Your Essential Information Technology Classroom Blog

A weblog, or simply a blog, is a web application that contains periodic, reverse chronologically ordered posts on a common webpage. Since the Internet is all about communication, this is a great way to connect with the cyberspace community. It is a social phenomenon. In this class, we use individual blogs to comment on the course content, including guest speakers, peer presentations, reactions to software and analyses of projects and assignments, among other issues. As such, our blogs are an extension of our classroom. Please keep in mind the following guidelines:

1. **Your blog is an integral part of our classroom interaction.** Therefore, any speech that is considered inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate on a blog. This includes, but is not limited to, profanity, racist, sexist or discriminatory remarks, and personal disparaging remarks in your own posts or in comments left on classmates' blogs. This rarely, if ever, has been a problem with Trinity students.

2. Our EIT blogs function as extensions of conversations and thinking outside of regular class time, or as the basis for research and reaction in an academic setting. Consider any information you post that is a citation to be subject to the same scrutiny as that same information you might write in a research paper. Opinion is welcome, facts should be checked.

3. Blogs are about ideas – therefore, agree or disagree with the idea, not the person. Freedom of speech does not give you the right to be uncivil. Use constructive criticism and use evidence to support your position. Read others' posts carefully – often in the heat of the moment you may think that a person is saying one thing, when really they are not.

4. Blogs are public. Whatever you post on a blog can be read by anyone and everyone on the Internet. Even if you delete a post or comment, it has often already been archived elsewhere on the web. Do not post anything that you wouldn't want your parents, your best friend, your worst enemy, or a future employer to read.

Here is a link to blogs that students set up for CSCI 1300 last spring – you may use them as example, good or not-so-good. Please know that your blogs will be models for next semester's students:
http://www.cs.trinity.edu/~jbelisle/cs1300/__2011SPRINGSEATING/210/SeatingChartTemplate.htm
Links to some other interesting blogs:
MyMythologie (Lyn Belisle's Art blog)
Myth & Mystery (The Official Blog for Author Rick Riordan)
Simply Recipes (Popular food blog)
The Dean's List (Dean Tuttle's Blog)
Technology Review (MIT's Collaborative Comprehensive Techblog)
MGWPhotography's Blog (A Free-lance Photographer's Thoughts and Portfolio)
You can search for blogs with Google's Beta Blog Search engine: