

Duluth Campus

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20 January 2019

Ancient Middle America Week 2



<https://canvas.umn.edu/>

“Mesoamerica: The Area and Its People”

Video: *Woman of Chamula*

Video: *Sentinels of Silence*

Major Characteristics of Anthropology



I hope your first week with Ancient Middle America went well, and that your efforts “up until so far” have been enjoyable, and that you are enjoying the readings and other materials.

This week . . .



... we're off on **Tuesday** to visit the *Woman of Chamula, in Chiapas, Mexico*. The film "shows the life of a Mexican Indian family in Chiapas where the Indians live in much the same way as did their Mayan ancestors a thousand years ago. It describes the mother of the family and her activities in the home." The film, admittedly, is of rather poor quality but the content is excellent for this course. I know of no other short film that is as relevant as *Woman of Chamula*. Have a look at the [course viewing guide](#) for a list of the items that the film relates to.

Woman of Chamula is an **"ETIC"** film—that is one that is viewed from the perspective **of an outsider**. An **"EMIC"** view, by contrast is that of an individual **from *inside* the culture**.

On Tuesday we'll also take a whirlwind trip to **eighteen** major archaeological sites ([map](#)) **in nineteen minutes** with the award-winning film *Sentinels of Silence*. (I suppose if it wasn't for the titles and credits we could have done one major archaeological site a minute!)



[Tikal, Guatemala](#)

You might find the following resources helpful for watching the many films in this course:

- [How to Watch Anthropology Films](#) -- Thomas 'Tad' McIlwraith
- [Visual Anthropology](#)



- [Observing and Recording Details](#) -- [Paradigm Online Writing Assistant](#)

Weekly Memos

Each week as we go along I will send you a **memo like this about the highlights for the coming week, usually on Sunday**. The memos will talk about the main items and issues for the weeks, and they will also contain a few important reminders.

These memos will also be available in your **(1) UM e-mail folder** , in the **(2) “Recent Announcements”** section at the very top of your  canvas “Home” page, and in the **(3) “Announcements”** page (accessed *via* the second item on the *Course Navigation Panel*).

(1) UMD e-mail 

(3) Announcements

Recent Announcements (2)

- MA Welcome s2019
Welcome to Ancient Middle America[click here] Posted on: Jan 11, 2019 at 7:35am
- MA Spring 2019 Greetings
Spring 2019 Greetings[click here] Posted on: Jan 4, 2019 at 5:10am
- Holidays Spring 2019
Holidays Spring 2019 Week 5 Valentine's Day 14 Febru... Posted on: Jan 11, 2019 at 7:35am

View Course Stream
View Course Calendar

To Do

- Holidays Spring 2019 Jan 4 at 3:57am
- MA Spring 2019 Greetings Jan 4 at 5:10am
- MA Welcome s2019 Jan 11 at 7:35am
- MA 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class Jan 16 at 11:59pm
- MA 1 List of Readings for the Entire Semester Jan 16 at 11:59pm
- MA 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class n Jan 17 at 11:59pm
- MA 1 Readings Jan 17 at 11:59pm

Subject Index:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Welcome to
Ancient Middle America

Canvas Apps

Your *Dashboard* screen on your Canvas app (available *via* the What is the Canvas Student app? link) looks something like this:

Courses See All

- ANTH 3618 (001) ANTH 3618 (0...)
- ANTH 3635 (001) ANTH 3635 (0...)
- ANTH 3635 (001) ANTH 3635 (0...)
- ANTH 3888 (001) ANTH 3888 (0...)

Dashboard Calendar To Do Notifications Inbox

Your “Home” page on your Canvas app looks something like this:



The Course: Part I

Anthropology graduates, reflecting back on their time with us at UMD, suggested in our surveys that it would be a good idea to tie the individual courses in the Anthropology curriculum together a little more. So that’s what we’re going to do for much of the next three or four weeks, after we finish the **Orientation**.

