Sunday Memo” in your UM e-mail account (usually something like *123student@d.umn.edu*), and it will be available in your  **canvas** folder in two places . . . at the top of your Canvas “Home Page” and in your “Announcements” folder

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

When the semester starts the links on the memos will be “hot” (active) and they will take you to more detailed information.



These weekly memos mimic the Modules section of Canvas and contain lots of valuable and timely information, so pay careful attention to them. This materials is similar to, but more detailed than, the Canvas Modules information. They contain . . .

- The Weeks' **Assignments and Activities Schedules**
- Important **Due Dates** for the Weeks
- The Weeks' **Modules Summaries**
- **Reminders** for the Weeks
- Suggestions and Hints for **Exams**
- **Interesting tidbits** of the week, including, from time to time, **For-Fun Trivia** . . .
- **Optional links** that might be generally interesting and/or useful, for example, with the **Extra Credit Opportunities**
- Information on **In-Class Films and Videos**
(of which there will be many, starting next week)
- **Breaking News Items** . . .

In the “Greetings!” Memo I mentioned **“Tomorrow’s headlines. . . . We’ll soon see what the future brings in global cultures.”**

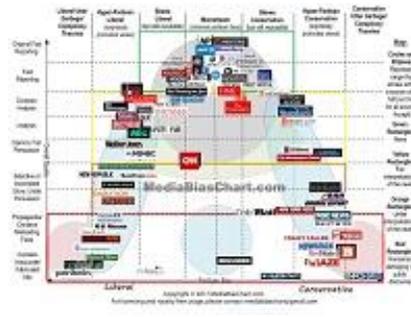
In the News (brief review)

In the “Greetings!” memo I also mentioned that interest in **Understanding Global Cultures** has never been higher, and or more important. We will be exploring relevant news issues throughout the

semester, often including a **“What’s in the News?”** feature each week. You will be responsible for the equivalent of one five minute report during the semester, so **sometimes in the next week** have a look in your **class Google Drive** <<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IbtFKL51aJmKdZErBz9vhTvFwQG5Uzmff0LFwOspuuE/edit?usp=sharing>> at the countries that will be featured in the “What’s in the News?” segments of the class, and sign up for a country. 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>.

***Disclosure:** Items selected from on-line news sources will under normal circumstances be limited to sources classified as legitimate “News” (the green rectangle on the chart) and “*Fair Interpretations of the News*” (the yellow rectangle on the chart) by the authors of the

Media Bias Chart



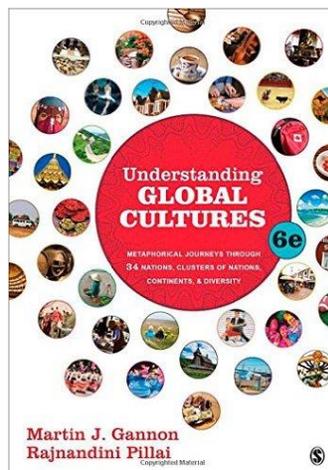
We’ll be exploring many aspects of global cultures—cultural, spiritual, social, political, psychological, historical, prehistorical, recreational, economic, technological, ethical, and the like—so stay tuned.

REM: Textbook

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)



by Martin J. Gannon, Professor, California State University San Marcos
Professor Emeritus, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, and Rajnandini (Raj) Pillai,
Professor, California State University San Marcos, (SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA, 2015).

(It's expensive, so consider renting one, or buy a used copy;
exams are open-book, so you should have a copy. We are using this text this semester in both ANTH
1080 Global Cultures and in ANTH 3635 Anthropology of Europe. We also used it in the ANTH
1080 Global Cultures course in the fall, so students from last semester may have books for sale or
loan.)

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

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 each text you plan to use in the exams.

For the exams you should normally just need to read the books *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 because you were interested in the subject and wanted to know more about it, 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.

In short, this class aims to give you practice in critical thinking, and even creativity, avoiding rote memorization if possible.

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 Education Life [🔗](#), 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). It still is. They still are.

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

It is not accidental that *TAPS, Canada's leading Beer Magazine*—in fact it's *THE BEER MAGAZINE*—features an item 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 the "Greetings!" memo . . .

THE COURSE *STRUCTURE* IN A NUTSHELL

Overall, this course consists of *three main segments*:

I Orientation and Background

Introduction

Basic Concepts

History

Theory

Methods and Techniques

II Exploration

Comparative / Cross-Cultural

Holistic ([holism slides.pptx](#))[☞]

Ethnographic Case Studies from the Real World:

Real People . . . Real Places from Around the Globe

III Student Presentations on Term Research Projects

THE COURSE *CONTENT* IN A NUTSHELL

primarily comes from the following sources . . .

MAIN MEMO FOR THE WEEK . . .

IN-THE-NEWS[☞]. . .

VIDEO EXPLORATIONS[☞] . . .k

SLIDE PRESENTATIONS[☞] . . .

READINGS FOR THE WEEK[☞] . . .

OTHER ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION . . .

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS[☞] . . .

RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION[☞] . . . on a topic of your choice
related to the course

DISCUSSIONS . . . including your personal experiences

(optional) **EXTRA CREDIT**[☞] . . . on a topic of your choice related to the
course

OTHER (optional) . . .

PLEASE NOTE:

Both the Midterm Exam and Final Exam are open-book/open-notes essay exams.

So there should be very little work and effort spent on memorizing facts, other than, perhaps, where to go to find the information you are looking for.

More Information on Exams: [Midterm](#) / [Final](#)

[Additional General Course Information](#)

For the first part of the course much of the material for the week will be presented in the form of **text and video materials and on-line slide materials**. Please note that many of the slide sets go hand-in-hand with the materials in the anchor text. If your learning style is visual, focus first/more on the slides. **In the second section** of the semester, once you have mastered the basic information relating to Global Cultures, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 1) at **a series of additional video materials from around the world. The final section** will focus on your research projects.

Have a general once-over look at the . . .

Assignments and Events for Week 1

which are listed in your  canvas

“Modules” folder.

REVIEW the “Using the Canvas ‘Modules’” materials at

https://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/memos/weekly%20memos/gc_Week_01c_using_modules_s2022.pdf.

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

You will see. . . .

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, or ZOOM <https://umn.zoom.us/my/troufs> (E-mail is fastest, and most generally best as quite often URLs need be sent.)

I’m looking forward to “seeing” you in class.

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs

2 January 2022

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

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

[other contact information](#)

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](#)**.