English 1B Spring 2012 **Book Club Project** (updated 29 Feb)

**Overview:** The book club project is designed to provide a number of benefits: 1) to let you see how argument operates “in the real world” and in depth, as you will be reading a book-length argument; 2) to let you explore a contemporary subject that might or might not already be of interest to you, getting you in on the current conversation about that subject; and 3) to let you share the ideas of your classmates who are also interested in this subject.

**Details:**

**The Assignments** I might add some small ones as we go along, but here are the ones you will definitely do.

1) Book Clubs Formed: Study the list of options, choose one or two books you’d like to read, and come to class prepared to negotiate for your choice. **Due T 2/28**

2) Progress Report: This report will be short, just a few paragraphs to tell me how the reading is going so far. I will ask focused questions for each different book. You can also report any problems or questions that have come up. A separate assignment sheet will be given. **Due T 4/3**

3) Office Conferences The groups will meet with me (one group at a time) in my office to discuss in-class presentations. Bring a written outline of your in-class presentation. Conference sign-ups will be the previous week. **Due T 4/17**

4) Written part of the Presentations There will be a separate assignment sheet for this, but basically this will be a written version of the group’s presentation, though each portion will be written by a different student and graded individually. (1/2-1 page each student) **Due Th 4/19**

5) Presentations These will be fairly short, 10-12 minutes each group. You will discuss major themes in your books, summarize the plot, and discuss how the argument is presented. You will also summarize the book’s critical reception and cultural impact. Finally, you will tell us what you thought about the book personally. **Due 4/24-5/1**

6) Annotated Bibliography: As part of the research project, you will compile a bibliography of 10 sources related to your book and annotate each source, both summarizing and assessing the credibility of each source. A separate assignment sheet will be given. (1200 words, approx. 4 pages) **Due: T 4/26**

7) Book Club-based In-class reflection: This will be like the other in-class essays we’ve done, but each of you will write on a prompt from your book club book. **Due: T 5/1**

8) Brief Researched Argument: This is a “mini-research paper” related to your book and annotated bibliography. A separate assignment sheet will be given. (1200 words, approx. 4 pages) **Due: Th 5/10**