This will also help set **the basic analytic, theoretical, and historical framework** for the course. This material should provide you with the **background and analytical tools** to help you with **your class Project**, and help you begin to make sense out of

the topics that follow later in the course—a good deal of which will be provided *via* video—and towards the end of the semester with your class presentations.

Your Class Project

This week we'll also explore your class project a little bit, a case study on a Middle American Personality.

It's a good time to have at least a quick look at the information for your class project. Details on the case study are on-line at

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/case_studies/maCS-01.html.



8-Deer, Mixtec Leader

Your *Informal* **Project Statement, or Project Proposal** for your Case Study, is due by the end of Week 5, **Saturday, 16 February 2019.**

Basically that's a short *informal* summary personal statement of who you are interested in working on, how you think you might go about it, and what resources you are thinking about using. It can be as simple as the following:

“For my project I’m thinking about X, or Y, and these are the items I’m thinking about using [add short list]. This is why I’m interested in this/these project(s) [add your reason(s)]. . . .

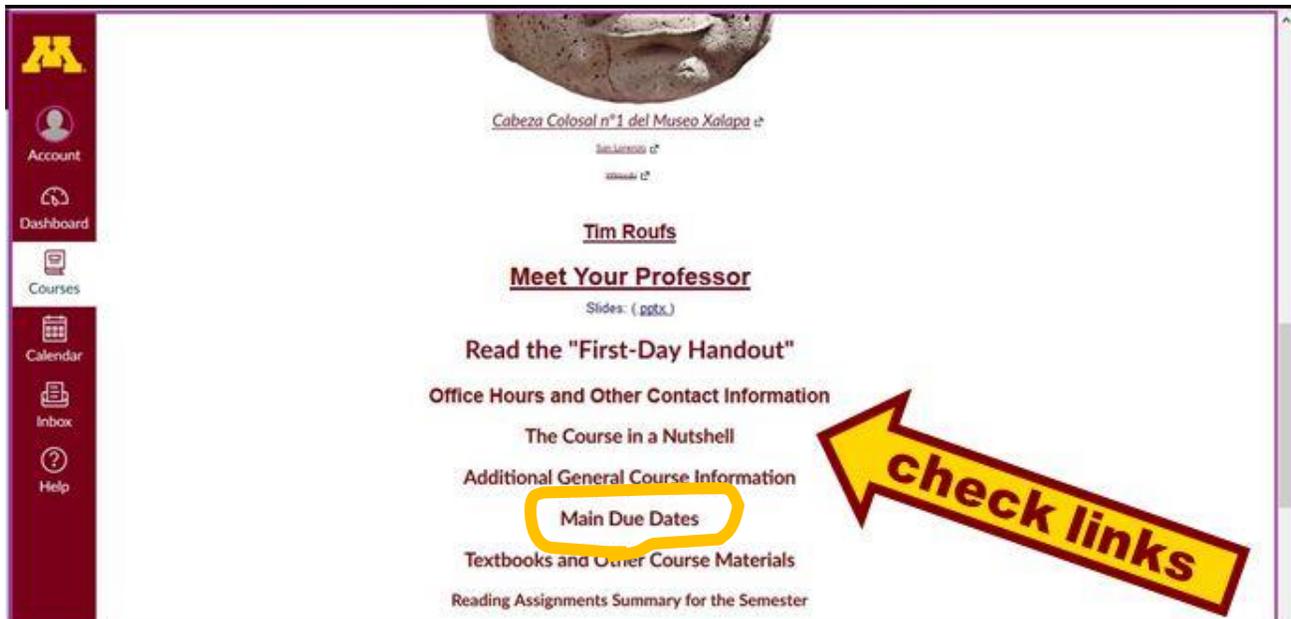
It is an *informal* statement. A more formal statement will come later on (in Week 7, 2 March 2019).

Main Due Dates

are listed at

<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/madue-dates.html>>

[including Term Paper / Exams / Extra Credit Papers . . . not including weekly *Discussions* and Review assignments . . .]



