

Anthropology of Food Welcome

[🔗](#) = leave page



[Tim Roufs](#)[Links to an external site.](#) [Inspecting Durians](#)[Links to an external site.](#) in Singapore Market, 2017

Available on-line in your

 canvas folder at

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

[Syllabus](#)

# Welcome!

General Orientation to the Course

**I'm looking forward to Getting Underway.**

**If you haven't read the Welcome Memo of 11 August 2020, please do that as it contains useful and important information about the course.**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NOTE:**

### **Weekly Memos / Announcements**

**In the News** (brief review)

**Media Bias Chart**

**REM: Textbooks**

**REM: The Course in a Nutshell**

**Assignments**

**Readings**

**Trivia**

**Thanks / Questions**

# Weekly Memos / Announcements

Every week—usually on Sunday—you will receive a memo like this which outlines what’s happening for the week.

Each week you will get the memo in your UM e-mail account and it will be available in your  canvas folder in three places . . .



**HINT:** You can synchronize your  canvas calendar with your UMD Google calendar, if you want. Information for that is [here](#) for f2020.

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

- The Weeks' **Assignments and Activities Schedules**
- **Due Dates** for the Weeks
- The Weeks' **Calendar Summaries**
- **Reminders** for the Weeks
- Suggestions and Hints for **Exams**
- **Interesting tidbits** of the week, including **For-Fun Trivia . . .**
- **Optional links** that might be generally interesting and/or useful for example **Extra Credit Opportunities**
- Information on **In-Class Films and Videos**  
(of which there will be many, starting next week)
- **Breaking News Items**

In the “Greetings!” Memo I mentioned **“Tomorrow’s headlines. . . . We’ll soon see what the future brings in the area of food around the world.”**

## **In the News** (brief review)

In the “Greetings!” memo I mentioned that interest in food has never been higher, or more important. As for **“tomorrow’s headlines. . . . We’ll soon see what the future brings in the world of food.”** Food and food customs always seem to be in the news.\*

## WEEKLY FOOD NEWS INCLUDES ITEMS LIKE:

(These are examples for you to check out, if you are so inclined. Sometimes folks get ideas for their **term project** by looking at news items like these.)

- **'An impossible choice': farmworkers pick a paycheck over health despite smoke-filled air** -- [The Guardian](#) (22 August 2020)



Farmworkers are given masks before harvesting a field in Greenfield, California.  
Photograph: Brent Stirton/Getty Images

- **Food and pandemics: Is intensive animal farming the 'single most risky human behaviour'?** -- [FOODnavigator](#) (21 August 2020)
- **Coronavirus: What are the risks of catching it from food packaging?** -- [BBCNews](#) (20 August 2020)
- **Chicken rehoming charity gets 52,000 lockdown hen requests** -- [BBCNews](#) (20 August 2020)



Hen do: One of Sarah Chidwick's chickens often sleeps alongside family members

- **'Water is sacred': 10 visual artists reflect on the human right to water** -- [The Guardian](#) (04 August 2020)



"All On Her" by Collin Sekajugo (Uganda)

- **Is a 20 second handwash enough to kill Covid-19? handwashing** -- [BBCfuture](#) (20 August 2020)
- **Xi Declares War on Food Waste, and China Races to Tighten Its Belt** -- [The New York Times](#) (21 August 2020)
- **China restaurant apologises for weighing customers waste** -- [BBCNews](#) (15 August 2020)



A restaurant in Beijing last month. Officials want restaurants to encourage diners to order less food, but not all are willing to bear the cost of the campaign.  
Credit...Wu Hong/EPA, via Shutterstock

- **A food revolution in the Falklands** -- [BBCtravel](#) (21 August 2020)
- **Can Artificial Sweeteners Keep Us From Gaining Weight?** -- [The New York Times](#) (20 August 2020)
- **Is the way cattle are grazed the key to saving America's prairies?** -- [The Guardian](#) (19 August 2020)
- **Gochujang: The trendy Korean food that burns** -- [BBCtravel](#) (19 August 2020)
- **Honey better treatment for coughs and colds than antibiotics, study claims** -- [The Guardian](#) (18 August 2020)



Writing in the journal *BMJ Evidence Based Medicine*, researchers said they would recommend honey as an alternative to antibiotics.  
Photograph: Getty Images

- **Malfunction at Swiss chocolate factory sends out plume of cocoa 'snow'** -- [The Guardian](#) (18 August 2020)
- **A 3100-year-old bowl of soup found next to a dead body – and it's still LIQUID** -- [Archaeology World](#) (16 August 2020)



