

HST 203: History of the United States Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053)

Home ► My courses ► HST 203 Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053) ► Week 7 ► Forum 3 ►
Demonizing the Enemy

 Search forums

Forum 3

Demonizing the Enemy

[• Subscribe](#)[◀ Using & Abusing History](#)[Demonizing the Enemy ▶](#) Display replies in nested form ▼ Move this discussion to ... ▼

Demonizing the Enemy

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 7:28 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Demonizing the Enemy 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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Demonizing the Enemy

Sum of ratings: -

[Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Reasons To Kill and Hate

by Cameron Wray - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 1:33 PM

Demonizing the enemy is a very powerful tactic with a goal best summed up in our reading as a way to dehumanize someone or a group of people and in doing so “it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it” (James Forsher). I believe demonizing or dehumanizing was used to help sway people’s attitudes towards the war and our enemy during the war. In doing so the morale of the U.S. citizens was boosted towards our troops fighting the enemies often depicted in an animalistic ways to help justify killing them.

I have seen such propaganda today, especially in the internet. Just like the propaganda used back during WW1 and WW2 I do think there is truth behind some of it but for the most part a majority of the poster is like a documentary in that it mainly tells the side of the artist. For example:



I don't agree with this comparison of Trump to Hitler because I think that is very inaccurate to say but I think this is the idea of demonizing the enemy. Comparing anyone to Hitler would be a demonizing them. I do think that comparisons and images have been used to sway public opinion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Reasons To Kill and Hate

by Alicia Lundeen - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 5:11 PM

Hi Cameron,

I very much agree with your statement "I have seen such propaganda today, especially in the internet. Just like the propaganda used back during WW1 and WW2 I do think there is truth behind some of it but for the most part a majority of the poster is like a documentary in that it mainly tells the side of the artist". With the way, the public uses the internet today to discount each other rather it be through politics or daily decisions, we are really good at it. Many of the propaganda messages we see now relates to fear that others are feeling. This obviously, beings to light the "artist" viewpoint in your argument. I believe if we are open to the idea that these "artist" are also trying to convey the seriousness of the fear they are feeling then we must definitely be open to the truth of these fears. The message is intact within the propaganda but also in the truth that these are not honest. Great job on highlighting something I've never thought of.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Read'em and weep?

by Alicia Lundeen - Monday, May 15, 2017, 5:08 PM

One of the biggest ways FDR and his cabinet demonized the enemy during WW2 was through propaganda. Demonizing propaganda during WW2 was a tactic used by the government that involved portraying the enemy as purely immoral, frightening, vicious, and violent. The propagandist attempts to remove all confusion and uncertainty about whom the public should hate was key. The war enemy was portrayed in poster propaganda as a “Jap” or “Hun”. Demonizing propaganda became more powerful when the nemesis can be seen committing massacres against women and children. Propaganda, both by government and the private media, has evolved over the years as media has also evolved. The principle secret remains, that when you demonize you ultimately dehumanize (James article). I believe the greatest impact of propaganda during WW2 came from the organization of hatred that was so powerful and effective, it made it difficult to believe the stories about the Holocaust.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Read'em and weep?

by Jeff Johnson - Friday, May 19, 2017, 3:44 AM

I liked what u had to say but i would add that it was not only to make the public hate but also if u dehumanize the enemy it makes it easier for soldiers to kill them. I also believe it was WWI propaganda that took things a little to far that made it difficult in WWII to believe the Holocaust.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



“If you see these men, don’t hesitate!”

by Kevin Smolek - Monday, May 15, 2017, 7:21 PM

War is hell as they say, and killing demons from hell is a lot easier then killing a man that on any other day you could walk right past in the store and not look twice at. Propaganda is a staple of war, a main dish to be served to the public. Pearl Harbor gave most people all the reason they needed to support the war, but that support fades over time as the casualties rise. FDR had a very successful propaganda department, and as able to keep support of the war very high among most of the population. A Gallup poll conducted shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor: “It was in that same poll that Gallup found that 97% approved of the United States entering the war against Japan”.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/4954/support-war-terrorism-rivals-support-wwii.aspx>

