*U.S. History (Gr. 11) New West Charter Instructor: Ms. Hynes*

**Sample Assignment: Theory of American History**

**Annotated Bibliography**

**Annotated Bibliography:** Your annotated bibliography should tell the reader **FOUR** things about each of the sources you used.

1. The complete publication information for each source
2. Which research question was addressed by the source
3. A brief summary of the source (a few sentences)
4. How useful the source is in terms of constructing your argument

You should include a “Notes” section at the end of your annotated bibliography. This section gives information about the progress of your essay so far, and what further research or development is needed before you begin writing your first draft. Finally, you should include a “working thesis”, if you have one.

**Sample Annotation:**

Hahn, Steven. *A Nation Without Borders: The United States and Its World in an Age of Civil Wars, 1830 - 1910.* New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

Research Question: What factors drove the growth of American imperialism during the latter half of the 19th century?

This source examines the growth of U.S. imperialism through most of the 19th century and offers a fresh take on America’s journey toward becoming a world power.

This source did not, strictly speaking, answer my research question, but it did help me address it and begin to form an argument. Rather than confining the growth of American imperialism to the latter half of the 19th century, Hahn posits that the U.S. has always been an empire, from its founding to the present day. I find this argument exceptionally compelling and plan to add weight to it with my own evidence.

**Notes:** I need at least one more source that addresses my research questions to meet the minimum requirement for the assignment. I also need to address potential counterarguments before I finalize my thesis and main arguments.

**Working Thesis:** While historians have traditionally placed America’s imperialist era in the late 19th century and insisted that America was a mere republic until then, it is much more accurate to say that America was always both an empire and imperialist from the earliest days of its founding.