

**Bus 162 – International & Comparative Management  
Term Paper Assignment**

**Prof. Carol Reade  
Fall 2006**

**Due Date: November 20, 2006**

**Objective:** The purpose of the term paper assignment is to examine the implications of culture for international management, using the 2006-2007 campus reading selection *The Kite Runner* as a point of reference [Hosseini, Khaled (2004) *The Kite Runner*. New York: Penguin. ISBN: 1594480001].

**Scenario:** You work for an international organization which has recently opened an office in Kabul, Afghanistan. As you have an excellent reputation for your ability to work in cross-cultural situations, you have been personally asked by the CEO to go to Kabul on a six-month assignment. The CEO hands you a copy of *The Kite Runner*. How will this novel help you to work more effectively with the Afghan staff?

**Approach:** Compare Afghanistan and a country of your choice, including the following components.

- 1) *Country Profiles.* Provide a brief background survey of the current economic, political, legal and social system.
- 2) *Cultural Profiles.* Consider the cultural values for Afghanistan and your selected country. Provide examples from *The Kite Runner* to illustrate Afghan values. Apply Hofstede and other cultural frameworks from your textbook to Afghanistan and your selected country. How do the characters from the novel conform to your understanding of Afghan culture? Do any characters from the novel suggest exceptions to the cultural frameworks?
- 3) *Cultural Gap Assessment.* To what extent is there a cultural gap between Afghanistan and your selected country? What does this mean for your interactions with Afghan staff, in other words, what types of behavior will you, and they, tend to exhibit? Refer to *The Kite Runner*. What can you do to maximize cross-cultural understanding for effective work relations?

**Format:** The paper should be 8 pages minimum and 10 pages maximum. It should be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, a 12 cpi font, Times New Roman, and paginated. References should include a minimum of five sources. A variety of references (internet and non-internet) will improve the chances of a good grade. Factors affecting the grade include content, analysis, structure, in-text citations, bibliography, and presentation (grammar, spelling, pagination).

**Note:** Term papers turned in late will be subject to penalty. A 5-point deduction will be made for each class period that a paper is late. No papers will be accepted after the last class period on December 6, 2006.