Optional BOOK REPORT (for Outside Activity Credit)

After reading one of the two books assigned to your course, respond to the questions below. Write each question's number, so as to make clear to me which question you are responding to.

Either write double spaced neatly on tablet (not notebook) paper or type double spaced on typing/computer paper. Basically, you are being graded on your judgement here and your ability to express and support—with specific references to the book—your judgement. This is necessary for my grading of your report. If you hand me something written or typed single-spaced, I must hand it back to you to re-prepare in double space.

My impression of the quality of your paper is affected not only by the quality of content, but also by your writing expression, neatness, basic grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Be sure to number the pages and staple or bind them in some neat, effective manner.

NOTE: I do not want to see large reports (over eight typed pages) filled up with merely a book synopsis. The report I want requires you to read and think about it. You explicitly answer the specific questions below. Identify each response as being to “Question #”.

WORD TO THE WISE: Before handing in your report (original only), make a copy of it.

Your Reward: Besides the intellectual value of the recommended books, you raise the maximum for possible OA credit from 20 points to 30. You may help to ensure you earn all 30 points by filling in the difference between your book report score and 30 points by earning regular Outside Activity credit up to 10 points. (That is, you can earn the maximum of 30 points only if you earn at least 20 points on the book report.) Note: Points earned over the normal 20 are extra credit.

RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, identifying each by question number:

Question 1. Tell me the author's primary point or purpose in writing this book. (100-200 words) Support your response with specifics from the book. (100-300 words)
   Also mention a second purpose. (another 100-200 words) Make clear which you think is the author's main purpose. Support your response with specifics from the book. (100-300 words)

Question 2. Discuss, giving support, two aspects of the book which you liked, that enlightened you in some way, or that you especially agreed with (approximately 200-400 words each). If you would like to mention more, just list them, with brief descriptions, following the two you discuss.

Question 3. Discuss one aspect of the book with which you questioned or disliked or found difficult to figure out. (200-400 words) Give support. If there are more, just list them following the one you discuss, again 100-300 words each.

Question 4. Conclude with a discussion of this book's impact on you, to what thoughts did reading this book lead you? (250-400 words)

Grading. End with your grading of the book—A thru F (“+” and “-” okay) with brief rationale. (150-300 words)

* DUE DATE all classes: Friday, November 16, 2012. After that date, reports are accepted, but subject to normal late penalty of -2 points @ day late, not counting weekends and holidays (Thanksgiving, in the Fall). This is unlike all other OA credit, due on the last class meeting, because of the heavy investment I must make in grading reports.