

Duluth Campus

Department of Sociology -Anthropology  
College of Liberal Arts

228 Cina Hall  
1123 University Drive  
Duluth, Minnesota  
55812-3306

Office: 218-726-7551  
Fax: 218-726-7759

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Culture and Personality (Psychological Anthropology) Week 1

Available on-line in your

**Moodle**

folder at

<[moodle.umn.edu](http://moodle.umn.edu)>

# Getting Started

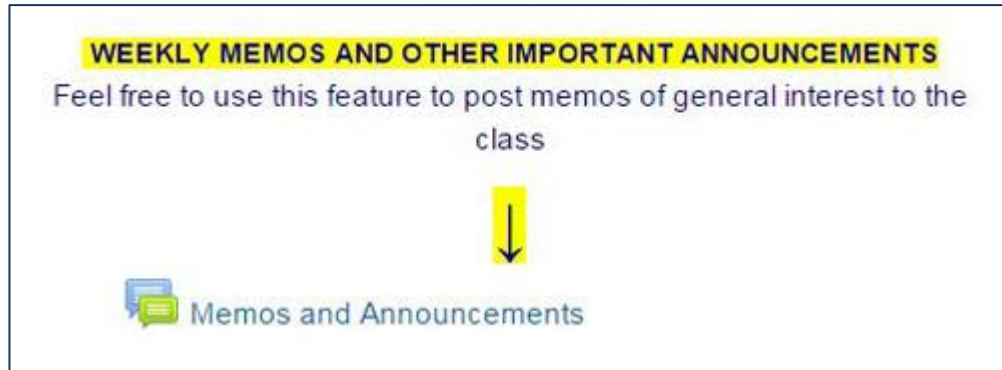
I'm looking forward to Wednesday.

**Culture and Personality gets underway at 3:00 p.m. in Montague Hall 208.**

**W**e'll have a look at a lot of interesting topics in Psychological Anthropology as the semester unfolds. **And we'll be exploring many interesting aspects of culture and personality—Real People . . . in Real Places. . . .**

**A**s I mentioned in my [Welcome Memo of 26 December 2015](#), you can see in the newspapers and other media that lots of interesting things are happening in the world of Culture and Personality (Psychological Anthropology).

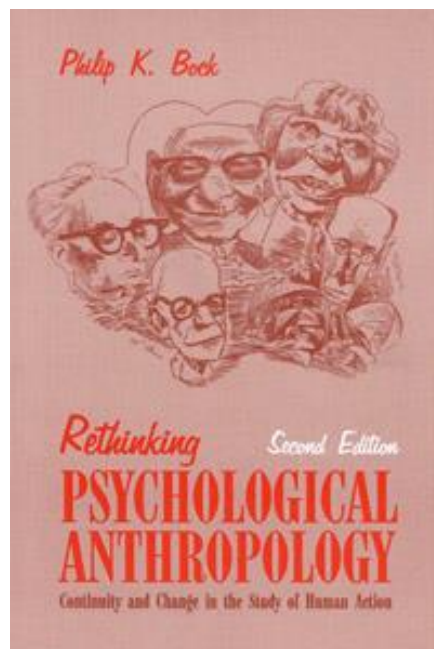
**I**f you haven't read the memo, please do that as it contains useful and important information about the course. **Weekly Memos and Other Important Announcements** for the semester are located in your **Moodle** folder towards the top of "Block One." (This is where most of the important announcements for the course will be posted.)



**These weekly memos** contain lots of valuable and timely information, so pay careful attention to them . . .

- The Weeks' **(1) Topics** and **(2) Readings** and **(3) Activities Schedules**
- Due Dates for Major items for the Week
- Reminders for the Week
- Suggestions and Hints for Exams
- Interesting tidbits of the week
- **Optional** links that might be generally interesting and/or useful for Extra Credit Papers
- Information on In-Class Films and Videos (of which there will be many, starting in two weeks)
- Breaking News Items

The **textbook** for the course is . . .



***Rethinking Psychological Anthropology: Continuity and Change in the Study of Human Action, Second Edition***

(1999), by Philip Bock,

currently available online from about \$31.48 new / \$3.69 used [buy a used one]

(+ p/h, where applicable).  
(24 December 2015)

**NOTE: When you read this text, read it primarily for a sense of the historical development of Psychological Anthropology / Culture and Personality and for a sense of what the basic concepts are all about.**

**Detailed information on the textbook for Culture and Personality can be found at** <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cptext.html>.

As I mentioned in my earlier memo, **the exams will be open-book essays constructed from a list of study questions that you help create**, so it would be a good idea for you to have your own copy of each text you plan to use in the exams.

**For the exams** you should normally just need to read the books *carefully* and be able to discuss them *intelligently*. That is, you should read these as if you had picked it/them up at an airport or neighborhood bookshop because you were interested in the subject and wanted to know more about it, like literally millions of people are doing in everyday life.

**PLEASE NOTE WHAT I MENTIONED EARLIER:** *Some students are used to principally memorizing facts in classes. This class is not one where that is the focus. It is about investigating new topics, reading, listening, synthesizing ideas, thinking, exploring, and becoming familiar enough with the various subjects, peoples and places to carry on an intelligent conversation in modern-day society.* . In short, this class aims to give you practice in critical thinking, and even creativity.

