



# HST 201: History of United States F17

## (Escobar Meta 20887 23004)

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## Practice Forum

### Three History Students

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**Three History Students**  
by Joe Escobar - Thursday, September 28, 2017, 9:43 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Three History Students topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Use a title to describe what points you are making. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Three History Students

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**I think we will never truly know the truth**  
by Gaige Parry - Friday, September 29, 2017, 1:18 PM

During this first week it's been difficult for me to believe or form an opinion on anything about our current topic. With all the conflicting data, views, biases, lack of actual evidence, such as documents, photographs, or footage and the professor himself critiquing and correcting the textbook. It appears to me nobody really knows how things went down in the 1500-1600's. Yes many people think they know, are trying to or currently studying it. But one source Columbus is a hero and celebrated (Podcast 3:00) and the next he's crazy, wanted for

mismanagement and brutality (11:00). Accusations to me made completely by opinion on whether you looked at him as a hero for connecting two cultures and societies or the opposite and view him as a monster who took advantage of the natives and killed and enslaved them.

**Either way I think we will never truly know the truth** on the topic and i'm looking forward to a topic a little more recent, possibly in the late 1600's early 1700's where there might be more evidence or data to support their claims. Until then I will remain open minded and hear all sides of the story in order to hopefully gain my own supported opinion on Columbus.

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2

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### **Re: I think we will never truly know the truth**

by Tuan Tran - Saturday, September 30, 2017, 9:09 PM

The internet source sometimes makes us confusing and misunderstanding about the true historical events or characters because people can post their own perspectives, they also create alternative stories to minimize the exact percentage of the historical fact, especially with our current protagonist- Christopher Columbus. According to the " IMA Hero" website, the author mentioned that " Christopher Columbus was one of the great sailors and explorers of all time. In 1492, Christopher's exploration to the New World linked Europe and the Americas. His discoveries enlarged the world and began a new age of exploration. His courage and vision changed the history of the world (page 1), so our Christopher Columbus is a true hero who encounters all the sea dangerous obstacles to locate the " New World". On the other hand, the research survey named " Is Christopher Columbus truly a villain? This is what public really thinks" by Washing Post which illustrates us that people were born before 1991 considered Columbus as "14% villain". Moreover, the data also shows us the people who were born from 1991 until now have the positive reaction to Columbus as a villain with more than 20%. Neither books nor Internet articles confirm the accurate proportion for the historical truth. I also relate to our teacher textbook correction, Mr.Escobar encourages to look for extra information in the other outside classroom sources, he also tells us the different sizes of America land between short video( the Moodle link) and our History textbook information. The truth belongs for those who willing to uncover it among the multiform of historical events or characters.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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### **Where we come from**

by Casandra Fountain - Friday, September 29, 2017, 3:47 PM

I think the teacher is quite refreshing. You don't see many teachers telling us "our opinions don't matter unless they are informed opinions". I believe knowing the author's background and who they are as a person will ultimately help us make our own informed opinions about things we learn. If you think about it, everything we think as individuals has come from our experiences, how we were raised, and where we came from. When we were reading the commentary about *Apocalypto*, the first article Weismantel goes off on tangents throughout the article instead of sticking to the point of the movie review. Lines 45-47, are somewhat confusing with what they have to do with the movie until you find out Weismantel is associated with LGBT communities and the reference of gays and lesbians makes a little more sense. The

only way for us to really know the historical truth is we would have to had lived in that time period. But obviously we can't go back in time, so we have to rely on what the historians have concluded about the time period in question. If taking a little more time and researching who an author is to know what kind of bias or life experiences they may have on the subject could help us make our own informed opinions about what learning, I'd say it's worth it.

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### **Re: Where we come from**

by Tuan Tran - Saturday, September 30, 2017, 9:55 PM

The historical truth depends on what we achieve from that large information on the internet and books, not in the movies. Sometimes, we need our experiences to predict which one has the most accurate to be the exact historical data. Moreover, we need to conduct some research about the author and his/her works before attaining his historical results for the events and characters. People love the real historical facts, not the entertained one which was showed in the *Apocalypto*. Each culture has both negative and positive factors, but as you can see from the movie *Apocalypto*, it describes Mayan empire as the brutal, savage people. It turns out to be the scariest ancient Mayan's movie which delivers the wrong information to the modern audiences- these people are not familiar with the Mayan cultures( Asian, African, White, etc) even with a new generation of Indian Americans.

