

Blogging guidelines

Five times over the course of the semester, you will be expected to post substantive (250-500 word) responses to the week's readings. These posts should be sent to me via e-mail and posted on the course blog **twenty-four hours before the class meeting**. All students are expected to read *all* postings each week – in-class discussion and in-class writing will often draw from your colleagues' blog posts. Be prepared to fully participate.

Each response should:

- Identify central questions that inform all of the readings
- Identify the arguments of the readings
- Identify the evidence base of the readings
- Identify differences among the readings
- Provide 1-3 keywords as tags for your post

I expect that these responses will get better over the course of the semester, as you become more and more familiar with historical writing and critique. Therefore, the first two responses will be graded on a pass (turned it in)/fail (didn't turn it in) basis. The last three responses will receive letter grades, but substantive improvement over the course of the semester will be taken into account as your final grade is calculated.

Additionally, with the exception of your first response posting, each response *must* substantively reference a peer's work from a previous week. This blog is meant to be a conversation amongst scholars (you) and in order to further that conversation, each post after your first must comment on how your thoughts on the subject of disasters or the practice of history relate to those of your peers. This does **not** mean simply saying "two weeks ago [Person] talked about [X]." You must find a way to incorporate your colleague's commentary on previous readings into your analysis.

Feel free to include images, music, video or other media in your blogged responses.

You are required to post five reading responses during the semester, but you are both permitted and encouraged to post other items of interest, thoughts on contemporary disasters, or any other musings related to the course. These will be counted as extra credit.