Summer Reading Assignment:

Levitt, S. D. and Dunner, S. J.(2005). *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything.* New York: HarperCollins.

Please read the text and write a half-page (approximately 150 words) response to each of the following questions. Your final submission should be about five pages in length, assuming a format with 12-point font, double-spaced, and one inch margins format. You will be submitting your responses via Turn-It-In (see instructions for TurnItIn.com that follow) by 11:59 p.m., August 29, 2011. Detail log-in instructions will be provided during the first class session. Do not try to submit your work prior to the first day of class.

1. Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner claim there is no unifying theme to *Freakonomics*. Do you agree? How would you describe the central idea of *Freakonomics*? What is the purpose of the book?

2. Why do you think Levitt and Dubner include snippets from the *New York Times Magazine* article between chapters? What does this add to the book?

3. Do you buy Levitt and Dubner's claim that conventional wisdom is often wrong? What is the role of conventional wisdom in society?

4. Why do you think more parents at the Israeli day care came late after the financial penalty was added? Are their situations in your life where guilt is a better motivator than money?

5. Do you believe Levitt and Dubner's findings about Chicago school teachers and sumo wrestlers cheating? Did the findings surprise you?

6. How do you think the Internet is changing the information advantage of experts and secret societies (like real estate agents and the KKK)?

7. Were you surprised by how similar the Black Disciples' organizational structure was to corporations like McDonalds? Why do you think people perceive drug dealers as well off financially?

8. Do you buy Levitt and Dubner's argument that the drop in crime in the 1990s was the result of Roe v. Wade? What are the strengths and weaknesses of their argument?

9. Do you agree that there is little parents can do to influence whether their children are successful? Do you think there are high-end and low-end names?

10. Why do you think I assigned this particular book for summer reading? Explain you answer, speculating on what the course may ask of you?

Procedure for Submitting Responses to <u>Freakonomics</u> Questions

This year, all formal papers will be turned in via the Turn-It-In system (Turnitin.com). The following should answer any questions you have and give instructions for how to use the system. DO NOT LOSE THIS SHEET.

Your written responses to study questions for <u>Freakonomics</u> will be submitted electronically via the web site http://turnitin.com anytime prior to the assignment's due date. Papers sent to the site AFTER this time period will be counted late and will receive no more then an 80% score. Do not wait until the last day of the submittal period to send it in, as I will not accept ANY excuses.

Why are we using turnitin.com?

The internet has made plagiarism easier then ever before. Students from elementary to the University level have discovered the ease of downloading papers or cut and pasting other peoples work off the net. In an effort to discourage our students from the temptation of digital plagiarism, we have subscribed to the services of Turn-it-in. Not only does this service aid in the recognition of plagiarized papers but it also provides resources for students on how to cite properly, what plagiarism is exactly, and how to internet research

How do I use turnitin.com?

Sign up:
> Visit http://turnitin.com to create a user profile (just like an email account) and the enrollment wizard to enroll in the class. Use the appropriate class ID and enrollment password listed below to enroll in the class. A detailed user manual is located at: http://www.turnitin.com/static/training_support/tii_student_guide.pdf if you need more help.

Turning in a paper:
> Click on your class to get a list of assignments. You can submit a paper two different ways.
> 1. **File upload.** You can upload a file in any of the following formats: MS Word; WordPerfect; RDF; PDF; Postscript and HTML. After clicking on the submit button, select file upload and use the browse function to locate your paper on disk and click submit.
> 2. **Cut and Paste.** Use this option if your paper is in a format that is not currently accepted by the program. After clicking the submit button, select cut and paste and place your text into the text box and click submit. You will receive a digital receipt after your paper has been submitted.

Viewing your papers:
> All papers you have submitted can be viewed online by clicking on them on the portfolio page.

How does Turn-it-in work?

Turn-it-in uses three databases to compare submitted papers against. The first database is of the publicly accessible internet which includes over 2 billion pages of information. The second, is a database of millions published works. This database includes books, encyclopedias, magazines as well as commercial databases such as Gale and ProQuest. The last database consists of all papers ever turned into the system as well as the papers turned in by members of the other sections of the class.

An originality report is produced by the system, which will show the instructor any matching text found in the paper and the source of that text. NOTE: Matching text does not necessarily indicate plagiarism. Direct quotes will be identified by the program therefore be sure to properly cite your sources.

CLASS ID's & ENROLLEMENT PASSWORDS:

These are IDs and passwords you will use when you are ENROLLING into a class. They are NOT used when you are creating your profile (Use a password of your own creation for that).

Class Name	Class ID	Password (case sensitive)
Economics, Fall 2011, Andrews, Period 1	**4008404**	Bernanke
Economics, Fall 2011, Andrews, Period 5	**4008407**	Bernanke
Economics, Spring 2012, Andrews, Period 2	**4618181**	Bernanke
Economics, Spring 2012, Andrews, Period 5	**4618186**	Bernanke

Any questions? Read the users manual first, and then see or email me.

Site: http://turnitin.com

Manual: http://www.turnitin.com/static/training_support/tii_student_guide.pdf