*A Thousand Splendid Suns* Unit Essay Due: Tues/Wed Feb 20(A)/21(B)

(3-4 full pages, double-spaced; supported with adequate amount of specific evidence)

You have two major options for your unit essay:

A. A traditional literary analysis of the novel. (Consider the structures and genres of last semester's composition class to guide you.)

B. A speculative or argumentative analysis of some aspect of social justice. (Select a specific social justice issue and use the novel, your notes from the *Osama* film, and/or outside research to support your thesis.)

This task is purposefully open-ended. You are meant to recall the various techniques and approaches you learned in Composition class to compose an original, meaningful analysis. I am assessing your ability to generate a specific idea with a global focus; impart new knowledge and ways of thinking upon your reader by demonstrating a high level of expertise on your subject and drawing relevant parallels/connections to the human experience.

This essay will be assessed by the same five-point rubric: Ideas, Development, Organization, Language, & Conventions.

Tips:

- Go beyond reporting facts from research or the text into making original connections between human behavior and/or global issues.

- Structure and paragraph your work effectively and frequently. This shows that your thoughts are well-organized.

- Give yourself time to delve deeply into the revision process. Avoid submitting first drafts. If you reach a great idea by the time you reach the end of the paper, rewrite to feed that idea into the fabric of your entire argument.

- Take risks with strong claims. Avoid playing it safe with obvious overview.

Option A's past essay topics:

- **Fundamentalism** in communities and households governed by religious tradition

- The **role of women** in times of war/poverty versus periods of peace/progress/advancement

- Effects of **westernization** in other cultures; or, cross-cultural **universals** of humanity such as values, traits, preferences, ideals

- Trends during regime change and **civil strife**