The four-handled tureen adorned with dragons, birds, and spikes  
Tomb M4, Shaanxi province, China

- **US farmers' beef with Burger King over cow fart ad** -- [BBCnews](#) (16 July 2020)
- **Aunt Jemima to change name and logo due to racial stereotyping** -- [The Guardian](#) (17 June 2020)
- **21 Ways Restaurants Could Change Forever, According to Chefs** -- [Food&Wine](#) (26 April 2020)

**\*Disclosure:** Items selected from on-line news sources will under normal circumstances be limited to sources classified as legitimate “News” (the green rectangle on the chart) and “Fair Interpretations of the News” (the yellow rectangle on the chart) by the authors of the

## Media Bias Chart



We’ll be exploring many aspects of food—  
cultural, nutritional, spiritual, social, political,  
psychological, historical, prehistorical,  
recreational, economic, technological, ethical,  
and the like—so stay tuned.

REM: **Textbooks**

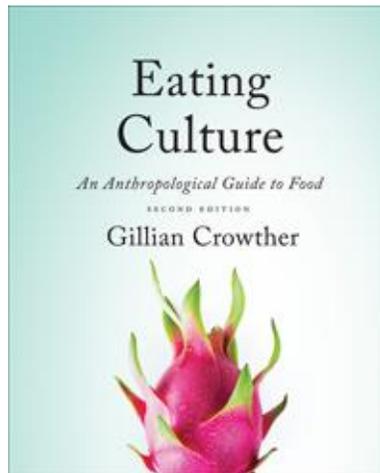
Detailed information on the textbooks for the course—

there are three—can be found at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aftexts.html>.

The course anchor text is . . .

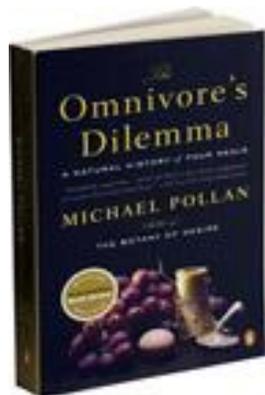
***Eating Culture: An Anthropological Guide to Food,  
Second Edition***

by Gillian Crowther, Professor of Anthropology at Capilano University in Vancouver,  
BC (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).



***Eating Culture: An Anthropological Guide to Food, Second Edition***

is currently available on-line for \$48.95 new, \$19.00 used, and \$31.16 e-Textbook.  
(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on  
orders over \$25).  
(5 August 2020)



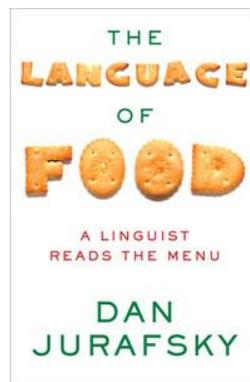
***The Omnivore's Dilemma:  
A Natural History of Four Meals (2007)***

an international run-away best seller, is currently available on-line for \$11.29 new, \$1.35 used, \$9.99 Kindle, and \$0.00 Audiobook.

(+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25).  
(5 August 2020)

Note: *The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat, Young Readers Edition* (2009), also by Michael Pollen, is a different edition of the book.

***The Omnivore's Dilemma at Ten Years***  
-- New Food Economy (June 2016)



2015 James Beard Award Nominee: Writing and Literature category

## ***The Language of Food: A Linguist Reads The Menu***

is currently available on-line new for \$13.57 (ppbk.), \$2.00 used, \$9.99 Kindle, and \$13.71 Audiobook. (+ p/h, where applicable, at amazon.com & eligible for FREE Prime Shipping on orders over \$25).

(5 August 2020)

As I mentioned in my welcome 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.*

**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 Education Life*, 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). It still is. They still are.

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

It is not accidental that *TAPS*, Canada's leading Beer Magazine—in fact it's *THE BEER MAGAZINE*—features this item from this class in an editorial (Winter 2011-2012, p. 2); at least one major Editor in Chief thinks it's 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)

As I mentioned in the “Greetings!” memo . . .

## **REM: 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 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 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.**

Have a Have a general once-over look at the . . .

## **Assignments and Events for Week 1`**

which are listed on your  canvas **"Calendar"**.

They are also listed on the **"Syllabus"** section of your  canvas folder;  
if you prefer to have them in another form (see below).

Suggestion: Use the  canvas Calendar feature . . .

