

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

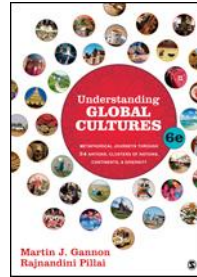
Duluth Campus

Department of Studies in Justice, Culture, and Social Change
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

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12 March 2023



Anthropology of Europe Week 9



Direct Links
to Canvas



Available on-line in your  canvas folder at

[s2023 Canvas Modules](#)

[s2023 Module 9 – Week 9](#)

[s2023 AE Simple Syllabus](#)



[Tim Roufs](#) at the TimHotel Tour Eiffel, Paris

Welcome Back!


What's
Happening?

***In-the-News

Live Chat
Tuesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Questions /
Comments

Video
Explorations

Slides


Readings

Discussion

Project

Other
Assignments

Midterm Exam

(click links for details)
 = leave page

(optional)
For Fun Trivia

(optional)
Extra Credit

(optional)
Other

Items DUE this week:

***enter on-line**
****upload file**
*** if you signed up for this
week's news

Welcome Back!
I hope you had a great, restful, refreshing
Spring Break.

General Comments for the Week

From Ireland we bid *slán* and venture off to India—a country that has been intimately connected with England and the United Kingdom for hundreds of years, essentially beginning with the establishment in A.D. 1600 of the East Indian Company under the Tutor Queen Elizabeth I (daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn).

India did not gain its Independence from England until 1947 (171 years after the American Colonies declared its independence from England.) British Indians today are the single largest visible minority in the United Kingdom, numbering about a million and a half people (2011 Census). And they contribute much to modern-day life in the United Kingdom.

From Ireland we're going to the city of Varanasi in India, located along the banks of the sacred Ganges River, where several families share with us their very last moments with their dying relatives. The Irish, and especially the Irish Catholics, are known to deal with death in a matter-of-fact manner, and get on with living. So too are Hindu individuals from India. This week some share with us the last hours of their beloved family members. It is a way of life and death not familiar to most of us.

In anthropology these “**Life Cycle**” events including birth and death have

always been of great interest, including how living folks interact with their departed ancestors, and how the transition from this life to the next (for those who believe in a next life) takes place.

This week we visit with families in India who are saying goodbye to their relatives at a sacred location along the Ganges River, in the city of Varanasi. To die in the city of Varanasi, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, one of the most cherished of Hindu religious aspirations in India.

And we'll also have a look at this week's news from India.

IN THE NEWS . . .

[Media Bias Chart](#)



Sign Up in Google Docs

2023 <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hdmxw2c-fPhNRU5Hc0AM-7y5-PLtOlmVeYy_RJtjbqo/edit?usp=sharing>

[click  here]

India –

LIVE CHAT: OFFICE HOURS

[Contact Information](#)

Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (CDT)

“ZOOM” [🔗](#)

[click ↑ here]

or

e-mail anytime: mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu [🔗](#)

[click ↑ here]



Live Chat is optional.

VIDEO EXPLORATIONS

Real People . . . Real Places . . .

[Videos for the Semester](#) [🔗](#)

This week we have a look at the internationally acclaimed film . . .

 ***Ganges: River to Heaven***

[India]

(52 min., 2003)

On-line Access [🔗](#)

[click ↑ here]

[course viewing guide](#)

"Trigger Alert"

**Warning:
This Film Contains Graphic Images**



"This documentary explores one of the most cherished of Hindu religious aspirations: to die in the city of Varanasi, on the banks of the sacred Ganges, in the faith that dying here assures liberation from the cycle of earthly life."

"In the city of Kashi [in the location of modern-day Varanasi] the power of Ganga, the Hindu mother-goddess of the Ganges River, is strongest. Each dawn she calls her children to the *ghats*, the steps leading down to the water's edge. The young and strong purify themselves in Ganga's polluted waves. The old and the infirm, too weak for rituals, wait for death. In time, Ganga carries their souls, released from the bondage of reincarnation, to heaven. Their bodies, as ash afloat her crests or flesh submerged in her depths, return to the river. Once privy only to the dead and those who mourned them, the final journey of the devout Hindu is the subject of Gayle Ferraro's latest film, 'GANGES: River to Heaven.'"

