Utopian Novel Paper Assignment- Summer 2011- AMH 3223

This four page double space (written in 12 point type) paper will be due on Friday, June 10th, at the end of Week 5 of class. Please put a title page with your name on it. This will be the ONLY place where your name is to be placed.

Also on this title page, please type in the following statement and sign beneath it, showing that you understand the issues involved in plagiarism-
“I have abided by the University of Florida Honor Code & have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in the production of this paper.”

This paper will analyze the utopian novel we are reading for class- Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s Herland. It will be worth 20 points towards your final grade.

Please address the following points in your paper-

1. Why this book was written during this time period- why is there a rash of these types of books published in the time period from the 1880s to the 1910s?

2. Who is the author and what can her life tell us about the types of book she has written?

3. How do the issues of this time period, particularly the questions of labor and gender, affect the writing of the book?

4. Does the author see the changes brought about during the time period in which she is writing as precursors to their fictional new worlds or impediments to it?

5. How does this utopian society differ from Gilman’s contemporary society?

6. Is the society imagined by Gilman achievable or even desirable?

7. How does this book reflect the wrenching changes brought about by the Gilded Age and Progressive Eras?

8. Is the book successful in conveying the need for a new society based upon Gilman’s ideas?

This sheet is ONLY a guide for your paper. Use these suggestions as a taking-off point for the paper. You do not have to address these ideas point-by-point in succession.

If you have any questions or problems, please come by my office hours or e-mail me.