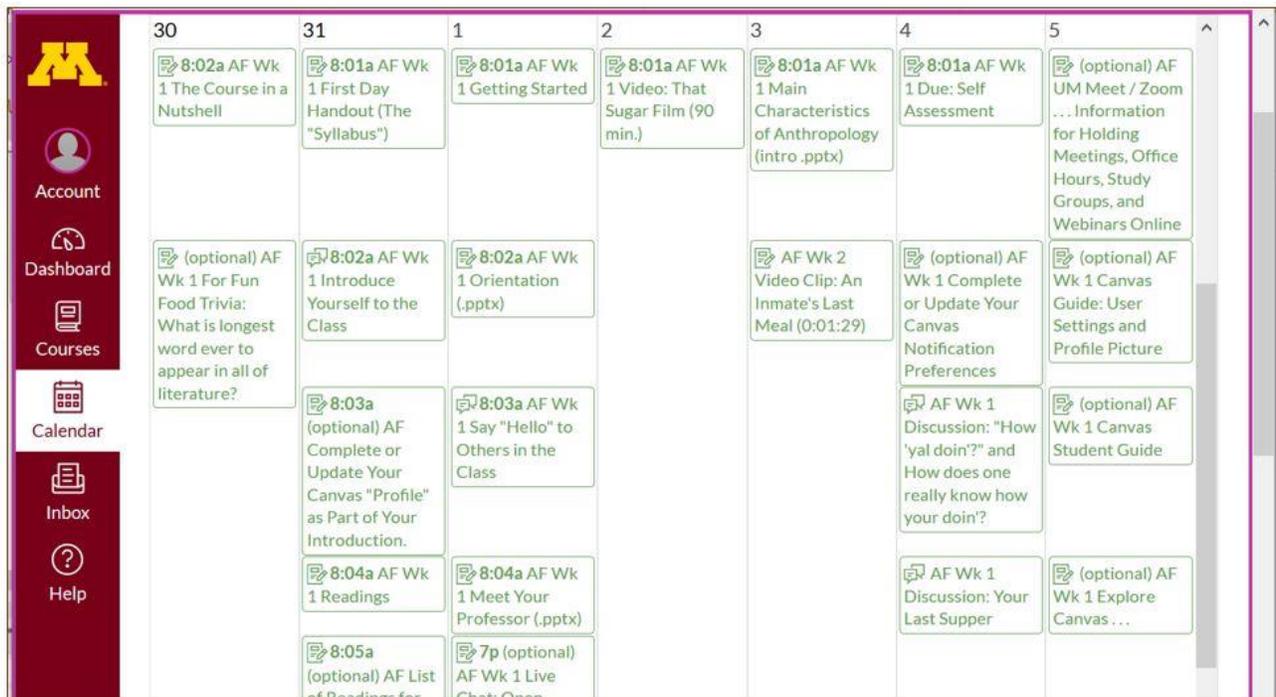
**REM: Links on screenshots are not "hot" (active)**



The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS interface for the course "Anthropology of Food". The page title is "Welcome to Anthropology of Food" with a subtitle "Fall 2020 Greetings". A central image shows a man in a hat standing in a market stall filled with durians. A yellow arrow points from the "Calendar" icon in the left sidebar to the word "Calendar" written in a yellow box. The sidebar includes icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main content area includes "Google Drive", "Library Course Page", and "Collaborations". At the bottom of the image, there is a caption: "Tim Roufs inspecting Durians in Singapore Market, 2017".

## This Week's "Calendar" view looks like this:

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



Clicking on "Agenda" (when you're signed on to the  Canvas "Calendar") will give you a notebook listings view

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

The screenshot shows a calendar interface for August 2020. A yellow arrow with the text "set preferences" points to the "Agenda" button in the top right corner. The calendar grid shows dates from Sunday, August 30 to Saturday, August 5. Various assignments are listed for each day, such as "8:02a AF Wk 1 The Course in a Nutshell" on Sunday and "8:01a AF Wk 1 Getting Started" on Monday. A central note reads: "NOTE: Many things listed on the 'Calendar' are (optional)". The left sidebar contains navigation icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, and Inbox.

