

Duluth Campus

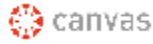
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27 January 2019

Ancient Middle America Week 3



[<https://canvas.umn.edu/>](https://canvas.umn.edu/)

Main Characteristics of Anthropology (cont.)

"Other Important Terms"

Our Upcoming Three-week Tour



This week . . .

**we'll continue to have a look at the
Main Characteristics of Anthropology**

and some

"Other Important Terms"

before we begin a

**Three-week Tour of Ancient Middle
America.**

Through all of this remember that whether you're taking notes, watching the videos, or reading the text and related materials, **keep in mind that the exams are open-book tests**—so bear in mind that you *do not* have to memorize a lot of names, dates, and isolated facts. Familiarize yourself with the materials, but don't spend too much time trying to commit the details to memory.

For this week—for the entire semester, for that matter—**focus on the *ideas* and main concepts and differing points of view.**

Our three-week tour of Ancient Middle America . . .

**begins on Thursday with a visit to the Aztecs to get an idea of
how they think. We'll have a look at**

"*The Fifth World of the Aztecs*"

episode 4 of the *Spirits of the Jaguar* series
(60 min., 1997, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia F1430 .S65 2006 DVD)

**Next week Tuesday and Thursday we're going to try to find
out how and when the First Americans arrived in America . . .**

"*Coming into America*"

from *Scientific American Frontiers* -- Alan Alda
(60 min., 2004, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia E99.C832 C66 2004 DVD)

And we'll then go on . . .

[*The Search for Ancient Americans*](#)

(57 min., 1988, CC, VC 1299)

The following week we're first going to go on an excavation with some Mayan archaeologists and their international team of investigators as they . . .

[*Search for the Lost Cave People*](#)

(60 min., 1998, VC 3339)

Following up their excavations and discoveries we're going to visit the Olmec site of what is often said to be the "Mother Culture" of Ancient Middle Americans . . .

[*Excavations at La Venta*](#)

(29 min., 1986, VC 3284)

[By the way, this is NOT the same La Venta that the folks searching for the Lost Cave People are talking about.]

And we'll finish off our tour by having a look at why the folks that built the ancient Olmec site of La Venta in the modern-day state of Tabasco WERE NOT people who spread out ("diffused") from Egypt after building the famous Ancient Pyramids there:

[**"Looking for One Beginning: The Fallacy of Diffusionism"**](#)

From the series *Lost Worlds: The Story of Archaeology*
[Films for the Humanities](#)

(51 min., 2001, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia CC100 .L66 2002 DVD)

It will be a great tour, and when it is over we'll return to review the materials and begin preparations for the Midterm Exam.








This Week's Assignments and Events

... **this week** are listed on your "Calendar".

They are also listed on the "Syllabus" section of your  canvas folder, if you prefer to have them in another form (see below).



This Week's "Calendar"

27	28	29	30	31	1	2
 Week 3	 MA 3 Readings	 9a MA 2 Main Characteristics of Anthropology (.pptx cont.)  9a MA 2 Other Important Terms (.pptx.)		 9:01a MA 3 Video: "The Fifth World of the Aztecs" (60 min.)	 7a Greetings from Punxsutawney!	 MA "Fake News"? / Media Bias? / "Alternative Facts"? (Helpful Chart)

And the “Syllabus” version is found here:



In the “Syllabus” version the assignments look like this:

Sun Jan 27, 2019	📅 Week 3
Mon Jan 28, 2019	📄 MA 3 Readings
Tue Jan 29, 2019	📄 MA 2 Main Characteristics of Anthropology (.pptx cont.) 📄 MA 2 Other Important Terms (.pptx.)
Thu Jan 31, 2019	📄 MA 3 Video: "The Fifth World of the Aztecs" (60 min.)
Fri Feb 1, 2019	📄 Greetings from Punxsutawney!
Sat Feb 2, 2019	📄 MA "Fake News"? / Media Bias? / "Alternative Facts"? (Helpful Chart)

**And
Punxsutawney Phil Arrives this Week!**

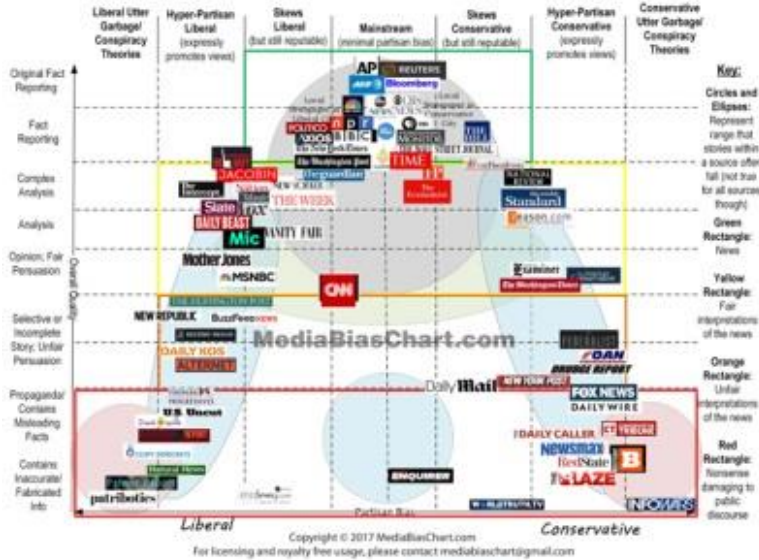
Be alert on Saturday for his report . . .



We end the week with a note on . . .


Fake News / Media Bias

When discussing almost anything these days it is important to be aware of fake news and media bias. The Media Bias Chart is a start to sort out the B.S. from information that might actually be useful.



(large original chart)

[click here for [↑](#) more information]

If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the  **canvas** Course “Chat”, or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop by Cina 215 before or after class.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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