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### **Historical Background: Why we should know?**

by Tuan Tran - Friday, September 29, 2017, 9:17 PM

According to the conversation fo Alice and John, we wonder why we should know exactly the date of impacted events or identification of a true historical character. The USA Libraries organization has pointed out that " sufficient background information helps your reader determine if you have a basic understanding of the research problem being investigated and promotes confidence in the overall quality of your analysis and findings."((Definition section). Moreover, doing a careful research to find the suitable values for each historical events or a story of a real character such as Adolf Hitler. Without historical research( maybe in German itself), people outside the German territory would consider Adolf Hitler as the father of the fascism and the Jews holocaust slaughter but never be a man who devotes all his entire childhood and adult age to develop the strength and power of his great country- Germany. We can conduct a research through an online survey or through an event conference not only spending time meet each people separately. Even our History 2012 instructor- Mr. Escobar uses his survey chart to ask us our scoring goal for this term instead of inviting us to his office individually.

As I know, history research must be examined carefully before publicizing to the world. It required eight steps including "developing a management work system, selecting a topic, background reading for historical context, narrowing your topic, gathering and recording information, Analyzing and Interpreting Sources and the Topic's Significance In History, Developing a Thesis, Finalizing an NHD research project." These steps will ensure the best historical events and characters results also enhance the accuracy rate.

Do we have to understand all these steps perfectly or skip some steps to create the " pretty" obvious historical fact?



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### **Historian bias and movie accuracy.**

by Kamron Low - Saturday, September 30, 2017, 4:55 PM

I would like to point out the certain aspects of both historian bias, and movie accuracy separately. To answer the question; we actually can't. We will never truly know the historical truth. Certain journals, scriptures, and ancient documents may all be lost beyond recovery, let alone specific details that the writers may not have wanted anyone else to find out. Historians won't be able to recover and interpret the information in the same way either, and of course, some may be on an agenda and will shift the truth. Although, if unassociated historians have similar discoveries then it may not be inaccurate. You could also follow their theories, provided they have the proper evidence and until they're disproven.

Finally I would like to point out the differences between a movie and a documentary. There are specific differences that I don't believe many may realize. A movie will have writing, acting, and camera shots that all make up cinematography and is primarily for entertainment, while documentaries are more of a visual interpretation of providing information. However, this isn't to say one medium may contain elements of the other. In the case of Apacalypto, they took liberties of taking historical information that would be seen in a documentary and stretched it to make it entertaining. When a movie says that it's "based on historical events" it's not exactly lying. However, the unfortunate part is what the viewer will interpret as either fact or fiction, and that is something no one can control.

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### Re: Historian bias and movie accuracy.

by Tuan Tran - Saturday, September 30, 2017, 9:33 PM

The movie "Apocalypto" impresses the modern audiences a lot due to its violent or brutality, but it is a negative portrayal of ancient Indian Americans. There are tons of lies in the movie, Indian Americans feel extremely frustrated about the content of the movie and they all protested to against this "liar" movie. In fact, the movie did not reflect the truth at all. Even to the real famous American rapper "Tupak", he had his own "life" movie which expressed inaccurately about his true storyline. The movie in total reflect a little bit of the true historical fact, the rest of them have added entertainment factors which attract the audience's reactions. On the other hand, the documentary film gets our attention mostly because they were filmed by the war cameramen or a group of historians. Moreover, they come to the exact locations where the historical events occurred and affected to the local people around them. They also have a lot of interviews with the local citizens around these specific historical places, also with the people who actually got involved in the events. For the most accurate data of the historical timeline, the documentary film has its advantages to show the world.

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### Practice Forum Post by Lloyd Higgins

by Lloyd Higgins - Saturday, September 30, 2017, 10:20 PM

Hello world!

