

## Spring 2010 // WSU-TC // AmSt/Engl/DTC 475

### Getting Started With Your Blog

You have several options when it comes to setting up a (FREE!) blog for use in this class. If you already have a blog, that's fine too, as long as we can tell which posts belong to this class. First I'll go through some of the options for obtaining a blog, and then I will describe the "Blog Assignment 0" **due before 9pm on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **If you already have a blog...**

- You don't have to change a thing unless you want to. Just make sure your blog posts for DTC 475 either have "DTC 475" or something similar in the title, or are in a "DTC 475" category for easy access.

#### **If you do not have a blog and you DO NOT have your own web site...**

- I recommend creating a blog at either Blogger.com or WordPress.com. If you go to either site, look on the right side of the page for a big orange button that says "Create a Blog" (for Blogger) or "Sign up now" (for WordPress).
- Fill out the forms completely and just follow the instructions. It should take all of 5 minutes. You will spend the most time trying to figure out what to name your blog.

#### **If you do not have a blog but you DO have your own web site...**

- Your hosting provider may have an automatic WordPress installation wizard in your control panel (if you have one). Check it out and give it a try!
- If you don't have a control panel but you want to install WordPress, go to WordPress.org and download the installation file and follow the instructions.
- If you don't want to install WordPress, you could also use Blogger to publish to your own website via FTP.
- If none of these options interest you (and if they do, I can help you if you get stuck), you can just use blog hosted elsewhere, but it seems like a waste since you have your own spiffy domain!

**REALLY BIG NOTE:** I will absolutely help you with any of the steps above (or below), but I urge you to try things on your own first. For what "try on your own" means, take a gander at this blog post that I wrote, called "Asking Questions the Smart Way" at <http://bit.ly/SmartQ>

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#### **Assignment 0 (aka "2 free points for doing what you're supposed to do anyway")**

- **Due:** sometime before 9pm on **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** (the sooner, the better)
- **Your Tasks:**
  1. **Set up your blog and create a basic first post.**
    - In the administrative interface to your blog, there will be a visible link either to a button that says "New Post" (Blogger) or a link to "Posts -> Add New" (WordPress).
    - Don't forget to give your post a good title. "Post #1" is not a good title (just like "Essay #1" or "Response" aren't good titles for papers you'd turn in.)
    - **Introduce yourself to the class.** You can do this any way you'd like, and in as few words or as many words as you'd like. Feel free to use images or links to music or video. Remember that first impressions mean a lot to a community, and this is your first impression on all of us, so really be yourself. It doesn't have to have anything to do with the class.
  2. **Send me the URL to your blog.** My e-mail address is [julie\\_meloni@wsu.edu](mailto:julie_meloni@wsu.edu), which just redirects to [jcmeloni@gmail.com](mailto:jcmeloni@gmail.com), so feel free to use either.