

Your Blogging Responsibilities

You can reach the class blog by going to the www.criticsandbuilders.com/amstudies and following the appropriate link for the class. You can post an entry (and also reach the blog) by going to www.typepad.com and logging in.

Each week you have a blogging assignment. You need to provide original entries to the blog as well as engage in a discussion of other entries by your classmates and teachers. You can always post an entry on any topic you think is related to the course (quickly linking to a story or a website that you think is informative, for example, or maybe offering a full-blown cultural analysis of a TV show you just watched) – but in order for your post to count for the assignment, your entries have to be connected to one of the following:

- *A current event or controversy that connects with a topic we are discussing in class
or
- *An historical event or controversy that we have addressed during our present unit
or
- *A book we are presently reading or have read during our present unit
or
- *A current piece of American culture that relates to at least one of the three above

Note: When I say they must be “connected” to one of the above, I mean that in a very broad sense. The blog is *your* space for *your* ideas. Feel free to give a personal reaction to a story or take a side on an issue. The only requirement is that your response be original.

Each week you must:

- ~Post at least **one** substantive entry on one of the above topics (at least one paragraph of 8-10 sentences or, more appropriately for the web, a series of smaller paragraphs)
and
- ~Post at least **two** thoughtful, constructive comments on another recent entry (while you may disagree with the entry, do so respectfully, always trying to give credit along with criticism)

Note: Although blogging is often considered a casual exercise (feel free, for example, to use the personal pronoun “I”), remember that you always want to establish credibility with the audience. As a result, all grammar and sentence structure rules apply. Take time constructing your posts and comments. Don’t simply write off the top of your head.

A post that includes language errors will get partial or no credit.

Also, when responding to a text, quote liberally from it to make your point. If we are all familiar with the text you are discussing, just provide a page number citation (think MLA

style). If we are not, provide some sort of bibliographic information (in whatever style works)

*Whenever you post, you must use **your first name** and **the initial of your last name** if you want to get credit (when you post your own entry, that should happen automatically). Since the blog is public, we will probably soon have comments from readers around the world who have just found our blog. So unless it has your name on it, I won't assume it's you.*

Grading:

Original post (20 points)

Two comments (20 points)

Additional post (5 extra credit points)

Additional comment (2 extra credit points)

"Early Bird" - Posting by 8:00am Wednesday morning (3 extra credit points)

A "week" – in terms of grading the blog – ends Friday morning at 8:00am. Any posts after that will count for the following week.