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### Importance of knowing what's true

by Jack Swisher - Sunday, October 1, 2017, 6:05 PM

Well guys, I know this can be quite frustrating not knowing who to believe out of all of these historians. It is very important to know the truth about what we are learning. We can know the truth by looking at the details on authors and opinions. Our professor has made a great point in telling us that we should know a little bit about the person giving us the valuable information for a few reasons. Data and studies change all of the time. New things and information is being discovered quite often. If you are reading information from an author who published his work many years ago, new discoveries and facts have been found more recently. For example when the spears of the native Americans are referred to as weapons of mass destruction. This was obviously written before September eleventh.

Another thing to take into consideration is the historian's background. It is important to know what the person had done and been involved in over the years to get an idea of their opinion if things. Depending on the organization they are in, or the degree they have received like John said earlier, can definitely influence the way the author gives the information. The reason we need to look at the movie Apocolypto is to find out if the Mayan people were displayed wrong or if that is actually what the Mayan culture was like. It is important to know if the culture was actually that gruesome, or if a lot was added to increase the number at the box office.

In my opinion, Professor Escobar has the right to scrutinize data and dig deep into what is really true. Take the greatest catastrophes portion in the lecture for example. Historians said that the greatest catastrophe known to man was the loss of five million people over two hundred years from 1600 to 1800. That is only 25,000 deaths per year. There are worse catastrophes especially one more recent. Events like the black plague. According to historytoday.com, 50 million people died between 1346 and 1353. Many could argue that the catastrophe with the native Americans was worse because of the fact that colonial people killed the Indians, compared to the Europeans dying from a disease. The greatest catastrophe is the Holocaust. Six million Jews were killed in a span of about twelve years. The crazy number of deaths in a shorter period of time (500,000 per year) can argue the opinions of others.

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### **Know your facts**

by Jennifer Reyes - Monday, October 2, 2017, 9:28 AM

I would have to disagree with Alice. I found after reading Chapter 1, there were many events that took place that I was unaware of. For instance, in our book, it says, "During the long history of the Atlantic Slave trade, nearly every African was shipped overseas had first been enslaved by other Africans." (Pg.21) I had no idea that that had happened. I thought Christopher Columbus, was the first to enslave Africans and Indians, and bringing them to the Caribbean Islands, Brazil, and Americas. I found interesting when our Instructor had elaborated on the topic in class the next day.

I noticed you said, he also seems to have a fixation on confronting conflicting information. In my opinion, when a Historian is teaching or writing history, he should have his facts right. Why? Because majority of the people will believe it. Accuracy in history is vital, because people will get upset and angry when if they find out it was wrong.

Since the book talks about the Mayan Civilization, I thought it was cool to see a clip from Apocalypto. Of course, the movie had to have some sort of story line, but the events were close to accurate. The Mayans did do those things and believed in many deities, so they had to satisfy those gods and sacrificing their captives was their form of worship. (pg.11)

I am excited to learn about our history because I feel like I am getting clarification on people, countries and events that took place long ago, and I am realizing I was taught differently as a kid.

(Edited by Joe Escobar - original submission Sunday, October 1, 2017, 9:11 PM)



Know your facts.docx

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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### **Re: Know your facts**

by John Steil - Monday, October 2, 2017, 8:57 PM

Jennifer, you make some good points. I like you have learned some new things In our class that I was taught differently earlier in school.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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### **Know your sources.**

by John Steil - Monday, October 2, 2017, 3:53 PM

Professor Escobar wants us to realize everything in history might not be entirely accurate. Data and statistics can play important parts in history. Every person is going to have their own bias. Even if they try to be completely objective. A persons gender, religion, race, and age will play a part in how they report things. We should try and get information from multiple people before accepting it as truth.

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0

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### **Reasons why we need to realize not everything is accurate.**

by Jack Swisher - Monday, October 2, 2017, 7:57 PM

There are a few reason Professor Escobar wants us to realize that some things in history might not be accurate. In my opinion the material we are being given should be accurate. The truth of history is important to know and understand. Like you said, data and statistics play a big part in history. The problem with these two areas is that they both can change any day. From the audio in our lecture, historians believed that the total number of deaths started out with a high of 100 million deaths. Over the years, new facts and evidence has changed the number of deaths quite a bit, ultimately now at 5,000 deaths over two hundred years. But because of the many "guesstimates", the numbers are questionable. In the reading on page (21) it tells us that nearly every African being shipped across the Atlantic were first enslaved by other Africans. Honestly every teacher has told me that the first Africans to come across the Atlantic were brought over by the Europeans. Not only can stats change, but the information we are reading and learning could be quite old. The material being covered could likely have been published before new findings and stats were released. These are some of the many examples of how new evidence can be found and stats can change. We should also be careful when researching online material. Facts online can be changed and posted false. Now I am not trying to say "don't look at stats, we all just have to be careful where we are getting information from. You make a good point in saying that we research information from multiple sources because everyone has a different bias.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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### **know you information**