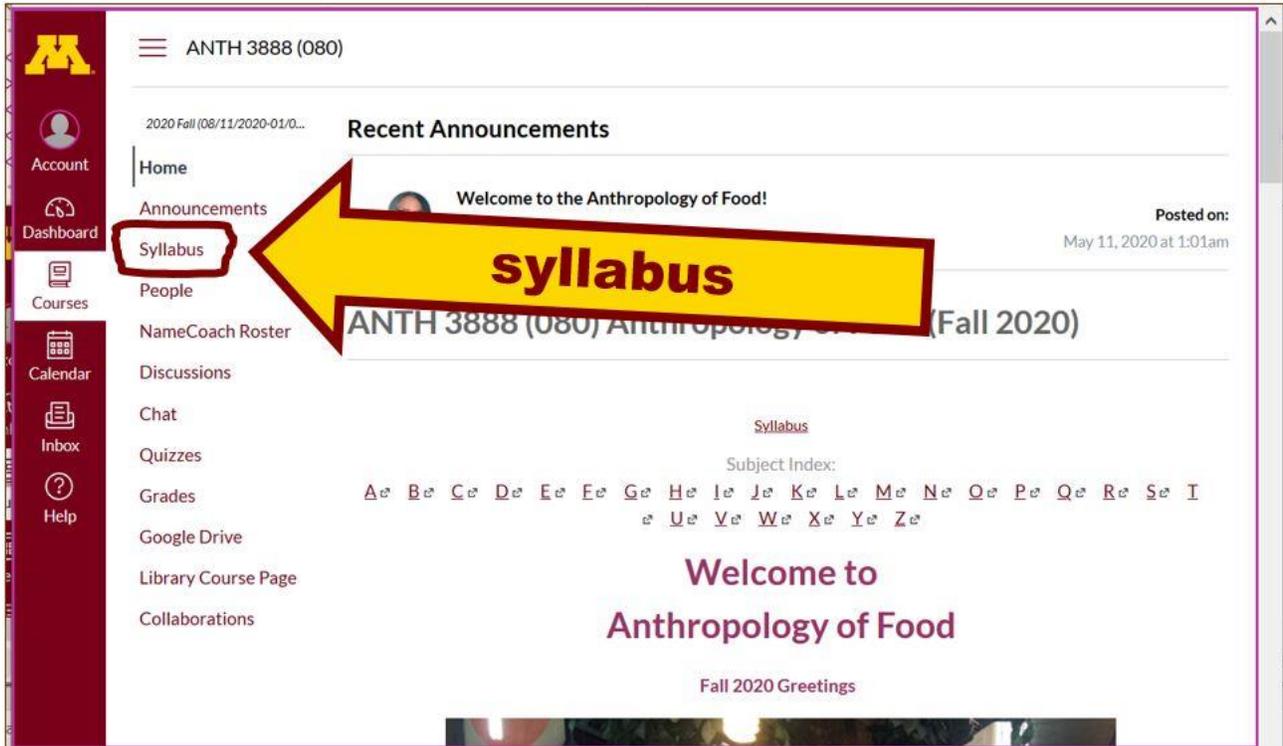
In the "Agenda" version the assignments look like this:

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

The screenshot shows the "Agenda" view of the calendar interface. A yellow arrow with the text "Agenda" view points to the "Agenda" button in the top right corner. The view displays a list of assignments with their due times and titles, organized by day. For Sunday, August 30, the assignments are "Due 8:02am AF Wk 1 The Course in a Nutshell" and "Due 11:59pm (optional) AF Wk 1 For Fun Food Trivia: What is longest...". For Monday, August 31, the assignments are "Due 8:01am AF Wk 1 First Day Handout (The 'Syllabus')", "Due 8:02am AF Wk 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class", "Due 8:03am (optional) AF Complete or Update Your Canvas 'Profile' as...", and "Due 8:04am AF Wk 1 Readings". The left sidebar is the same as in the previous screenshot.

And the “Syllabus” version is found here:

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



The “Syllabus” version looks like this:

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

Date	Details
Sun Aug 30, 2020	AF Wk 1 The Course in a Nutshell due by 8:02am
	(optional) AF Wk 1 For Fun Food Trivia: What is longest word ever to appear in all of literature? due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 31, 2020	AF Wk 1 First Day Handout (The "Syllabus") due by 8:01am
	AF Wk 1 Introduce Yourself to the Class due by 8:02am
	(optional) AF Complete or Update Your Canvas "Profile" as Part of Your Introduction. due by 8:03am
	AF Wk 1 Readings due by 8:04am
	(optional) AF List of Readings for the Entire Semester (useful for reviewing for the exams) due by 8:05am

**So once again, welcome to Anth 3888 Anthropology of Food. This *will be* a great course, and a great experience.**

**You will see. . . .**

If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the  canvas “Discussions”, or e-mail [troufs@d.umn.edu](mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu), or ZOOM <https://umn.zoom.us/my/troufs>. [e-mail is fastest].

**For Fun Food Trivia for the Week . . .**

**What is longest word ever to appear in all of literature?**

(Answer)

I'm looking forward to "seeing" you in class.

Best Wishes,

Tim Roufs

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

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

P.S. If you are new to the world of "technology" don't worry too much about that. Things may not "work" for you at first, but hang in there and we'll help you along. If you have not used  canvas course management system before, you might find it helpful to view the **Canvas Student Guide**.