




Tim Roufs Inspecting Durians in Singapore Market, 2017

Happy Boxing Day!

Welcome to the Anthropology of Food

Available on-line in your
 canvas folder at
<<http://canvas.umn.edu/>>
Syllabus

 = leave page

**This will be a great course, and a great experience.
You will see. . . .**

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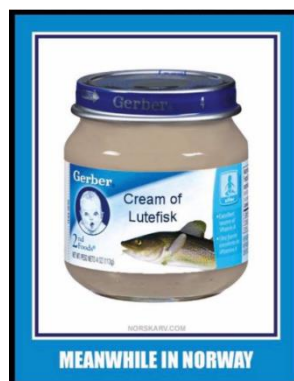
I hope you had a great holiday feast on Christmas in spite of COVID, if you celebrate Christmas, and that you will have a great New Year's, if you celebrated the New Year at this time.

Holidays are not the same without their festival foods. In this course we'll see why that is so.

Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas *in Minnesota* without talk of *lutefisk* [literally “lye fish”].

Love it or loathe it, Minnesota's lutefisk tradition lives on [↗](#)

(-- MPR News (11 December 2017))



About the Anth of Food course . . .

Some people like to procrastinate. Others like to arrive early to a party, and in some ways those folks are “pre-crastinators”.

I am sending this note out early to make it more convenient for the pre-crastinators to order the textbooks on-line (if that is an attractive option for you), and / or to let you get started reading **some of the interesting materials that we have for the class** (if you are the kind of person who likes to do that sort of thing).

Classes officially start on the 13th of January 2021.

The Course in a Nutshell

Overall, this course consists of *three main segments*:

I Orientation and Background

Introduction
Basic Concepts
History
Theory
Methods and Techniques

II Exploration

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

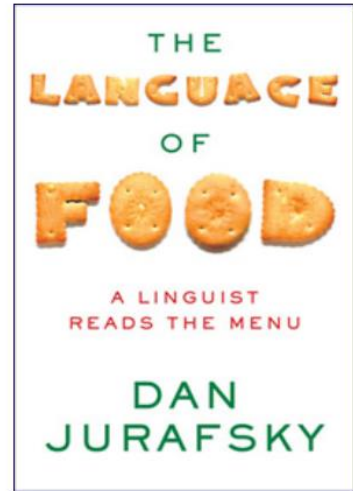
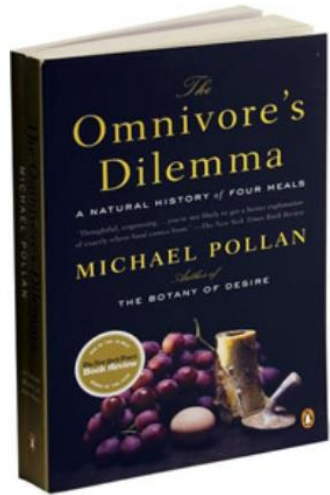
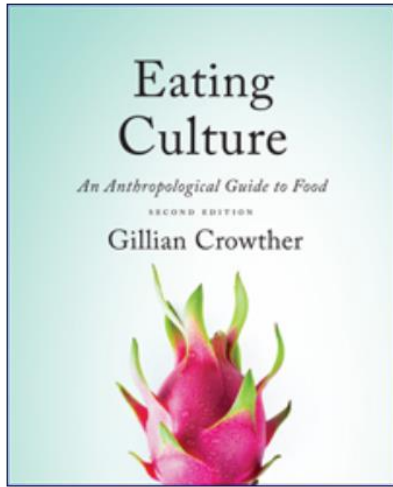
For the first part of the course much of the material for the week will be presented in the form of **text materials and on-line slide and video materials**. Please note that many of the slide sets go hand-in-hand with the materials in the anchor text. If your learning style is visual, focus first/more on the slides. **In the second section** of the semester, once you have mastered the basic information relating to studying the Anthropology of Food, we will look (generally comparatively, *cf.*, Main Characteristics of Anthropology in Week 1) at **a series of video materials from around the world**. **The final section will focus on your research projects.**

You might want to start watching one or other of the internationally-**award-winning films and videos** that we have lined up for the class.

If neither of these options applies to you, and you just feel like a little more Yuletide procrastination is in order, just relax and enjoy the great winter weather—wherever you happen to be, and enjoy the rest of your break.

Either way, with all of the goings-on about COVID-19, you might want to get a head start in at least ordering your textbooks—award winning textbooks that actually fun to read. . . .

Textbooks



Detailed Information on the Textbooks is Here . . .

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

[click ↑ here]

(Consider renting the Crowther, or buy used copies; exams are open-book, so you should have a copy of each one. And on-line the Pollan and Jurafsky books are cheap. We'll be using these texts again in the Spring (in ANTH 3888 Anthropology of Food), so if the UMD bookstore is still back in operation then there should be a local market for used copies.)

Here are Some Other Things that You Might be Curious about . . .

click on the items for more information . . .

(links may or may not work on your cell phone)

[Reading Assignments](#) [↗](#)

[Class Videos](#) [↗](#)

[The Term Project](#) [↗](#)

Exams: Midterm [↗](#) / FINAL [↗](#)

Optional Extra Credit Opportunities [↗](#)

Meet Your Professor [↗](#)




Office Hours and Other Contact Information [↗](#)

Food in the News

Interest in food and culture has never been greater. You can see that in the news and editorial pages of the weekly papers and the other news media as across the globe tens of thousands of restaurants have closed, and crowds scurry to their local food markets to stock up on canned goods and dried food products, and hoard other “related” products.

Lots of things are happening on the various cultural food fronts . . . virtually every day featuring food news for everyone. Some of the best sources for up-to-date news on food include What FoodAnthro is Reading Now [↗](#). . . and Marion [no-relation-to-the-company] Nestle’s Food Politics Blog [↗](#). The New York Times Food Section [↗](#), BBC Food [↗](#), the StarTribune [↗](#), and MPRNews > The Splendid Table [↗](#) regularly carry interesting and important articles on food around the world.

Where to Start

In the meantime, at your leisure, you might want to peruse the information in your  canvas folder at <http://canvas.umn.edu/>[↗](#). If you are new to the  canvas course management system don't worry too much about that.  canvas has a very good orientation tutorial. The Canvas Student Guide / Overview / Tour can be very helpful.

Student Guide [↗](#)-- written guides with step-by-step instructions for Canvas tools

Canvas Student Overview (6:47 min) [↗](#)

Thanks / Questions

I am looking forward to “meeting you” in class as we begin our anthropological journey into the world of food.

So once again, welcome to ANTH 3888 Anthropology of Food. This will be a great course, and a great experience. You will see. . . .

Thanks for signing on for the class.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu [↗](#).

Best Warm Wishes for the rest of the Christmas and Yuletide break,

Tim Roufs
26 December 2020