**Critical thinking**, involving **evaluation** and **synthesis**, has long been regarded as essential for success in the modern-day world. In recent years, actually for two decades, **creativity** has also become central to success, and "process skills" vital to creativity. Process skills involve "strategies to reframe challenges and extrapolate and transform information, and to accept and deal with ambiguity"

(Pappano, "[Learning to Think Outside the Box](#)," [The New York Times EducationLife](#), 9 February 2014, 8). Laura Pappano, writer in residence at Wellesley Center for Women at Wellesley College, points out that "In 2010 'creativity' was the factor most crucial for success found in an I.B.M. survey of 1,500 chief executives in 33 industries.

These days 'creative' is the most used buzzword in LinkedIn profiles two years running" (2014, 8).

With all of the class materials **you will be expected to share your ideas and comments with others** in the Class *Forum* and wikis.

It is not accidental that *TAPS, Canada's leading Beer Magazine*—in fact it's *THE BEER MAGAZINE*—features this approach in an editorial (Winter 2012, p. 2); at least one major Editor in Chief thinks this approach is worth noting and imitating.  
<[http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/index\\_online.html#KarlaDudley](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/index_online.html#KarlaDudley)>

I took an anthropology of food course last year at the University of Minnesota and my professor, Tim Roufs, had a somewhat unique grading system for his students. To pass or do well in his class you did not need to memorize detailed dates, facts and figures, you needed to achieve an informed, intelligent working knowledge of the subject and be able to carry on a relevant and sagacious discussion outside the classroom in everyday interactions.

That is exactly the goal we have at TAPS. We do not strive to create beer geeks or omniscient beer snobs of our readers, within our pages we endeavour to provide information, ideas and the chance to learn that which will broaden your perception, perspective and opinion of what is 'good taste' and good tasting beer.

The next time you are presented with an unfamiliar beer, open yourself up to the experience, perhaps call upon something you read about in this publication and enjoy some good taste.



Karla Dudley, Editor in Chief

As I mentioned in my earlier memo, **overall, this course consists of three main segments:**

### **I Orientation and Background**

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- History
- Theory
- Methods and Techniques

## II Explorations

- 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 on-line slide materials. In the second section of the semester, once you have mastered the basic information relating to Culture and Personality, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 01) at a series of video materials about **Real People . . . Real Places . . .** and about **research** from around the world. The final section will focus on your research projects.

**You will find that there are "an awful lot" of materials on-line —maybe even too many!**

But you will find that **the required materials are center stage in your Moodle folder**. Most of the rest of the materials are optional, but you may find that material useful in working on your **Class Project** (and **Extra Credit** papers, if you feel like doing them).



## Where to start?

As I mentioned last week, probably the best place is by having a quick look at the **"First Day Handout,"** online at [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cphandout\\_first-day.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cphandout_first-day.html).

Then have a look at **the basic layout** for the materials that appear in each week's **Moodle** "Block." You will find that information in "Block One" (at the very top of your **Moodle** folder) **Your Typical Week in Culture and Personality. . . .**

**Your Typical Week in Culture and Personality. . . .**

**Each Weekly Unit will have a "block" and it will look something like this:**

### General Brief Description of What's Happening This Week



#### Week N Memo

[This is the same memo that you will receive by e-mail, usually on Sunday of each week.

It is also the same memo in the "Weekly Memos and Other Important Announcements" section in Block 1.

[Click on these links to review the memo.\]](#)

### Page Week 's Topics

[\[click on the link for the details of the week's reading and miscellaneous assignments\]](#)

### Week 's Reading Assignments

Page Readings (generally in preparation for next week)

[\[click on the link for the details of the week's reading and miscellaneous assignments\]](#)

### Week's Video Explorations

Page Video Explorations

[\[click on the link for more details of the week's video explorations\]](#)

### Week's Assignments and Activities for the Week

**During the semester you will find various "Activities"\* in this section**

### Week's Bonus for Fun Item(s)

**Then have a look at your Moodle Gradebook folder**, which gives a nice listing of the actual requirements and due dates for the course. (You'll find the link for that in the upper-left-hand corner of the top of Block 1. See the figure in the "[First Day Handout](#).”)

Then have a look at the "**Course Overview**" in **Block 1** (the top of page one) of your **Moodle** folder <[moodle.umn.edu](http://moodle.umn.edu)>. See the figure in the "[First Day Handout](#).”

**Please heed the earlier word of caution. Moodle** recommends that you **use the Firefox browser** (available free at <<http://firefox.com>>). The Windows Internet Explorer (IE) occasionally will not display items on your screen. **These items will simply not be there on IE** when they are fine on **Moodle** or even on Chrome. Microsoft Word should likewise not be used to cut and paste things to **Moodle**; bad things can happen to your file if you do—randomly. Almost every time you are asked to enter text in **Moodle**, you will see the message, “Please do not copy/paste text directly from Microsoft Word. See explanation [here](http://www1.umn.edu/moodle/issues.html#10) <<http://www1.umn.edu/moodle/issues.html#10>>.” Please pay attention to that request.

**So once again, welcome to Anth 4616 Culture and Personality. This will be a great course, and a great experience. You will see. . . .**

Your **(1) Topics** and **(2) Readings** and **(3) Activities listings** are available in the **Week 1 Block** of your **Moodle** folder.

If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the **Moodle** “QUICKMAIL”, “Messenger” or e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu) , or stop in before or after class at KAML 460 Qbicle [\[map\]](#).

See you Wednesday! I’m looking forward to the class.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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