Blogging for Information

This course adopts a collaborative learning approach, with its success relying on the creative contributions and interactions of all class members. So please also let me add a few suggestions to **keep our discussions interesting and productive**:

- **Reading and contributing ideas are both important**. Keep up with reading and responding.
- **Use informative titles**. Titles such as "I agree..." or "Good point..." tell us very little.
- **Write politely.** Please, no name-calling or rude language. Try to avoid negative overgeneralizations and sarcasm; without seeing each other in person, it's hard to tell when some one is joking. It's more interesting to use others' names and to point out both positive and negative in others' comments.
- **Quality over quantity**. My expectation is that you will create one post of your own, as well as respond to **two (2)** of your classmates. I also expect that you respond to everyone who responds to your post. I expect that you will take an active collaborative part in the discussions, both through reading and writing, and I look for quality (i.e. thoughtfulness and reflection) over quantity (lots of entries with little evidence of reading other's work). I see the class as a learning community where we support each other's intellectual growth in a supportive, constructively analytic environment.

What makes a good discussion note? These are some questions to ask yourself about your contributions to check whether you are on the right track:

1. Does the contribution advance the ***current topic***?

2. Is it concise (usually less than 20 lines)? One or two sentences is usually too short to be useful, and more than two screens is normally too much at one time.

3. Is there an informative title for the note? Does it set the context; show what it responds to?

4. Does it do one or more of the following: share knowledge, pose well formulated questions, constructively criticize, build on what others have contributed?

5. Is it directed to the whole class and does it provide substance? (Messages that are directed toan individual should be sent to them by email. Messages of general agreement without adding to the discussion should be avoided too.)

6. Does it relate to the course references or offer new related resources?

7. Are the contributions spread throughout the applicable topic time period, rather than last-minute?