"Filmed in a hospice for the dying and on the *ghats* of Kashi, India's religious heart, 'GANGES' follows four families' struggle to grant a loved one's final wish: to go to heaven. In their common quest the families become a fraction of the hordes of Hindus drawn to Kashi's holy promise of freedom from reincarnation. As the clans prepare for death, the citizens of Kashi manage life—praying for health, dumping industrial waste, begging for pocket change, bathing their children, selling to tourists, monitoring fecal chloroform levels, cremating their mothers—all along the banks of the Ganges River. The families' preparations go virtually unnoticed on the river, where death is a daily part of life."

"GANGES: River to Heaven investigates the inextricable bond between a river and its people with unparalleled intimacy and depth. From the *ghat* workers gathering wood for the next cremation, to the chemists gathering water samples for contamination testing, each perspective sheds new light on India's evolving society and its unchanging veneration of the Ganges. The documentary of a sacred river, polluted from years of overuse, 'GANGES' wonders if the natural force strong enough to sculpt the peaks of the Himalayas and the beliefs of a nation will survive the adoration of generations to come."

THIS WEEK'S SLIDES

[Class Slides for the Semester](#)

Italy: Introduction

slides: ([.pptx](#))
[click ↑ here]

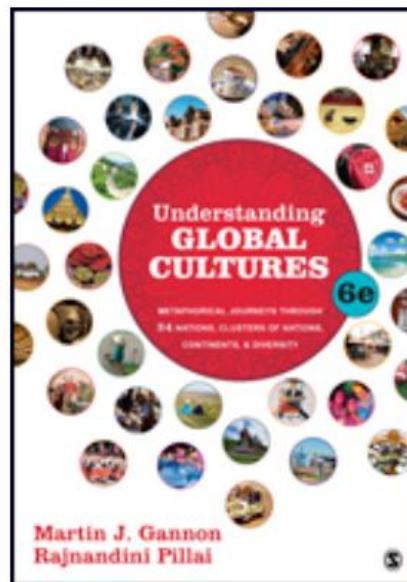
Italy:

slides: (Your choice of one other supporting topic)



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

[Readings for the Semester](#)
[Textbook Information](#)



PART IX: INDIA, TRADITION, MODERNITY, AND DIVERSITY

Chapter 26: India: The Dance of Shiva

**Chapter 27: India: A Kaleidoscope of
Diversity**

(assigned readings are in **bold** letters)

OTHER ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

[Main Due Dates](#)

Check out the [Life Cycle: Death](#) information

PROJECT INFORMATION . . .

[Basic Project Information](#)

[Main Due Dates](#)

If you haven't already done so, *schedule* some serious time blocks to work on your Project. And think about is how you might present your findings to others.

DUE: DISCUSSION WEEK 9 . . .

[Online Discussions Information, Rubric, and Sample Posts](#)

Discussion: What Role Should the Pope Play in Europe?

(optional) **FOR FUN TRIVIA . . .**

“What is the smallest country [sovereign entity] recognized by international law?”



Pope Francis



Wikimedia

Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher of the Holy See, ca., 1900

Immagine scannerizzata da "Ordini cavallereschi e cavalieri", di Arnone, C, 1954

[\(Answer\)](#)

(optional) **EXTRA CREDIT . . .**

If you didn't do quite as well as you might have liked on the Midterm Exam, or if you did better than you even hoped on the Midterm exam but want to "bank" some insurance points for your final course grade, think about doing **one** (or even two—one of each) of the optional extra credit papers.

There are **two Extra Credit options: (A) a case study**, and/or **(B) a review of a lecture or event, or an approved film** (*other* than one of the films we see in class). For the review option you may also *compare* two or more films. (Remember from Week 1, one of the main features of anthropology is that it is *comparative*?)

Details on the extra credit are on-line at

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/extra_credit/ceextracredit.html#title

OTHER (optional) . . .

Questions / Comments

If you have any **questions or comments** right now, please do not hesitate to 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.)

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs

12 March 2023

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

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

[other contact information](#)