

Blogging Assignment, HIS 3310

[See syllabus and course website > "Assignments"]

Blogging offers a public way of sharing ideas, analysis, and questions on the Web ... to a much wider audience.

For this class, a significant amount of our conversations happen online before we meet in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will start with Week 3 readings (but Week 02 is fine if you are ready)

Each week, you will have about 20-45 minutes of readings, mostly; some "readings" are videos or podcasts. In fact, you should be able to read for about 30 minutes and spend another 10-15 minutes jotting down some notes. In other words, don't read word-for-word. Learn how to quickly scan for the topic, argument, evidence or sources, and conclusion.

ASSIGNMENT

Of the thirteen (13) weeks of assigned readings, you will be asked to react and analyze on seven (7) of those weeks. That means for six (6) weeks, you are only expected to read / scan the readings and take down some simple notes to refer to during class discussions.

Note: only Week 07 – "Choose Your Story" – is required for all students.

The key to this assignment is to analyze the readings by: a) introducing the article and author; b) providing some historical context; c) evaluating the arguments presented by the authors, and d) speaking to the major themes related to the week's readings topic. Your submissions should NOT be structured as an article-by-article, point-by-point summary.

Approach >> After reading each week, what stands out to you? Did any of the readings inform your own ideas about sports or history in general? Don't summarize...synthesize!

Citations >> Try to develop a habit of providing hyperlinks to any reading selections, videos, songs, articles (etc.) you make reference to in your blog post.

DIRECTIONS (pictures below)

1. Log in to the [course website](#) - link on the sidebar menu (above the calendar)
2. Go to the dashboard (if not automatic, hover on the course title in the black bar at the top of the page and select "Dashboard")
3. In the dashboard, hover over "+ NEW" in the top black bar, and select "Post"
4. Write your post.
 - Enter the title
 - Enter the body text

- Have fun and enter other media (images, video, audio, tables, etc. if warranted).
 - Use the Block Editor function to add any elements beyond the default paragraph element, or to style your post.
 - Before finishing, select the appropriate “category” (i.e. week 03—Icons of South America)
 - please do not skip this step.
5. When finished, either: select “Publish” OR “Save as Draft.” You can also write your blog post or in Google Doc (or Word), and then copy and paste it later in WP when ready to publish.
- If you see an error after posting, you can still make edits.

BLOG POSTS

- **Length range:** aim for writing a post that runs between 350 words to 500 words ... long enough to get your points across with clarity, insight, analysis, reflection but concise enough to not become repetitive, tangential, or vague.
 - If you go over 500 words, that’s OK but it’s also important to edit in order to be concise.
 - Less than 350 words? Very difficult to get your points across, synthesize, and use specific passages of examples to support your points.
- **Focus:** Provide a thoughtful analysis; focus on a few common threads you detected across the readings.
 - The key to these posts is to engage with the readings, speak to recurring themes and issues, and construct a post that appeals to a wide audience by speaking about “big concepts” and/or transcendent topics.
 - **Remember:** When it comes to online or in-class conversations, the goal is to provide substantive remarks (quality), not speak more (quantity). **Do not summarize the readings one-by-one.**
 - Your reflections provide the first word on the week’s topic and initiate points for conversation in class.

DEADLINES

- Blog Posts >> **no later than by Monday night (11:59 pm)** ahead of our Tuesday and Thursday discussions of the readings.
 - You can work ahead and post earlier (the week before)
- Off Weeks >> If you have the week off, enjoy the time. However, everyone should scan the weekly readings so we can discuss.

WRITING STYLE

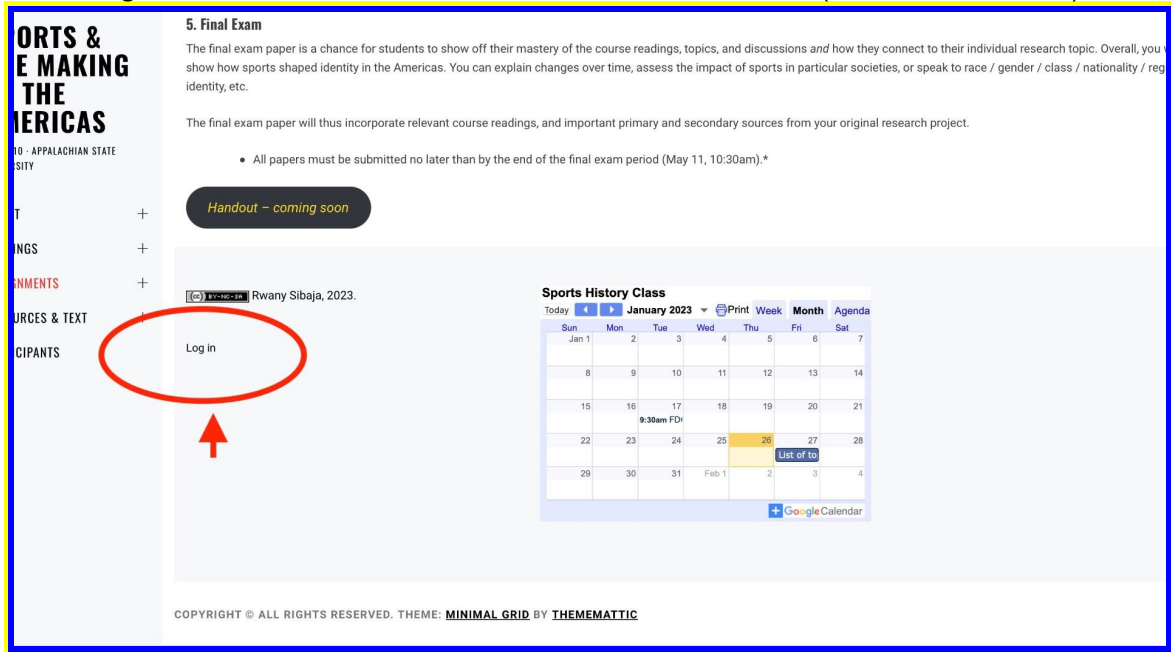
- **Audience:** Write to a wide (general) audience, in *your* voice. No “insider” references to our course, classmates, or myself. You want anyone to land on our course website and feel like they can be part of the conversation.

REQUIREMENTS

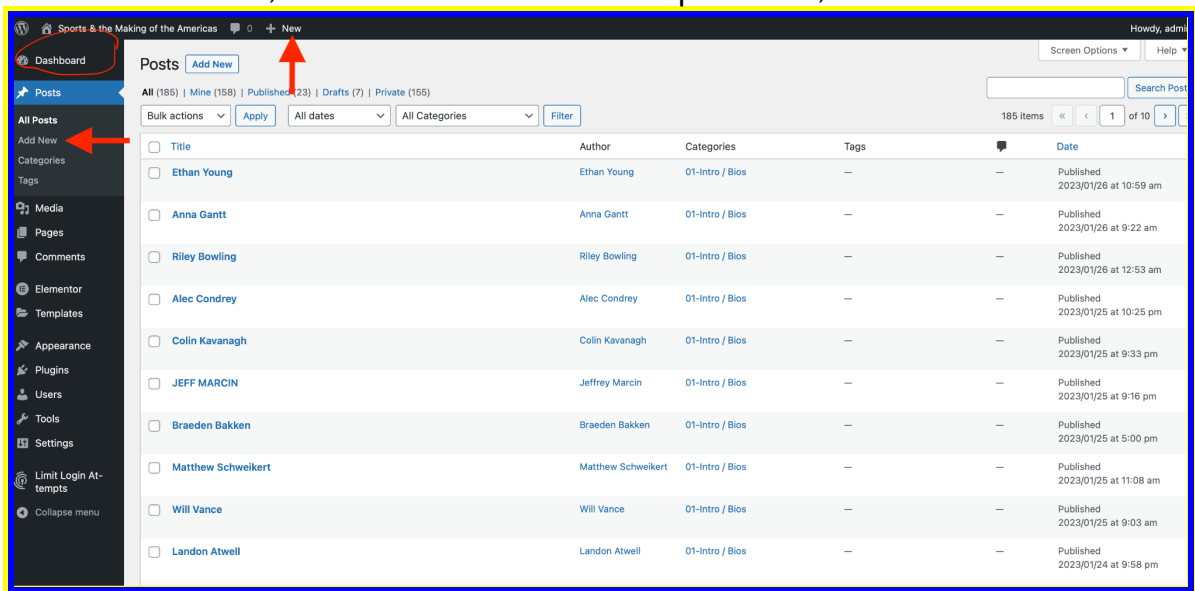
Life happens. This is why you post seven (7) times, and you can take 6-7 weeks off. You choose!

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The screenshot shows the WordPress Elementor editor interface. The main content area displays a blog post titled "Welcome to HIS 3310". The post content includes a paragraph of text and a video player. The right sidebar shows the "Update" button and the "Categories" section with "Week 01-Intro / Bios" selected. Handwritten red annotations include "Text" pointing to the paragraph, "Title" pointing to the title, "Media" pointing to the video player, and a red circle around the "Categories" section with an arrow pointing to the selected category.

5. When finished, either: select “Publish” OR “Save as Draft.” You can also write your blog post or in Google Doc (or Word), and then copy and paste it later in WP when ready to publish.

- If you see an error after posting, you can still make edits and click “Update”