by Lindsay Schnell - Monday, October 2, 2017, 4:49 PM

i would disagree with how Alice handled the situation she was having understanding the information she was being told. weather the information was true or not all information is going to be dictated no matter how you tell someone. After completing week one of history i have learned about stuff that i feel that i was not informed of 15 years ago when i last took a History class. i feel that if you aren't understanding something that you need exercise your resources to better understand. when we had discussed the movie Apocolpyto movie. yes some the

movie was based on true events but others were not. this is a Hollywood thing that happens all the time and we as humans have to realize what is true and what is not and do our own research to better understand.

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### **Re: know you information**

by Jennifer Reyes - Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 9:23 AM

Hi Lindsay,

I do have to agree with your post because it was a lack of understanding on Alice's part. She was talking about statistics and she was saying that it wasn't important to or relevant to History and I feel that she was wrong. People who are studying History are depending on these statistics to be accurate because they want to know who, what, when, where, how, and why these events took place.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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### **The Impossibility of Truth**

by Kerianne Guza - Monday, October 2, 2017, 8:25 PM

The sad truth is that we can never truly have the historical truth. There is no way we can see exactly how things happened in history. All we can do is trust that those who were there, during the time, left behind information that will find it's way back us. Many people left behind written documentations such as diaries, articles, books, etc. Those are great references, however, those are biased in the fact that they are biased on that one persons point of view.

Luckily, it's not our job to directly collect all of this information; other people have already done the work for us and publish their findings. If you want to make sure it is reliable information, you can look into the author and what their research is about, or another simple way, when online, is to look for websites that are more reliable in general. You could go as far as to not only disregard wikipedia's findings, but also not even look at any website ending with .com. You will end up with much more trustworthy sites that people have already checked the credibility of.

When it comes to books, textbooks like ours, Liberty, Equality, Power, is a great option. The multitude of authors insures that each section of the book has an expert working on it and you are hearing multiple voices. This is also a book that is constantly being modified in order to make sure the information makes sense, is reliable, and is unbiased.

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### **Re: Frustrations**

by Jack Swisher - Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 5:40 PM

Kerianne,

I understand what you mean when you talk about the fact that we might never know the historical truth. You would think that with all of the documentaries and diaries out there that have been found that historians could come up with a some solid facts. There has already

been information I have learned in class that I thought was something else in high school. Stuff like that can be pretty irritating especially when it is important for us to know the information correctly. I don't think I agree with Alice in the conversation because it didn't seem like she understood about what Professor Escobar is saying in class.

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### Re: Three History Students

by Kelsey Lane - Monday, October 2, 2017, 10:40 PM

Kelsey : I understand what both of you are saying, but I also believe that there is a method to his madness. I think that he's trying to give us the tools we need to learn material but also identify lies and bias. We want to get the best education we can and if we can't identify when the information given to us is wrong or has bias, we get robbed of a solid education.

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### History on our authors

by Jack Swisher - Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7:44 PM

I believe what you say about giving us tools is correct. It is important to know about where we are getting our information right. I did some research about the writers of our textbook in the About the Authors section and have come to the conclusion that this textbook is pretty legit.

All of these authors have or are currently teaching at very prestigious Universities. Some of the authors I looked at; John Murrin teaches at Princeton, Pekka Hamalainen at Oxford University, Denver Brunsman at George Washington University and Paul Johnson at South Carolina University. These writers are very good at their job and have many awards to prove it. For example, Paul E. Johnson won the Merle Curti Prize of the Organization of American Historians. John M. Murrin served as the president of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.

These authors seem very credible to trust their work in the textbook. It is important to realize that opinions might be different because of past education, religion and committees people are apart of like John Murrin.

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