The screenshot shows a course website with a dark red sidebar on the left containing icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main content area features a header with a stone head image and the text 'Cabeza Colosal n°1 del Museo Xalapa'. Below this is the name 'Tim Roufs' and a section titled 'Meet Your Professor' with a 'Slides: (.pptx)' link. A list of course-related links follows: 'Read the "First-Day Handout"', 'Office Hours and Other Contact Information', 'The Course in a Nutshell', 'Additional General Course Information', 'Main Due Dates' (circled in yellow), 'Textbooks and Other Course Materials', and 'Reading Assignments Summary for the Semester'. A large yellow arrow with the text 'check links' points towards the 'Main Due Dates' link.

Main Due Dates for Ancient Middle America

For a list of all of the **exam** and **weekly assignment** dates please see your **moodle** Gradebook

The **weekly assignments** (*Forums*, film feedbacks . . .) are generally due at the end of the week in which they were assigned.

The **Weekly Assignments and Activities** are listed in the **"Activities"** section in each of the **Weekly Blocks** ([see image here](#))

2019 **Informal Project Statement, or Project Proposal** for your Case Study (up to 20 points) due by the end of Week 5, Saturday, 16 February 2019.

The *informal* statement can be very straightforward. It's a simple statement of . . .

"Here's what I'm interested in doing. . . .

Here's why I'm interested in that. . . .

Here's what I think will be useful for that project. . . .

What do you think?"

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"

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<p>MA 2 Meet Your Professor (.pptx)</p> <p>MA 2 Readings</p>	<p>9:01a MA 2 Video: Woman of Chamula (14 min.)</p> <p>9:30a MA 2 Video: Sentinels of Silence (19 min.)</p>		<p>9a MPIRG Presentation</p> <p>9:15a MA 2 Main Characteristics of Anthropology (.pptx intro.)</p>		

And the "Syllabus" version is found here:

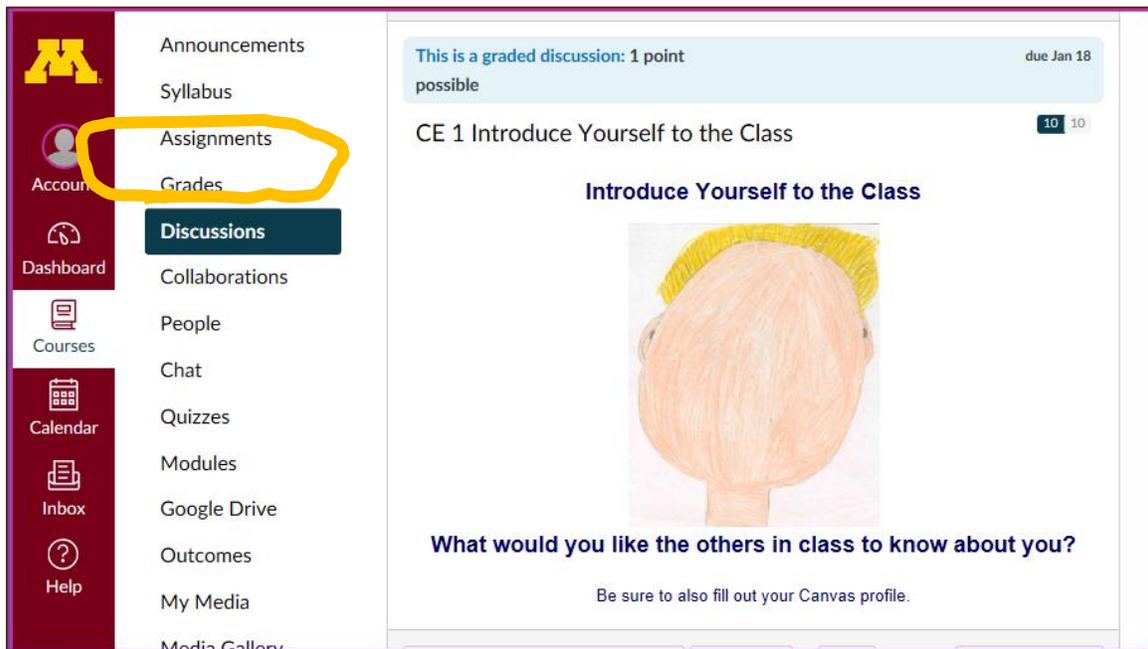


In the “Syllabus” version the assignments look like this:

