Blogging Assignment Description

Students are expected to create and maintain their own weblogs or 'blog's as part of the course. Blogs allow you to reference news you see on the Internet, link to that news, provide your own commentary, and engage in a dialog with other visitors to your blog about the issues addressed. You will be graded on the frequency of your posts, the quality of your analysis, and your commentary on the blogs of fellow classmates.

Examples of blogs and their authors

- Glenn Reynolds: http://www.instapundit.com/
 - o Libertarian ideology, philosophy, law
- Markos Malitsos: http://www.dailykos.com/
 - o Mainstream liberal ideological site maintained by multiple authors
- Arianna Huffington http://www.huffingtonpost.com
 - Most popular mainstream liberal ideological site. Multiple inside and celebrity contributors.
- Nathan Silver http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/
 - o Academic, data-driven
- Multiple authors http://www.swingstateproject.com/
 - o Elections blog
- Radley Balko http://www.theagitator.com
 - Libertarian philosophy, civil liberties, drug war
- Domenech, Krempasky, Trevino http://www.redstate.com
 - Mainstream conservative ideology
- Ruffini, Dayton http://www.thenextright.com
 - Republican insider blog
- Gelman, Klinkner, Sigelman http://www.themonkeycage.org
 - Leading political scientists blog

State Blogs

- http://rightwithkansas.blogspot.com/ Conservative
- o http://blog.stayredkansas.com/ Conservative
- http://forwardkansas.com/ Liberal
- o http://www.domeontherange.org/ Liberal
- http://kansasreporter.org/ Reporting
- http://stateofthestateks.com/ Reporting
- o http://insightkansas.wordpress.com Academic

Creating a blog

Blackboard has an internal blog system, and you may feel free to use it. However, if you already blog you may use the blog you have already established. Blackboard blogs are tied to the class and will be automatically erased by the system is you use the course blog. If you want to create a blog that will survive beyond the end of this class, you can use Blogger, WordPress, TypePad, or another blogging system. Blogger is the easiest to use of all the systems but the most limited in function. If you use a

non-Blackboard blog, make sure you can establish external links so that we can connect all of our sites in a "blogroll."

Process for Blogger

- 1. Go to https://www.blogger.com/start
- 2. Click on "Create your blog now"
- 3. Fill out the form to create a Google account and submit (Note: if you already have a Google account such as a Gmail address, you can use your existing account for your blog)
- 4. Choose a name and URL for your blog and submit
- 5. Choose a template design and submit
- 6. Blog has been created, you may now post immediately.

Once your blog is created, email me its URL (web address) and I will link it.

Frequency and Quality of Posts

Make at least two posts of three paragraphs (though they can be longer) or more each week, and add comments to the blogs of other class members (including mine) at least three times a week. More are welcome, but the smallest number of posts and comments should be five weekly.

A post should consist of a link to an online news resource, along with a quick summary of the important point(s) and your own personal analysis. Blog posts should pay particular attention to the news reporting techniques, bias of the reporter of that story, or larger significance of the story itself to politics.

A comment is where you add analysis to another class member's post or critique either their point of view or analysis of the story. Comments can be at least two sentences with no maximum length.

I have attached a blog grading rubric I will use to issue your blog grades. Students will be eligible for up to 25 points per grading period. The five criteria you will receive up to five points for are a) number of blog posts, b) number of comments on other blogs, c) adequate content as described above, d) politically-relevant content, and e) compliance with the due date.

One of the advantages blogs have is the comment system. With comments you can continue the conversations we have about topics in class into your blogs outside of class. I encourage you to write as many blog posts and comments as you would like, being sure to keep them relevant to the topic of political communication.

