

Due date:

Evaluation options: Choose one of the options and complete. (100 points)

Option #1 essay:

Choose one of the topics (#'s 1-5) and develop a complete 2-3 page essay with an introduction, thesis (at end of introductory paragraph), at least three supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. Quote from the novel at least three times as part of your discussion of examples. Create your thesis on one of the five topics. Use the discussion questions #1-19 to help you arrive at a thesis and subtopics to help develop your essay.

Key topics in novel:

Discussion topics' numbers:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Relationships: | 2, 4, 5, 10, 17, 18 |
| 2. Symbolism | 1, 3, 12, 14, 15, 16 |
| 3. Sacrifice | 6, 9, 18 |
| 4. Irony and Politics | 7, 8, 11 |
| 5. Changes in main character | 13, 14, 15, 17, 19 |

Option # 2 literary research: Research on authors and/or literary works

Choose one of the authors mentioned in the book and investigate the author's contributions to Persian literature. In your investigation be sure to a) summarize the author's life, b) identify the author's writings, c) give a sample of what the author's writing is about and comment on the author's style of writing. Use at least three sources and use MLA format for this 2-3 page paper.

In your conclusion comment on how this investigation gives further insight into our novel.

Authors: Omar Kyayám (*The Rubáiyát*), Abu'l -Qasim Firdawsi (*Shah-nama*), Hāfaz, Rumi, and Saadi.

You may also research the classic folk tale collection of *The Thousand and One Nights*.

(A good starting point for most of these writers is *World Masterpieces* pages 77-137.)

Option #3 historical research:

Investigate what has happened to Afghanistan over the past fifty years. Pay particular attention to the disruption that has destabilized the society in recent decades. Identify what has been considered traditional society and the changes that the country has undergone over this time period. Write a 2-3 page paper explaining the changes in Afghanistan. Be sure to create a thesis with supporting paragraphs. In your conclusion comment on how this investigation gives further insight into our novel. Use and cite at least three credible sources using MLA format for the paper.

Option #4 Religious traditions research:

Investigate the Islamic religious tradition paying particular attention to the distinctions between the Sunni (Pashtuns in our novel) and Shi'a (Hazaras in our novel). Discuss the basic beliefs, traditions, and practices. Also examine when Islam was introduced to Afghanistan and what impact this has had on Afghanistan society. Write a 2-3 page paper on these topics. Be sure to create a thesis with supporting paragraphs. Use and cite at least three credible sources using MLA format for the paper.