Mon Jan 21, 2019	MA 2 Meet Your Professor (.pptx)
	MA 2 Readings
Tue Jan 22, 2019	MA 2 Video: Woman of Chamula (14 min.)
	MA 2 Video: Sentinels of Silence (19 min.)
Thu Jan 24, 2019	MPIRG Presentation
	MA 2 Main Characteristics of Anthropology (.pptx intro.)

Your Classmates

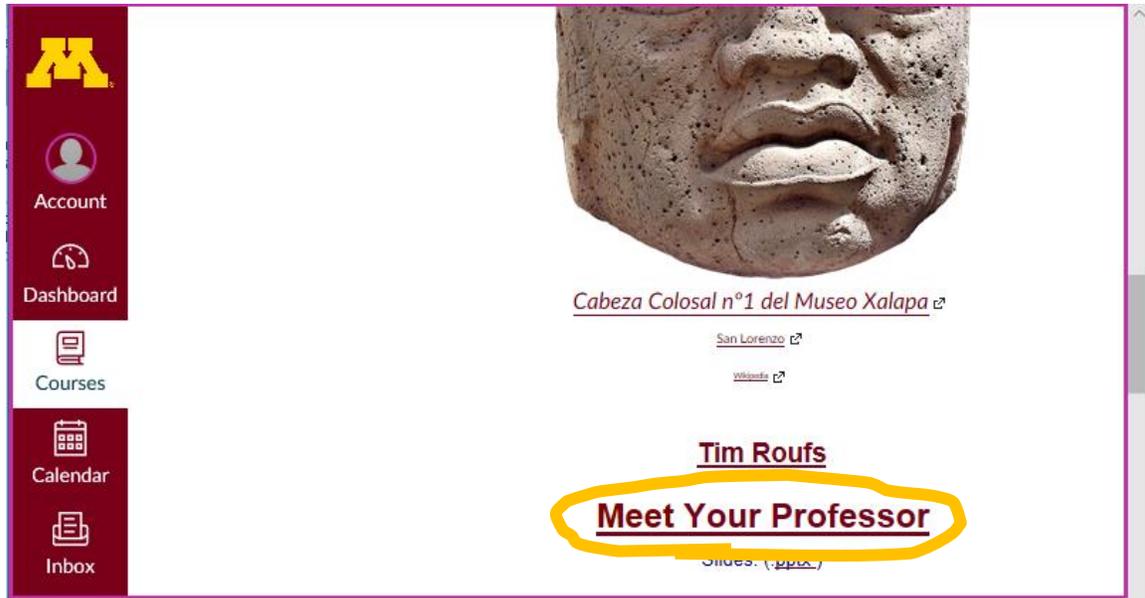
If you are curious about **the others in class**, have a look at the **"Introduce Yourself"** entries in the **"Discussion"** section of your **Canvas** folder.



If you are curious about me, more than you probably want (or ought) to know is available on the **Meet Your Professor** page

<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/MeetYourProfessor.html>>. More that you or anyone needs to know is available, with some nice photos, at <http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/anthfood/PowerPoint/af-meet_your_prof.pptx>.

A while back one of the students seemed to especially like the part where the older folks in my home town of Winsted, MN, talk about the time I burnt the Town Hall by my dad's restaurant down (which I didn't, I only burnt half of the back side off.)



MPIRG

On **Thursday**, 24 January 2018, we'll have a brief presentation from the folks at **MPIRG**, the **[Minnesota Public Interest Research Group](#)**. MPIRG is one of many great organizations on campus that you should consider joining, if you are not already a member.



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.

Have a great Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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