AFH 2000
Summer 2019

Thesis Assignment
Analyzing #TheJoola
Due Date: Sunday June 30 by 11:59 PM

<u>Description</u>

In September 2002, as university students were returning to school, the West African country of Senegal experienced a devastating maritime disaster. The government-run ferry known as *The Joola* (pronounced Joe-la) sank in the Atlantic Ocean, killing 1, 863 people. Despite the magnitude of this event, little is known about it outside of West Africa. For this assignment, you are to formulate an argument about the recent past that explains why university students in the U.S. should know about #TheJoola, "Africa's Greatest Shipwreck."

The key to a well-written paper is a strong thesis statement. A thesis statement is an assertion not a declarative statement of fact. It is an argument that can be proven or disproven. For this assignment, you to develop an original thesis and write a short essay based on your thesis. As an exercise in crafting an historical argument, begin by writing a Twitter thread that makes the case for why we should remember *The Joola*. First, read the article in the online publication, *Focus on Geography* Volume 60 by University of Northern Colorado Geographer Karen Barton called, "The Joola: The Geographic Dimensions of Africa's Greatest Shipwreck." https://focusongeography.org/publications/articles/joola/index.html

Then develop an argument about #TheJoola by writing *eight to ten tweets*. You are NOT to actually tweet the thread or submit it to Twitter but rather to practice writing a twitter thread by writing out your thread on page 1 of your MS Word document. Craft your argument for an audience that knows nothing about *The Joola*. In your thread, explain the geographic context (where and when did it happen?). Explain the historical context or how the event is connected to the history of European colonialism in Africa and tell us who was affected and why it happened (the one explanation that is most convincing to you). In at least three tweets, make the case for why we should remember #TheJoola. By learning how to make an argument about the past, you will fulfill one of the aspects of the Gordon Rule Writing Requirement for this course. This assignment corresponds to the Global Awareness learning outcome for this Global Learning Course and the course objective of learning about Africa's geography. Remember that in a strong essay, your thesis statement appears in the introductory paragraph.

<u>Format</u>
The first page of your essay is to be comprised of your Twitter thread. On the second page of your essay, turn this twitter thread into a *1,000 word essay* or approximately *4 double-spaced pages* of formal writing. In your essay, make an argument for why university students in the U.S. should know about The Joola shipwreck by explaining what happened, where, when, and why. Each tweet must be between *140 and 280* characters including spaces. For example, in a MSWord document write out ten tweets like this:

1. #TheJoola was the second worst non-wartime maritime disaster in World History and yet very few people outside of Africa know what happened because of stereotypes about #broken Africa that hold that Africa lacks modern infrastructure.

- Assignment must be typed, double-spaced and proofread
- Assignment must be written in MS Word document
- Use a font for academic writing such as Times New Roman or Cambria, 12 point, with one inch margins
- Only use the materials assigned. Do not use other sources from the internet or elsewhere.
- For citations use parenthetical reference (Barton, "The Joola," Focus on Geography, pg.); Use each tab (dot for navigation) as a page number i.e. dot #1= pg. #1.

Submitting the Assignment
- Go to "Assignments" on the Canvas course webpage
- Click on the "Thesis" Turnitin Assignment link
- Upload your MSWord document to the Turnitin Dropbox for the "Thesis" Assignment
- Save a back-up copy on hard drive, flash drive or in the cloud
- Turnitin will scan your assignment for potential evidence of plagiarism. You will see the "originality report" after you have submitted the assignment. If it shows a high index for plagiarism, then you have 24 hours to resubmit the assignment.

Thesis Assignment Grading Rubric

"A" Thesis: 5= Excellent	"B" Thesis: 4= Good	"C" Thesis: 3= Average	"D" Thesis: 2= Below average	"F" Thesis: 1= Unacceptable
Argument Writer presents clear and compelling argument, not a statement of fact or a question; Writer does not summarize content but introduces subject; Thesis answers the assigned question;	*Argument* Writer presents an argument not a statement of fact or a question; Writer does not summarize content but gives brief introduction of subject; Thesis generally answers the assigned question; shows	*Argument* Writer presents an argument, but it is weak and should be developed more; Writer tends to summarize and does not contextualize argument. Thesis generally answers assigned	*Argument* Writer states a fact or question and does not present an argument; Writer does not elaborate upon or contextualize the argument; Writer makes shows little or no evidence of critical thinking and thesis	*Argument* Thesis meets none of the abovementioned standards

Writer shows evidence of critical thinking and original thought	some evidence of critical thinking	question; Weak evidence of originality or critical thinking	statement is not innovative	
Organization Thesis statement is coherent and well thought out; The sentences flow in a logical manner; Writer follows directions (adheres to approx. word limit)	*Organization* Thesis statement mainly clear and coherent; Needs improvement with the logical progression of sentences; Writer follows directions (adheres to approx. word limit)	*Organization* Thesis statement lacks coherence; Clarity of argument and logical flow of sentences need improvement; Writer does not consistently follow directions (poor attention to world limit)	*Organization* Thesis statement is not coherent and lacks clarity; There is weak logic or flow to the statement; Writer does not follow directions (egregiously over or under the word limit)	*Organization* Thesis statement does not correspond to any of the standards for organization mentioned here