



Conglomerate Teaching Assistant Evaluation, Fall 2014 Final

Area	Crs	Sec	Sem	Eval	Enrl	Title	Instructor(s)	TA(s)
HIST	172	06	fall2014	F2014F	14	World War II	(Bess, Michael)	Painter, Cassandra
HIST	172	13	fall2014	F2014F	13	World War II	(Bess, Michael)	Painter, Cassandra

1. (VUAS-hist_T_1:S1) History major?

1. Yes	2. No	3. Prospective major	Total	Average	St. Dev.
4	10	2	16	1.87	0.59
25%	63%	13%			

2. (VUAS-hist_T_3:S2) Current GPA

1. 1.0 - 2.5	2. 2.6 - 3.0	3. 3.1 - 3.5	4. 3.6 - 4.0	Total	Average	St. Dev.
0	2	6	8	16	3.37	0.69
0%	13%	38%	50%			

3. (VUAS-hist_T_12:S3) Grade expected in the course.

1. D or below	2. C	3. B	4. A	Total	Average	St. Dev.
0	2	0	14	16	3.75	0.66
0%	13%	0%	88%			

4. (VUAS-hist_T_7:S4) How well did the discussion leader use class time?

1. Poor	2. Marginal	3. Average	4. Good	5. Excellent	Total	Average	St. Dev.
0	0	1	6	9	16	4.5	0.61
0%	0%	6%	38%	56%			

5. (VUAS-hist_T_4:S5) All in all, how do you rate the educational effectiveness of the discussion leader in this course?

1. Poor	2. Marginal	3. Average	4. Good	5. Excellent	Total	Average	St. Dev.
0	0	2	3	11	16	4.56	0.70
0%	0%	13%	19%	69%			

6. (VUAS-hist_T_5:S6) How valuable was the discussion section to the course as a whole?(75% responding. Comments follow below...)

7. (VUAS-hist_T_6:S7) How well did the discussion section help integrate and clarify material presented in readings and lectures?(81% responding. Comments follow below...)

8. (VUAS-hist_T_8:S8) How successful was the discussion leader in eliciting class participation?(75% responding. Comments follow below...)

9. (VUAS-hist_T_9:S9) How well did the discussion leader encourage students to think for themselves?(75% responding. Comments follow below...)

10. (VUAS-hist_T_10:S10) How much did the discussion leader stimulate your interest in the subject?(75% responding. Comments follow below...)

11. (VUAS-hist_T_11:S11) What might the discussion leader have done to improve the discussion sessions?(63% responding. Comments follow below...)

6. (VUAS-hist_T_5:S6) **How valuable was the discussion section to the course as a whole?**

• HIST 172-06 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

The discussion really supplemented Professor Bess's lectures and allowed students to talk with other students about the content of that week's lesson.

I enjoyed this smaller intimate setting because it gave us a chance to talk about the events in the war that provoke controversy. It was easier to voice opinions, and we got a chance to get more comfortable with each other as the semester progressed.

We always had great discussion of the topics covered in lecture and in the readings, I always felt challenged and I walked into class knowing I would learn a lot every session.

Good place to voice opinions

It did a lot to verbally and physically express the themes focused on in class.

Very important to debrief lectures.

• HIST 172-13 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Very valuable.

For me, the discussion was the most valuable part of this course. Cassandra compelled us to delve more deeply into the moral issues of the war, which led to some great discussions throughout the semester.

it added a lot more time for processing and thinking about information discussed in lecture and read about in the homework. it was very valuable in that aspect

The discussion section was immensely useful in putting what was learned in lecture in greater context of both the war and society.

Very valuable. Cassandra used the class time wisely and we discussed the more debatable topics of the class.

It was very valuable. we got to the discuss what we had learned during class.

7. (VUAS-hist_T_6:S7) How well did the discussion section help integrate and clarify material presented in readings and lectures?

• HIST 172-06 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

The discussion really helped supplement and clarify lecture material.

Very well, especially when we discussed topics related to the readings/films of the course.

Perfectly.

Cassandra was great in addressing the main points and controversies from lecture, and I really liked how she used interesting videos and interviews to open discussion.

It was an almost seamless transition- however it certainly felt like a different aspect than class

Very well.

• HIST 172-13 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Very well.

Very well

it was very valuable in integrating new material presented and helped to facilitate any questions on class material as well

Extremely well — the plan for each discussion was unique and applicable. It was great to have significant time to do both activities and time to discuss the concepts themselves.

Very well, we always discussed Bess' book, which presented topics that were more controversial than others.

Very well. Each week was very well related to the current readings and lecture topics.

It helped integrate the material very well. Painter definitely explained the material and made it easier for us.

8. (VUAS-hist_T_8:S8) How successful was the discussion leader in eliciting class participation?

