

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
<http://www.d.umn.edu/socanth>

4 April 2016

Culture and Personality Week 12

Real People . . . Real Places . . .

RIP Professor John A. Arthur

The Thao Family of Appleton, Wisconsin

As I indicated in a memo yesterday, we will not have class on Wednesday, April 6, due to the UMD memorial service for Prof. John Arthur. The public memorial service at UMD will be Wednesday, April 6, from 12:30 to 3:00 in the Rafters.



If you knew John, be aware that Let's Talk drop in sessions are available this morning, Monday 10-12, and Thursday 1-3 in Kirby Student Center 361.

Prof. Arthur's Funeral Visitation is from 1-2 p.m. on Tuesday, with the services beginning at 2 p.m., with a reception in the Asbury United Methodist Church to follow:

Asbury United Methodist Church
6822 Grand Ave
Duluth MN 55807
[218 624 0061](tel:2186240061)

Today in class we will venture to Appleton, Wisconsin, to visit the daily and spiritual worlds of a Hmong family. **Chai Thao is the daughter of a Hmong shaman who lives in Appleton, Wisconsin.** Chai will tell us about her father Paja, and about how her family and people arrived in Appleton from Laos. She'll tell us about how her father, a Hmong shaman, struggles to maintain his ancient traditions as she and her twelve brothers and sisters embrace American culture.

"Chai . . . is caught between the richly traditional world of her parents and the complicated life of a typical American teenager. As the film's narrator, Chai shows . . . the collision of cultures taking place in her house and in the Hmong-American community." (PBS)

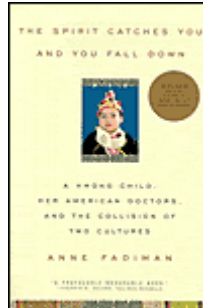
It is a collision common in America as the Culture and Personality of the adults of immigrant cultures collides with the emerging Culture and Personality of hyphenated-American teenagers.

The Split Horn . . . captures the daily struggle of a family caught between two worlds and examines the intergenerational rift between immigrant parents desperate to maintain their ancient traditions while their children embrace American lifestyles." (PBS)

"For over 17 years since the family arrived in America, filmmaker Taggart Siegel has chronicled the intimate and private lives of Paja Thao, his wife and their 13 children. *The Split Horn* focuses on Paja, a shaman whose spiritual leadership plays a vital role in Appleton's Hmong community. He ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of friends and family with elaborate rituals that bridge the natural and spirit worlds. As his children grow up, however, they are losing touch with their father's ancient traditions. In a pivotal scene, Paja, wearing a black veil, dances on a wooden bench, shaking and chanting in an ecstatic trance. Across the room, three of his children lounge on the sofa, transfixed by *The Simpsons* and MTV, ignoring the ancient spirit battle played out by their father."

"A year of sadness leads Paja to conduct a ceremony for his family during which he discovers that his own soul has strayed from his body. He spirals into a depression, unable to heal himself or others. The community, worried by Paja's depression, asks two shaman friends to lead a healing ceremony for him. The Thao children come together, putting aside their religious differences to support their father and mother. One of the older sons, Koualy, returns to Hmong tradition after 14 years and helps his father with the ceremony. Paja beams with joy and renewed strength." (PBS)

Readers of Anne Fadiman's best-selling popular work *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (NY: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1997) will recognize several recurring psychological themes in the intercultural conflict . . . Read Ch. 19 "The Sacrifice."



Anne Fadiman
NY: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1997



Life Went On Around Her, Redefining Care by Bridging a Divide
-- Margalit Fox, *The New York Times* (15 September 2012)

"The Sacrifice" is available in your **Moodle** Folder
via the sidebar . . .
Course Resources > Electronic Reserve

Your **Moodle** activities for the week are to . . .

- 📅 **2016 from Week 11 Response to the film *The Split Horn: Life of a Hmong Shaman in America*** (Due by the end of Week 12—Saturday, 9 April 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged)Feedback
- 📅 **Check your presentation time**, and write it down in your calendar. (See Week 9 Activities.)

The class Presentations WebPage, if you would like to review, is at
<<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth4616/cppresentations.html#title>>.

-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session I:** Week 14 Day 25, Monday, 18 April 2016 URL
-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session II:** Week 14 Day 26, Wednesday, 20 April 2016 URL
-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session III:** Week 15 Day 27, Monday, 25 April 2016 URL

Share your ideas with others. It's always a good idea to share your ideas with others. You can discuss them on-line with the others in class. And you should do that.




s2016 **Student Collaboration Space**
for your own personal use

 Wiki for Project Collaboration

The above item will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under "Student Collaboration Space".

Remember to check the results of the class Video Responses from earlier weeks when they close. You can find the results in the **Moodle** Blocks where they first appeared. This week have a look at . . .

-  Results--*Personality All About Me* s2016
-  Results—"Psychological Anthropology" from the *Faces of Culture* Series s2016
-  Results--*Chimp Talk* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Everything is Relatives: William Rivers" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"New Orleans Black Indians: A Case Study in the Arts" s2016
-  Results--"Grouping by Gender, Age, Common Interests and Class" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Coming of Age: Margaret Mead" s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Margaret Mead and Samoa* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Stranger in the Mirror: An Examination of Visual Agnosia* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Synesthesia: Derek Tastes of Earwax* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Making Sense of Sensory Information* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"ESP" segment from *Science Frontiers: Put to the Test* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Birth Order and Its Effects* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Magical Death and Children's Magical Death* s2016 File resource

-  Results--*N'ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Latah: A Culture-specific Elaboration of the Startle Reflex* s2016
-  Results--"Alejandro Mamani" s2016

As usual, if you have any general or specific questions about your Paper, your Presentation, your Promissory Abstract and Working Bibliography, the Extra Credit option(s), Reading Assignments, or anything else, please let me know: <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>. And start (or continue) incubating your Presentation.

Your **(1) Topics** and **(2) Readings** and **(3) Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 12 Block** of your **Moodle** folder.

In the meantime, if you have any general or specific questions, please let me know <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs