

Welcome to Anthropology 1080  
**Understanding Global Cultures**



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

Available on-line in your  
 canvas folder at  
<<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>  
[Syllabus](#)

 = leave page

**Happy Boxing Day!**

**Global Cultures will be a great course, and a great  
experience. You will see. . . .**

**About the Course**

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**I hope you had a great holiday feast on Christmas in spite of COVID, if you celebrate Christmas, and that you will have a great New Year's, if you celebrated the New Year at this time.**

## **About the Global Cultures course . . .**

Some people like to procrastinate. Others like to arrive early to a party, and in some ways those folks are “pre-crastinators”.

I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order the textbook on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading **some of the interesting materials that we have for the class** (if you are the kind of person who likes to do that sort of thing).

Classes officially start on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

# The Course 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  
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 on-line slide and video 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 studying Global Cultures, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 1) at **a series of video materials from**

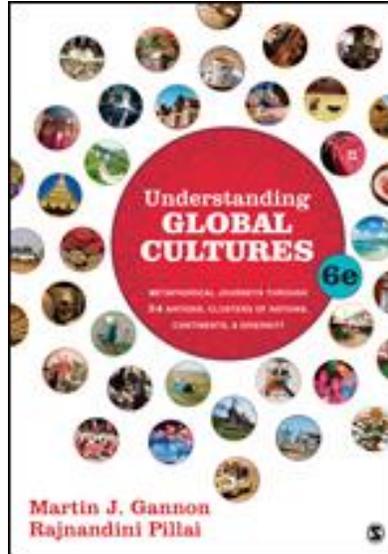
**around the world. The final section will focus on your research projects.**

You might want to start watching one or other of the internationally-**award-winning films and videos** that we have lined up for the class.

If neither of these options applies to you, and you just feel like a little more Yuletide procrastination is in order, just relax and enjoy the great winter wonderland weather—wherever you happen to be, and enjoy the rest of your break.

Either way, with all of the goings-on about COVID-19, you might want to get a head start in at least ordering your textbooks—award winning textbooks that actually fun to read. . . .

## Textbook



**Detailed Information on the Textbook is Here . . .**

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1095/fstext.html#title>

[click ↑ here]

(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.)

## **Here are some other things that you might be curious about . . .**

click on the items for more information . . .

(links may or may not work on your cell phone)

**[Reading Assignments](#)** [↗](#)

**[Class Videos](#)** [↗](#)

**[The Term Project](#)** [↗](#)

**Exams: [Midterm](#) [↗](#) / [FINAL](#) [↗](#)**

**[Optional Extra Credit Opportunities](#)** [↗](#)

**[Meet Your Professor](#)** [↗](#)

**[Office Hours and Other Contact Information](#)** [↗](#)

## **Interest in Global Cultures is Worldwide**

Interest in Global Cultures has never been greater, and more important, even apart from COVID-19 now taking hold in virtually every country and region of the world, except Antarctica. You can see that in the news and editorial pages of the weekly papers and the other news media.

Especially the U.S.A. as we transition in politics, people in countries from around the globe focus on what's happening in America.

We'll have a look at Global Cultures, as well as at the folks in Global Cultures looking at us.

Lots of things are happening on the various Global Cultures fronts . . . virtually every day.

**Some of the best sources for up-to-date news on world news include *The New York Times*, *BBC World News*, *The Guardian* [UK], *National Geographic*, and MPRNews. They all regularly carry interesting and important articles on happenings around the world. And we'll be looking at some of those sources in class.**

## Where to Start

In the meantime, at your leisure, you might want to peruse the information in your  canvas folder at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>. If you are new to the  canvas course management system don't worry too much about that.  canvas has a very good orientation tutorial. The Canvas Student Guide / Overview / Tour can be very helpful.

**Student Guide**  -- written guides with step-by-step instructions for Canvas tools

**Canvas Student Overview** (6:47 min) 

## Thanks / Questions

I am looking forward to “meeting you” in class as we begin our anthropological journey into the wide global world.

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

Thanks for signing on for the class.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu) .

Best Warm Wishes for the rest of the Christmas and Yuletide break,

Tim Roufs  
26 December 2020