

Asian History 371: Blogging Assignment

Winter 2008
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Blog Dialogues (15%, or 60 points total—10 points each)

Supplementary readings will provide a way for you to achieve greater depth of understanding of some of the primary sites and key concepts associated with Japanese arts and visual culture. Additionally, they will help you learn to recognize and understand uses of different rhetorical devices for different audiences and learn to distinguish different voices, tones, and levels of formality in writing. Responses to those readings and to class discussion will help you develop your individual perspectives by giving you space to articulate clear lines of reasoning to explain and illustrate those perspectives. They will also prepare you for the essay questions on the exams.

There are 2 blogs per reading, each worth 5 points:

- Do not use “IM” language; try to explain your ideas concisely.
- Quotations from the text should be introduced, placed in quotation marks, and the page number indicated.
- These blogs are not graded for grammar and syntax, but you must follow word-count guidelines.

1. Initial blog: 350 words (you may want to use a combination of the article author and a suggestion of your main idea as your blog title--find some way of tracking your posts):

After reading the article, in order to secure your understanding of it, answer these questions:

- What is the topic of the article?
- What is the author’s argument?
- What evidence does she or he present to support that argument?
- Do you find the argument convincing? Why or why not?

Post this initial blog in the appropriate folder on the Blackboard site by 8pm the day BEFORE the article is discussed in class (all of our discussions SAVE ONE will be on Thursdays). Thereafter, I will open up the blogs for your classmates’ consideration.

2. Follow-up blog: 250 words: Picking up a thread of one of your classmates’ posts or from a comment you made or heard in class, expand upon that idea, raising at least two questions or issues and articulating your views therein. Due BEFORE the next class meeting.

***YOUR BLOGS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THEM. IF THE FIRST IS NOT RECEIVED ON TIME YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE FIRST 5 POINTS FOR THAT ARTICLE, THE SAME FOR THE SECOND POST.**