**Blogs and Websites**

A blog (a contraction of the term "web log") is a web page that usually has individual posts that appear in reverse chronological order on which outside users can typically comment. **Wordpress.com** is a popular service that allows users to blog for free.

If you decide to launch a blog on one of these public sites you can also link to it from your Blackboard course so the students can participate.

If you'd like a blog that only your students can participate in, we also offer a blog capability right inside Blackboard. To learn more go to Blog (Blackboard).

**Why would I use this?**

The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art like [artlog.com](http://artlog.com), photographs [photoblog.com](http://photoblog.com), sketches [sketchblogs.com](http://sketchblogs.com), videos [vlog.com](http://vlog.com), music like [The Hype Machine](http://thehypemachine.com), which are part of a wider network of social media.

Blackboard now provides blogging capability for your courses. It's a way for you and your students to discuss course topics. Since it's inside your Blackboard course it's only available to you and the students in your course. It's private, not public.

**Who is using this?**

Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. The blog shown at the right, [Tabsir.net](http://tabsir.net), is the blog of Dr. Daniel Varisco, Chair of Hofstra's Anthropology department. Dr. Varisco writes extensively on Islam and the Middle East.
Another creative use of a blog, Nassau News, can be found in the School of Communications in Journalism 80, Online Journalism. The course is the equivalent of an Internet newspaper with the instructor as editor and the students as reporters.

Arthur Dobrin, a Professor in the Humanities Department has a blog here.

How do I use this?

Blackboard offers blog capability for courses that you teach. Click here Blog (Blackboard), to learn more about blogs inside your Blackboard course.