The same link says: “According to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll conducted Sept. 21-22, 89% of Americans say the United States should take military action in retaliation for the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, while just 7% disagree”. Surprisingly the numbers show that the public support for WW2 was only

slightly above the public support for the war on terror right after 9-11. However looking at the wars now, one is seen as a just war that was worth fighting, and the other is looked at as an example of what not to do. I find that interesting.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: "If you see these men, don't hesitate!"

by Morgan Steinmetz - Friday, May 19, 2017, 5:16 PM

Hey Kevin!

I completely agree with you about Pearl Harbor giving the country a reason to stand behind the war, but like you said, that support can easily and quickly fade. Events like Pearl Harbor and 9/11 definitely add fuel to the fire and drove Americans to support war.

The link you provided was definitely interesting to read. I found it interesting that the percentage of American's who supported the wars or our troops being involved, varied from war to war. I can understand why but I still found it interesting.

-Morgan

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Trump is Hitler

by Jaclyn Bahn - Monday, May 15, 2017, 11:53 PM

Of course, the good old Trump is Hitler cartoon. The aspects that I find true is that Trump's racial aggressions towards people and even bans of followers of a specific religion is very hitleresque. The false aspects are that Trump will probably never reach the extent of doing the things Hitler did. I could see this potentially swaying a political opinion. A comparison to Hitler is pretty bad for a politician's image because a majority of people would never support Hitler or a Hitler #2.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

