

This semester, we will use a blog to share our ideas outside of the classroom rather than using a journal or the discussion board in Blackboard. To get started, go to <http://WordPress.com> and create an account. Please use a professional-sounding email address to sign up, and create a username that follows the pattern of first name and last initial. I will use the blog list whenever I need to contact anyone via email, so you will need to check that email account regularly. Once you sign up for an account, I can make you an author on our blog so that you can write and edit your own posts. Until then, you will only be able to comment on others' posts.

Rather than each of you posting for each class, you will each be assigned a number, and throughout the semester, we will take turns writing posts and responding to each other. Your classmates will depend on your thoughtful and punctual work for their own assignment completion.

Before each class, everyone assigned the given number will write a reading response that should include a reaction to the reading. A thorough reading response will:

- Include at least 300 words
- Respond to a passage in the assigned reading that you think is worth closer consideration
- Quote that passage specifically (not included in the 300-word count) for us to discuss in class
- Discuss that passage in detail, considering:
  - what you think it means,
  - why it is significant,
  - how it conveys its meaning,
  - how it relates to the text as a whole,
  - how it connects to other texts we have looked at this semester
- Define vocabulary that you did not understand before, and explain how the definition makes sense in the passage
- Ask a question that will prompt discussion in class

The other students in the class will then reply with comments about the post.

Responders should:

- write a response of approximately 150 words using the comment function
- reflect on the points raised in that specific post
- connect the passage in the post with other ideas and texts we have examined
- consider what themes or problems the discussion raises that we can discuss in class