

Peoples and Cultures of Europe Week 12

***Ciao Italia***  
and the Makings of a Metaphor



**1. Open Forum Live Chat**

Tuesday, 7 April 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (CDT)

**2. This week we focus on Italy**



This week we celebrate Italy  
--its beauty and ugliness . . . with

Readings

Slides

Discussion

**3. The Opera as a Metaphor for Italy**

**4. Assignments**

Readings for the Semester  
Class Slides for the Semester

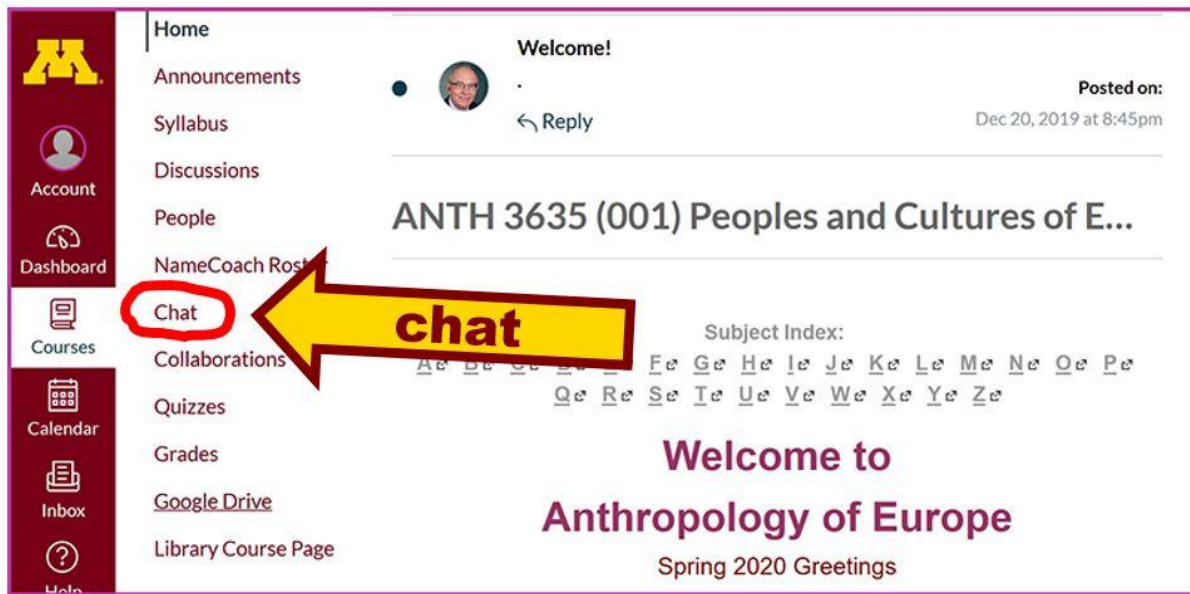
# 1. Live Chat

Tuesday, 7 April 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (CDT)

## Project and Open Forum

(for whatever you might want to talk or ask questions about)

Join the live chat *via* the Chat feature:



The “Live Chat” is **optional**, and if you cannot make it live, a transcript of the discussion will be available in your Canvas folder @ Chat after the session ends

## 2. This week we focus on Italy

[Syllabus](#)

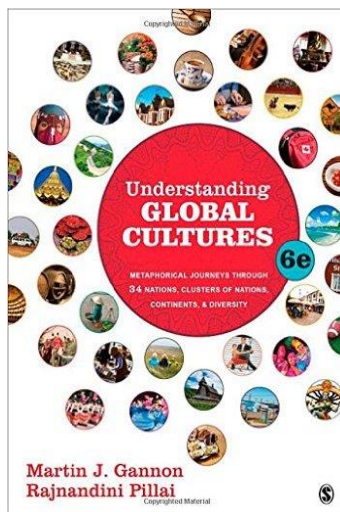
**In Italy**, we'll first have a look at some background to the country—or could it be countries?—and then we'll have an intensive and detailed look at the making of the Italy metaphor—the Opera.



**This week we celebrate sunny Italy  
--its beauty and ugliness . . . with . . .**

## **Readings on Italy**

**1. First read Chapter 19: "The Italian Opera" as a metaphor for Italy, from Gannon and Pillai, *Understanding Global Cultures***



## **Chapter 19: "The Italian Opera"**

[click [↑](#) here]

Martin J. Gannon and Rajnandini (Raj) K. Pillai, in *Understanding Global Cultures: Metaphorical Journeys Through 34 Nations, Sixth Edition* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, March 2015) go with **The Italian Opera** (Ch. 19) **as Italy's metaphor**. And, as you will see, it fits like a Fratelli Orsini driving glove.

...



Note that in our coverage of Italy, we are not only covering Italy and Italians, but we're also looking at **how metaphors are constructed**, and what they contain, and the basic usefulness of metaphorical analysis by studying Italy and Italians. So in a sense we're mixing our metaphors with the Italians. Slide Sets #7-#9 are optional.

## Slides of Italy

**2. Then have a look at the class Italy slide sets #1 through #5** (use the .pptx links below).

## ITALY Slides

**Italy 1—Introduction and Demography** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 2—Languages** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 3—Regions** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 4—Forces of Nature** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 5—Metaphor: The Opera** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 6—History and World View** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 7—Politics** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 8—Immigration and Emigration** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

**Italy 9—Masterworks and Classics** slides: ([.pptxLinks to an external site.](#))

[click  here]

**Pay special attention to the slides that deal with Gannon and Pilla's contention that *pageantry and spectacle* "is one of the reasons that Italians have always excelled in activities in which impressions are important. . . ."**

## Discussion

**3. Then read the BBC article and watch the video (4:39 min) that accompanies the article about the people of Piobbico and their celebration of ugliness.**

## [BBC article](#)

[click  here]



As the BBCtravel article "The Italian village that celebrates ugliness" points out, the people of the small medieval village of 2,000 people of Piobbico, in central Italy, have been celebrating ugliness" for the past 140 years.

Piobbico has, in fact, become renowned for being the world capital of ugly people. "Since 1879, this 2,000-person town has been home to the [Club dei Brutti \(Links to an external site.\)](#) ('The Ugly Club'), an association whose members believe that 'a person is what he is and not what he looks like.'"

Adam Barr, the author of the BBC article, suggests their utopian idea has blossomed into a worldwide movement. (I suppose something like an aesthetic version of [Carlo Petrini's Italian Slow Food Movement \(Links to an external site.\)](#).)

They have become the center of the “World Association of Ugly People.”

## Finally, 4. THE DISCUSSION

(enter your response on the Friday listing):

Using your anthropological skills that you have developed this semester in Anthropology of Europe, explain to your partner or friend how Italians can be *both* world renowned for their beauty of pageantry, spectacle, art, cinema, poetry, language, fashion, architecture, and industrial design, *and at the same time* the center of world ugliness.

And they have been both for much longer than Italy has been a country.

After you post your response you will be able to see what the others in the class have said.



Giovanni Aluigi

President, Club [Club \(Links to an external site.\) dei \(Links to an external site.\) Brutti](#)

This week's  
**5. Assignments**

Readings for the Semester  
Class Slides for the Semester

as listed on your "Calendar".



**This Week's "Calendar"**

**REM: Links on screenshots are not "hot" (active)**

**AND REM: Clicking on "Agenda" will give you a listings view**

Today   ←   →   April 2020   **Click "Agenda" for listings view**   Agenda   +

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 1a CE What's Happening Week 12?	6 1a CE Wk 12 Readings	7 12p CE Wk 12 Italy II: Slides & Readings & Discussion (repeated message)	8	9 12p CE Wk 12 Italy III: Slides & Readings & Discussion (repeated message)	10 CE 12 Discussion: Italian Villagers Celebrate Ugliness, and have for over 140 years (start this assignment at the beginning of the week) CE REM Presentations Due On-line Next Week	11 <b>Rem: Project Due On-line Next week</b>

**NB**  
*[Nota Bene]*

**Live Chat**

**The links to the on-line slides are in your Canvas agenda items**



And the “Syllabus” version is found here:




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

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

Sun Apr 5, 2020

 CE What's Happening Week 12?

Mon Apr 6, 2020

 CE Wk 12 Readings

The links to the on-line slides are in your Canvas agenda items


 CE Wk 12 Italy I: Slides & Readings & Discussion (Start these early in the week)

Tue Apr 7, 2020

**Live Chat**  


CE Wk 12 Italy II: Slides & Readings & Discussion (repeated message)


**NB**  
[Nota Bene]

 CE Wk 12 Live Chat -- Presentation, and Open Discussion, Tuesday, 7 April 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Thu Apr 9, 2020

 CE Wk 12 Italy III: Slides & Readings & Discussion (repeated message)

Fri Apr 10, 2020

 CE 12 Discussion: Italian Villagers Celebrate Ugliness, and have for over 140 years (start this assignment at the beginning of the week)

**NB**  
[Nota Bene]

 CE REM Presentations Due On-line Next Week



**REM . . .**

**It's time to start putting your in-class  
Presentation together**, if you haven't already started.

**Your Class Presentation is Due Next Week**  
(See "Presentations" in your 🌐 canvas "Syllabus" or "Assignments" folder)

**Useful information is available on-line at . . .**

<https://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3635/cepresentations.html#title>


[click ↑ here].

**A major part of this course is your research project—not just for the points, but because researching a topic you are interested in and presenting your findings to others, and then writing the results up as a formal paper, is one of the best ways to learn things.** (Lectures, as it turns out, research suggests, are one of the worst ways—keeping in mind that one must separate “learning” from the “*perception* of learning.”) So this week be sure to spend some time working on your **Paper and Presentation**. (Remember that your Presentation is a “work in progress” report on your paper.)

**If I can be of help with your project, please let me know.**

**Check in on Tuesday's Live Chat, if you like.**

**REM: Your Term Paper is due in two weeks**

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](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu).

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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