Example of good blog content from a student in 2011 using Blackboard

[®] Occupy Protesters Prepare Two-Month Anniversary March ⊗

Posted by State and State at Wednesday, November 16, 2011 11:59:08 PM CST

This article discusses the major complications the Occupy Wall Street movement has had in recent days. It is planned for Thursday (tomorrow, Nov. 17th) to mark the two-month anniversary that started in NYC but has swept the nation. On Tuesday, the police raided the New York occupy protesters. What is poignant is what the turnout will be on Thursday. If there is major support, it will show that there is still life in this movement.

What has recently been appalling - and was discussed in this article - has been the police actions taken. Several weeks ago, at the Occupy Oakland, an Iraq War veteran was severely injured by a smoke bomb canister. In Seattle, an 84 year old woman was hit by police pepper spray at a night march. In places like NYC, South Carolina, San Diego, and San Fransisco, huge numbers of protesters were detained by police offices. Even in London - riots there recently plagued the city - police are threatening legal actions against the protesters outside of St. Paul's Cathedral.

I do not know what laws/rights are protected in England, but I know that in the United States, as long as it is peaceful, all citizens have the right to assemble and protest. The First Amendment in our Constitution gives us this right. I understand when things get out of control like the Rodney King Riots or the riots in London, police action is necessary to protect innocent citizens from harm. But, given that there is no provoking from the protestors, the police across the country need to learn the rights of the Constitution. People have the right to assemble. It does not matter if it is a local problem, a national problem, or in response to a global problem, our laws protect this right - it's clearly not a privilege like driving or something like that. The right to peacefully assemble was given the US citizens at the conception of our nation.

It is troubling for me to see the actions taken by the police. I am also interested to see the turnout at tomorrow's possible Occupy NYC rally. I hope that NYPD realizes that as long as there is no property damage or harm to others, the protesters have every right to be there

Title: Occupy Protesters Prepare Two-Month Anniversary March

Source: BBC News

Link: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-15767829

FHSU Political Communication

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010

Not smart enough to tell the difference

No one has ever said that Sarah Palin is the smartest person in politics. It would be hard to say it even compared to a room full of third-graders. When she recently gave a recorded interview on buddy Glenn Beck's radio show, Palin was quoted: "We gotta stand with our North Korean allies." Recently, Palin took her to Facebook soapbox to denounce the press for covering her "gaffe" far more than those committed by Obama and Biden.

I believe that her gaffe wasn't as much as a mistake, but more of a basic lack of knowledge of geography and international relations. I do not claim to be the foremost head of these topics, but I can tell you the difference between North and South Korea, what newspapers I read, and the definition of the Bush Doctrine. Granted the last two of these references are out of doubt, but so appears to be Palin's basic understanding of these issues. Rather than owning up to her mistake, she passes blame on others, and doesn't recognize her own failings.

If this is any indication of the type of President she would be, I think we should all be worried about her intentions for 2012. Hopefully, she gets a copy of Encyclopedia Britannica or the NY Times sometime soon.

http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2010/11/26/palin-delivers-a-gaffe-filled-message/?hpt=Sbin

MIDTERM PREDICTIONS



FOLLOWERS



Members (2)



Already a member? Sign in

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2010 (22)

November (5)

Blog Rubric

Rubric Detail					
	Levels of Achievement				
Criteria	Inadequate	Novice	Competent	Moderate	Proficient
Number of Blogs	1 Points	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Spelling and Grammar	1 Points	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Links to Articles	1 Points	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Article Summaries	1 Points	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Analysis	1 Points	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points

Blog Criteria Explained:

Number of Blogs: Students receive points based on the number of blog posts meeting adequate standards described in the instructions. Each blog post earns students one point, up to a total of five.

Spelling and Grammar: For each spelling or grammatical error in the students' posts, they lose one point. More than five errors scores a zero for the criterion.

Links to Articles. Each blog post must contain an active link to a news article. Each article lacking a live link costs students one point.

Article summaries. A subjective score, based on the student's ability to summarize each article.

Analysis. A subjective score, based on the students' provision of analysis beyond the simple summary of each article.