

Blog Post Guidelines

We will maintain a class blog as part of the course, with the goal of ensuring that everyone takes the time to connect what we are discussing in class with what's going on in the world. **Every student will be responsible for making two posts during the term.** Pretty much anything related to "our networked life" is an appropriate topic for the post. Possibilities range from (i) topics related to the robustness, structure, growth of networks broadly defined; (ii) anything about the interaction of networks with economics or markets; (iii) topics about what runs the web (data centers, cdns, etc); and (iv) topics related to how fads, opinions, or political movements spread.

The blog will be readable by anyone on the Internet (and so hopefully we will create a useful resource for others); however only the students and instructors will be allowed to post to it. To provide privacy for those who desire it, no student is required to make their true identity known in the posts. There will be a common user id that all students can use to make posts. Of course, you may sign your posts if you'd like. **To allow for grading, we ask that each student send an email to the guru, JK, "claiming" their posts.**

The two key aspects to making the blog successful will be the format and timing of the posts

Post format

Each post should be at least two paragraphs and should include

1. A link to an online resource relevant to the course (e.g., a recent news article, a research papers, a company or organization doing interesting work in the area, etc.)
2. Some commentary about the resource being linked to.
3. A discussion connecting the resource to a topic covered (or to be covered) in the class.

The posts will be graded based on the quality of the insights in them, the quality of the writing, the relevance to the class, and their novelty. If the posts are particularly interesting, I hope to bring them up during lectures.

The assignment is adapted from a course at Cornell titled "Networks", so please look at the posts there for inspiration, and to get a feel for what is expected.

Of course, the honor code is in effect for all posts. Please be sure to avoid inappropriate or offensive commentary.

Post timing

The blog will only be interesting and useful if posts arrive consistently throughout the term. Thus, we need to place rolling deadlines for peoples posts. The following table summarizes the dates for each post. Each post must happen between the start date and the end date for the first letter of your last name. Late posts receive zero credit.

First letter of last name	Start for post 1	End for post 1	Start for post 2	End for post 2
A,B,C	Jan 4	Jan 18	Feb 1	Feb 15
D,E,F	Jan 6	Jan 20	Feb 3	Feb 17
G,H	Jan 9	Jan 23	Feb 6	Feb 20
I,J	Jan 11	Jan 25	Feb 8	Feb 22
K,L	Jan 13	Jan 27	Feb 10	Feb 24
M,N	Jan 16	Jan 30	Feb 13	Feb 27
O,P,Q	Jan 18	Feb 1	Feb 15	Feb 29
R,S	Jan 20	Feb 3	Feb 17	Mar 2
T,U	Jan 23	Feb 6	Feb 20	Mar 5
V,X	Jan 25	Feb 8	Feb 22	Mar 7
Y,Z	Jan 27	Feb 10	Feb 24	Mar 9