We will maintain a class weblog as part of the course, and one aspect of the graded coursework for each student will be to write three posts to it during the semester. Blogs come in many different styles, and our goal here is to (collectively) create one that contains information and commentary on topics related to the course, with the goal that at the end of the semester we will have a resource of value both within the context of the course and to outside readers as well. To facilitate this, we will host the blog as part of Cornell's blog site, at `http://blogs.cornell.edu/info2040/`

The blog will be readable by anyone on the Internet (this is in keeping with the goal of creating a useful resource); however, only students and instructors in the class will be allowed to post to it. More information on the mechanics of posting to the blog will be provided in a blog post linked from the course home page.

Important note: To post on the course blog you will need to request permission from the Head TA (this is explained in the blog post linked from the course home page). Granting permission can take a day or two, so be sure to request permission to post at least a couple of days before you plan to submit your first blog post.

The grades for the blog posts will be recorded on CMS, so you will see an entry for the blog on CMS. However, you should submit the blog post by posting it to the blog itself, not by uploading to CMS.

There are three important aspects to making the blog run successfully: the format of posts, the timing of posts, and the issue of privacy.

- *Format:* Each post should be at least two paragraphs; it should include

    - A link to an on-line resource relevant to the course (e.g. a recent news article, an academic paper, an on-line discussion or essay, a company or organization doing novel work in this area, or any other kind of Web site with a useful reflection on the course material).
    - Some commentary about the resource being linked to.
    - A discussion of how the resource connects to some topic covered in the course.

  Each student is required to write three posts to the blog over the course of the semester, and these will be graded on their relevance to the class, their novelty, and the quality of the insight and writing. We'll plan to mention some of the more interesting posts in context in the lectures.

  This blog was run during the previous offerings of the course, and posts from previous semesters are visible on the site. You should feel free to look at these to get a sense for the range of topics that people posted on. While it is acceptable to write a post about a topic that was discussed in prior course offerings as well, in such a case you should make sure that you're providing a new perspective on the topic, and you should also cite, via a link, any relevant earlier posts that you consulted. (Posts from prior offerings of the course should not constitute the primary resource that you're linking to as part of your post.)

  You should keep in mind, as you write your posts, that if you refer to a company, organization, or research project in the outside world, the people you're talking about may well end up

reading what you write. This happened a number of times in prior offerings of the course (for example, in past semesters we've gotten feedback about posts — all of it positive — from the founders of several different companies, and a press representative from the New York Stock Exchange).

Finally, adding inappropriate, rude, or disruptive content to the blog will result in a 0 for this part of the course grade, and (depending on the nature of the content) potentially stronger actions. Plagiarism is also not acceptable; see the course home page for a further discussion.

- *Timing:* The blog will be most useful if the posts arrive continuously over time; this way, posts can sample material from the different parts of the class as they happen. As a result, it would not work simply to have a single due date for each of the blog posts: this would result in a huge number of posts all arriving in a short amount of time, rather than spread out uniformly.

  Given this concern, we have created a schedule that your three posts should follow, and it works as follows. First, find the first letter of your last name in the table below. Using the corresponding row in the table, your first post should be generated between the date in the second column and the date in the third column; your second post should be generated between the date in the fourth column and the date in the fifth column. and your third post should be generated between the date in the sixth column and the date in the seventh column.

First letter of last name	Start date for 1st post:	End date for 1st post:	Start date for 2nd post:	End date for 2nd post:	Start date for 3rd post:	End date for 3rd post:
A	Sep 4	Sep 16	Oct 9	Oct 21	Nov 13	Nov 20
B	Sep 2	Sep 10	Oct 7	Oct 19	Nov 11	Nov 18
C	Sep 3	Sep 11	Oct 8	Oct 20	Nov 12	Nov 19
D	Aug 31	Sep 8	Oct 5	Oct 15	Nov 9	Nov 16
E	Sep 9	Sep 17	Oct 14	Oct 22	Nov 16	Nov 23
F	Sep 2	Sep 10	Oct 6	Oct 19	Nov 11	Nov 18
G	Sep 10	Sep 18	Oct 15	Oct 23	Nov 17	Dec 2
H	Sep 11	Sep 21	Oct 19	Oct 27	Nov 19	Dec 4
I	Aug 31	Sep 8	Oct 5	Oct 15	Nov 9	Nov 16
J	Sep 10	Sep 18	Oct 15	Oct 23	Nov 17	Dec 2
K	Sep 10	Sep 18	Oct 15	Oct 23	Nov 17	Dec 2
L	Sep 1	Sep 9	Oct 6	Oct 16	Nov 10	Nov 17
M	Sep 11	Sep 21	Oct 16	Oct 26	Nov 18	Dec 3
N	Sep 1	Sep 9	Oct 6	Oct 16	Nov 10	Nov 17
O	Aug 31	Sep 8	Oct 5	Oct 15	Nov 9	Nov 16
P	Sep 4	Sep 16	Oct 9	Oct 21	Nov 13	Nov 20
Q	Sep 9	Sep 17	Oct 14	Oct 22	Nov 16	Nov 23
R	Sep 2	Sep 10	Oct 7	Oct 19	Nov 11	Nov 18
S	Sep 3	Sep 11	Oct 8	Oct 20	Nov 12	Nov 19
T	Sep 1	Sep 9	Oct 5	Oct 16	Nov 10	Nov 17
U	Sep 11	Sep 21	Oct 16	Oct 26	Nov 18	Dec 3
V	Sep 11	Sep 21	Oct 19	Oct 27	Nov 19	Dec 4
W	Sep 9	Sep 17	Oct 14	Oct 22	Nov 16	Nov 23
X	Sep 4	Sep 16	Oct 9	Oct 21	Nov 13	Nov 20
Y	Sep 3	Sep 11	Oct 8	Oct 20	Nov 12	Nov 19
Z	Sep 11	Sep 21	Oct 19	Oct 27	Nov 19	Dec 4

- *Privacy:* In keeping with course privacy guidelines, no student will be required to make their true identity public as part of this activity. The blog is configured in such a way that each student can choose an arbitrary user name that can be unrelated to their real name or Cornell NetID; this will be the only identifier that will appear associated with a given post. The course staff will keep a private record of the user names and the corresponding real names for purposes of grading. (And naturally, nothing prevents students from including their real names in the text of their posts, if they choose to do so.)