English 1B Fall 2015 **Book Club Project**

**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, for those who choose non-fiction; 2) to develop a deeper understanding of how fiction can operate rhetorically, for those of you who choose fiction; 3) 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; 4) and 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. There will be fuller assignment sheets for the longer assignments. This sheet is just to show you how the assignments are related (“scaffolding,” it’s called in pedagogical terms). It also puts all the due dates in one place.

1)**Book Clubs Formed**: Study the list of options, choose 1-3 books you’d like to read, write them down, and come to class prepared to negotiate for your choice. If you want to pitch a book not on the list, you need to tell me about it *before* the class period when we do this together. Note: if you are absent that day, you probably will NOT get a book you want to read. Be there! **DUE**

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 offer details. **DUE**

3) **Office Conferences** The groups will meet with me (one group at a time) in my office or in class to discuss in-class presentations. You’ll bring a written outline of your in-class presentation, and be prepared to discuss visual aids and any multi-modal components such as video clips. Conference sign-ups will be the previous week. **DUE**

4) **Book Club-based In-class reflection**: This will be like the other in-class essays you’ve probably done, but each of you will write on a prompt related to your book club book. **DUE**

5) **Oral Presentations** These will be fairly short, approximately 5 minutes for each student. 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. A separate assignment sheet will offer details. **DUE**: final exam period.

6) **Written part of the oral 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. (2-3 pages from each student) **DUE**