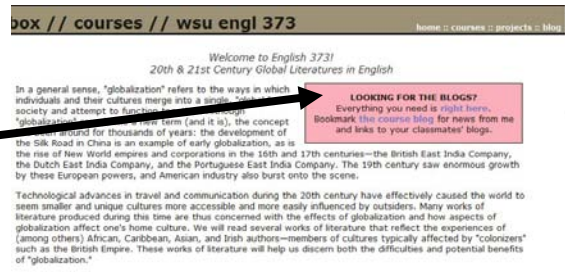


Fall 2009 // WSU-TC // English 373

Blog: Info & the First Three Blog Assignments

If you visit the course website at <http://www.academicsandbox.com/F09/E373/> (it's on your syllabus, too) you will see a pinkish box that says "LOOKING FOR THE BLOGS?" In that box is a link to the actual course blog (as opposed to my own personal blog). The course blog, at <http://www.academicsandbox.com/E373blog/> will contain my blog posts about the class—news, announcements, post-class notes and other summative comments, and so on. Also, most importantly, **the course blog contains links to all of your blogs.**



As you can see here, I've written a few posts—just general stuff to get the blog going. You are absolutely welcome and encouraged to leave a comment on any post I write. In fact, if you're new to blogging and want to just try out the commenting feature in a nice safe space, knock yourself out.

On the right side of the blog are our six blogging groups—think of them as little neighborhoods. Once you are comfortable in your neighborhood, you can walk around the whole city. The first few assignments are geared toward working within your blog group, but you are of course free and welcome to read and respond to anyone's posts.

Per the syllabus, in general **blog posts should be substantial in both quantity and quality.** "Substantial" blog entries are those **at least 300 words in length**, and unless specifically directed by the assignment, the content may include the following (among others): general thoughts on the reading, close readings of passages, discussions of critical articles you have found in your own research, annotated collections of links to other material, questions (and potential answers) that arose during your reading, extension of a discussion we had in class, and lengthy responses to other students' posts. Also, please please please give your blog posts a good title, and not just "Blog #1." Thank you.

Blog Post #1, due sometime before 9am on Friday, September 4th

Based on your reading of *Heart of Darkness* and a critical piece from the "Nineteenth Century Attitudes Toward Race" section, first write a brief summary of the critical piece and then point to and explain a specific textual example from *HoD* that supports the attitude or issues raised in the critical work.

Blog Post #2, due anytime between Friday, September 4th and 9am on Friday, September 11th

Based on your reading of the critical essays preceding *Things Fall Apart*, especially Miller's "Should We Read 'Heart of Darkness'?", start to formulate your own answer to that question. Note: this should be a critical discussion about the content of the text, not whether or not you simply like it or do not like it. Use whatever textual examples you want from *HoD*, the first chapters of *TFA*, and the criticism you've read to date. ALSO, make at least one good comment on the first blog post from someone in your blogging group.

Blog Post #3, due anytime between Friday, September 11th and 9am on Friday, September 18th

Free-for-all post on anything regarding *Things Fall Apart*—see the possibilities listed above or in the syllabus. ALSO, make at least one good comment on the second blog post from someone in your blogging group, preferably someone whose blog you have not commented on before.