Purpose: to gain an understanding of Afghanistan culture in order to better comprehend the context and sub-context of *The Kite Runner*.

Assignment:

- **Written Component:**
  - Each partner will complete an annotated bibliography with at least TWO sources (meaning, each group should have a total of at least FOUR sources). This should be correctly formatted with a correct MLA citation. Please be sure to include a summary of each source, and assessment of the credibility of the author and validity of the source, and a reflection on how you will be using this specific source (ONLY the reflection component may include 1st person). Annotations should be around 150-200 words long.
  - Each partner will complete their own Works Cited (Consulted). This must be done in MLA formatting with a citation for every single source you accessed. Please be sure to alphabetize your sources. Use OSLIS to create citations.
  - Choose a topic, something that you researched, on which to write an academic, analytical paragraph. This must include two concrete details from a reputable source, and must present an ARGUMENT about the respective topic. This means that you will have to draw a conclusion about the research you've done on a specific topic.
  - Each person will write a one paragraph reflection (between ½ -1 page, double spaced, and typed) about what they learned about Afghanistan from listening to other presentations and doing their own research.

- **Research Component:**
  - Each partner is responsible doing a portion of the research, but must have knowledge of the entire topic as they will be presenting the material by themselves. Each partner should have at least FIVE sources (you are only annotating two each, but each partner needs to access, and find information from at least FIVE – this means, at minimum, your Works Cited will have five citations on it – 10 per group).
  - Research should be thorough and complete, and each partner needs to demonstrate knowledge and be responsible for the presentation of the entire topic (not just the portion they researched).

- **Presentation Component:**
  - Each group will need to create a large foam core poster board that is about 2 x 3 feet (minimum). You will put statistics, information, and pictures that help you to present your topic. This should be professional looking and neat. You may use creativity on layout and presentation of material.
  - You may choose to give a short quiz at the end of your presentation, or pose a question for them to think about; however, please plan some sort of activity that will take between 2-3 minutes for the end of your presentation.
  - Each person is responsible for writing down three facts they learned from each presentation, and writing down one thing each presenter did well, and one thing the presenters could have improved upon. (I will give you a note-taking template for these notes.) This will be handed in.
  - Each group member is also responsible for sharing their notes on the presentations their partner did not see, so expect to take solid notes and share information learned during those presentations.
  - During the 10 minute time slots for presentations, one partner will present the information to a group of their peers, while the other partner will be walking around the classroom listening to other presentations.

Note: Every component will have a point value associated with it, and any late work will automatically be docked 50%. Please be sure to hand in all work on time. Due dates and topics are below.
TOPICS:

1. Ethnic/Tribal groups of Afghanistan – i.e. Pashtuns, Hazaras, etc. Discuss the differences and/or conflicts between racial groups.

2. Religious groups in Afghanistan – i.e. Shi’a, Sunni, etc. Discuss the differences and/or conflicts between the major religions, and the beliefs of each.


5. Taliban rule – what is the Taliban? Leaders, policies, reign, purpose.

6. The story and history of the *Shahnameh*, with particular emphasis on the story of Rostam and Sohrab.

7. Customs, courtesies, and lifestyles in modern Afghanistan.

8. The rights and roles of women in Afghanistan *before*, *during*, and *after* Taliban Rule.


10. Trade (major imports/exports), industry, economy, and geography of Afghanistan.

11. U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, both historical and current.

12. Current events relating to Afghanistan: 1999 to present day.

Due Dates and Point Values: Total Points = 110 Points – (Presentations begin Tuesday, May 8th)

We will have 4 class work days. I would be sure to have your poster board by Thursday (6th), or Friday (5th and 7th).

Annotated Bibliography – 20 points: Friday, May 4th (5th – May 3rd)
Works Cited – 10 points: Day of Presentation
Poster Board – 20 points: Day of Presentation) - GROUP GRADE
Presentation – 20 points: Day of Presentation
Content – 20 points: Day of Presentation
Analytical Paragraph – 10 points: Friday, May 11th (6th – May 10th)
Reflection Paragraph – 10 points: Friday, May 11th (6th – May 10th)

Presentations:

Presentations will begin on Tuesday, May 8th (May 9th for 7th period), and go for three class periods. Topics 1-4 will go on Day 1 of presentations. Topics 5-8 will go on Day 2 of presentations. Topics 9-12 will go on Day 3 of presentations. Please be sure you know the exact day your group will present.