• HIST 172-06 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Ms. Painter was an amazing leader! She was fair and always willing to help students.

I really liked Cassandra. While she encouraged us all to participate, she did not put anyone on the spot or make anyone uncomfortable. But rather she presented a number of arguments that allowed for everyone to voice their opinion in their own way and in their own time. And I, being a little quiet, appreciated this.

We had the standard four or five people who contributed most to the conversation but I really feel like 90% of our group talked once or twice over the course of each class and everyone felt respected enough to contribute their ideas or viewpoint on things.

Very successful

Excellent

She did the best she could, especially when it was clear that not everyone did the assigned reading.

• HIST 172-13 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Very successful, all members participated.

Very successful. I especially enjoyed the various videos that Cassandra showed to us at the beginning of each discussion. They sort of set the tone for what we were going to talk about that day and allowed us to see different perspectives as well.

the discussion leader was pretty successful in eliciting class participation, using videos and other primary sources in order to initiate conversation

Extremely successful — I have never had a TA for a course so willing to engage with students both in discussion and outside of discussion. Plus she planned activities that served as great vehicles through which we could get conversations going each week, which helped a lot. There truly never seemed to be moment when I felt that my time was being wasted.

Very, almost everyone in the class participated during the discussion and this discussion was organic and not forced.

She was pretty successful in eliciting class participation

9. (VUAS-hist_T_9:S9) **How well did the discussion leader encourage students to think for themselves?**

• HIST 172-06 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Ms. Painter really helped us formulate conclusions on our own regarding difficult topics in WW2. She forced us to think

about the two sides in every issue, and really stimulated us intellectually.

Like Professor Bess, Cassandra rarely, if ever, gave her own opinion about things, or labeled them as right or wrong. But she presented us with evidence, helped us support that evidence and allowed us to draw our own conclusions.

Very well. She encouraged us to challenge Bess and the accepted truths of history and evaluate them for ourselves.

Cassandra was very good and listened to everyone who wanted to talk and encouraged people who were quiet. She played devil's advocate every once in a while to help us think in different perspectives.

A ton

Very well

• HIST 172-13 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Well, often gave us assignments in class to think on our own.

Quite well. Cassandra never chastised anyone for their own personal beliefs and encouraged all of us to speak our minds, which led to a variety of different opinions throughout each session.

she understood that everyone's perspectives were different and were valuable to the discussion, encouraging us to speak for ourselves and did not discourage conflicting thoughts between students

Extremely well — If I'm not mistaken, every student made at least a comment every single discussion section — and the discussions were indeed primarily student voices, but she was effective in always being able to bring it back to the important concepts or ideas for that discussion.

Well, World War II has a lot of topics where there is not one right answer, so many different opinions were valued.

She did pretty decent when trying to get people to participate

10. (VUAS-hist_T_10:S10) **How much did the discussion leader stimulate your interest in the subject?**

• HIST 172-06 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

She enhanced my interest.

Although I enjoyed just sitting and talking in discussion, every once and a while Cassandra would make it interesting

and split us into groups for reading-related activities, or give us primary source documents to analyze to give us something new.

Very much

A lot

A lot

She did a good job making us think outside the box, pushing us to learn as much as we could.

• HIST 172-13 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Yes, oftentimes using relevant outside sources such as videos and texts helped.

I think that we discussed the most compelling questions in the course in our discussion question, and thus my interest was stimulated because of that.

she encouraged me to explore more and think about the subject in different lights

The way that conversations were steered toward understanding larger concepts present throughout the course really made me look forward to the conversations every week. I continually found myself having "huh" moments. I can honestly say I was pleasantly surprised with regard to how interested I became in the topics each week.

Good, I am more interested in the subject as a result of the discussion, especially because of the books that we read.

Very well. She asked very thoughtful questions that led to great class discussion with full participation.

11. (VUAS-hist_T_11:S11) What might the discussion leader have done to improve the discussion sessions?

• HIST 172-06 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Sometimes I felt we could be more productive with time, but very little could be done to improve.

This, in no way, Cassandra's fault. But I am a quiet person, and at times I found myself wanting to speak up and share my opinion but didn't want to experience the discomfort in doing so. So my suggestion would be to make sure every person in the section answers at least one question Cassandra poses, and, if towards the end she noticed that someone hasn't spoken, she can call on them to ensure their participation.

Nothing. Seriously.

She is already amazing!

Nothing- she was excellent

Honestly, I thought this section was as good as it could be.

• HIST 172-13 fall2014 F2014F (Painter, Cassandra)

Nothing.

encouraged students to attend more often (although this cannot necessarily be done). use more varied primary sources to provoke discussion

This was truly the best experience that I have ever had with a TA for any course, and little comes to mind in terms of improvement (Sorry to be of no help in that regard.)

I wouldnt really change anything about our discussion, I thought it was helpful and well run.