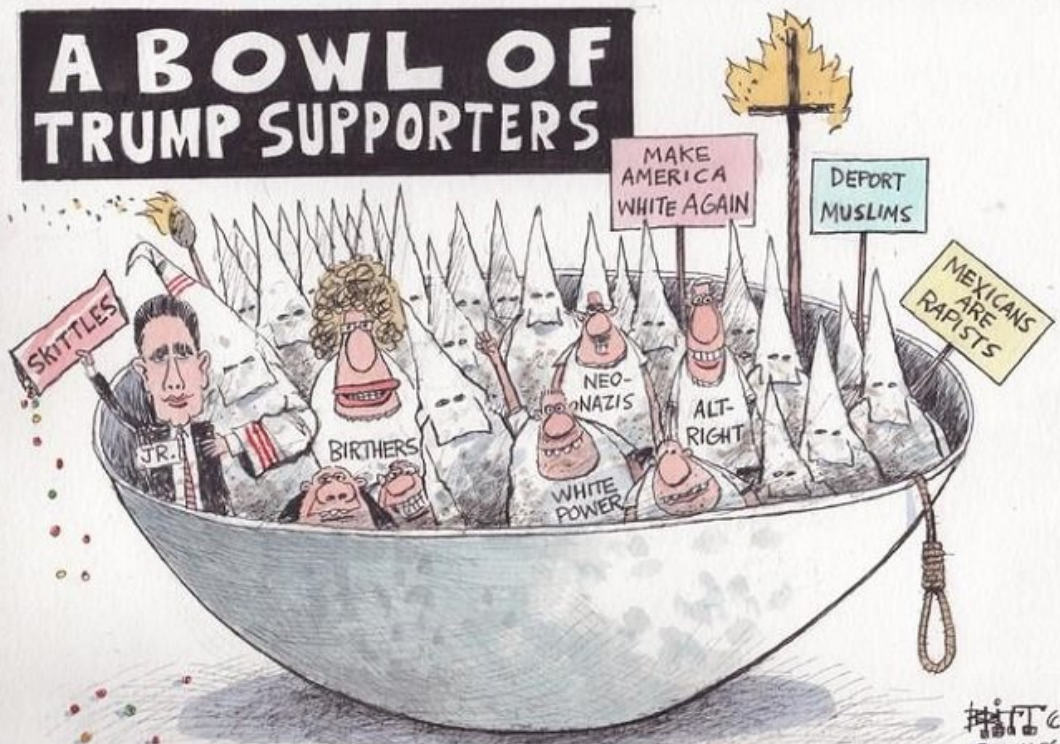


Re: Trump is Hitler

by Kevin Smolek - Friday, May 19, 2017, 11:38 AM

I have heard a ton recently in both the news and social media about how President Trump and his supporters are “fascist” and “basically Hitler”. Clearly the level of history that is being taught to the population is lacking if those comparisons are being made unironically. Pro 2nd amendment? Guns in the hands of the citizens? Yep totally fascist! Press and general public having total immunity to say whatever they want about him with literally zero fear of repercussions? Sounds fascist to me! Take a look at what's happened since the start of our class. We detained hundreds of thousands of Japanese Americans, expelled and killed communists, banned travel from many countries (sound like something that's been attempted recently? Guess it's only found unconstitutional if it's a conservative doing it). I can understand disagreeing with policies, positions, and legislation that are brought out by the opposing political party, but the name calling and outright demonizing of the other side that's been going on looks an awful lot like the propaganda from WWII.

A BOWL OF TRUMP SUPPORTERS



THE ADULT IN THE ROOM...





Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Propaganda is still use

by Jeff Johnson - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 3:12 PM

FDR and the government during WW2 undertook a massive effort to demonize the enemy and became an everyday part of American life. Below is a couple pictures and quotes from an article I found "Demonizing our WW2 Enemies" at <http://www.ephemerasociety.org/blog/?p=2511>.

TOKIO KID SAY-



GOOD MATERIAL
WASTE IN SCRAP
HELP TO SAVING
FACE FOR JAP
THANK YOU



TO A REAL SOLDIER!

You'll trap these
THREE OLD BUZZARDS



“During WWII, images demonizing the leaders of the Axis powers were *everywhere* . . . on official government-issued materials (including posters, ration books, pamphlets, War Bond solicitation materials . . . you name it), greeting cards, the covers of national magazines, editorial matter illustrations. Such imagery reached into every nook and cranny of cultural life.

Not all of the imagery could be labeled demonizing, but is rather simply the sort of caricature that is a staple of political cartooning. Yet even subsequent political cartooning generally avoided the sort of blatantly racist abuse directed at the Japanese, for example, during WWII.”

A lot of this is still going on today when I look up North Korea and Cartoon I found that although not at the same level this type of propaganda is everywhere. We are on the verge of War right now with North Korea and if it actually happens who knows how much farther the propaganda will go. This propaganda makes us underestimate North Korea making it easier to think we could easily win a quick war. Here are just a few of the 100's of cartoons I found right now.





Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Propaganda impact

by Morgan Steinmetz - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 9:47 PM

During WWII a lot of propaganda was used to demonize the enemies. Propaganda posters a lot of the times depicted women and children being harmed in several different ways because it had a bigger impact and got more response. I think the word barbaric fits in when talking about war time propaganda because making the enemy appear as barbaric as possible seemed to be a way to have a bigger and more dramatic impact on people.

I think one of the biggest effects of demonizing the enemies is how it almost makes it that much easier to kill them when at war. When you are demonizing anyone it dehumanizes them as well and it almost detaches the feeling of guilt when killing the enemy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



New Cold War

by Jeff Johnson - Friday, May 19, 2017, 1:33 PM

I found this image incredibly interesting and find it extremely relevant to the Cold War and McCarthyism. When a national magazine in the US is picturing the White House being taken over by Russia it really makes u wonder how right McCarthy might have been. Do the Russians really have influence over the highest office in the US or could this be just be propaganda for the military industrial complex creating a new war? I myself am still not quite sure. I know this isn't quite as profound as some of the demonetization of our enemies but they are turning one of Americas greatest symbols into something clearly Russian.

TIME



time.com

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

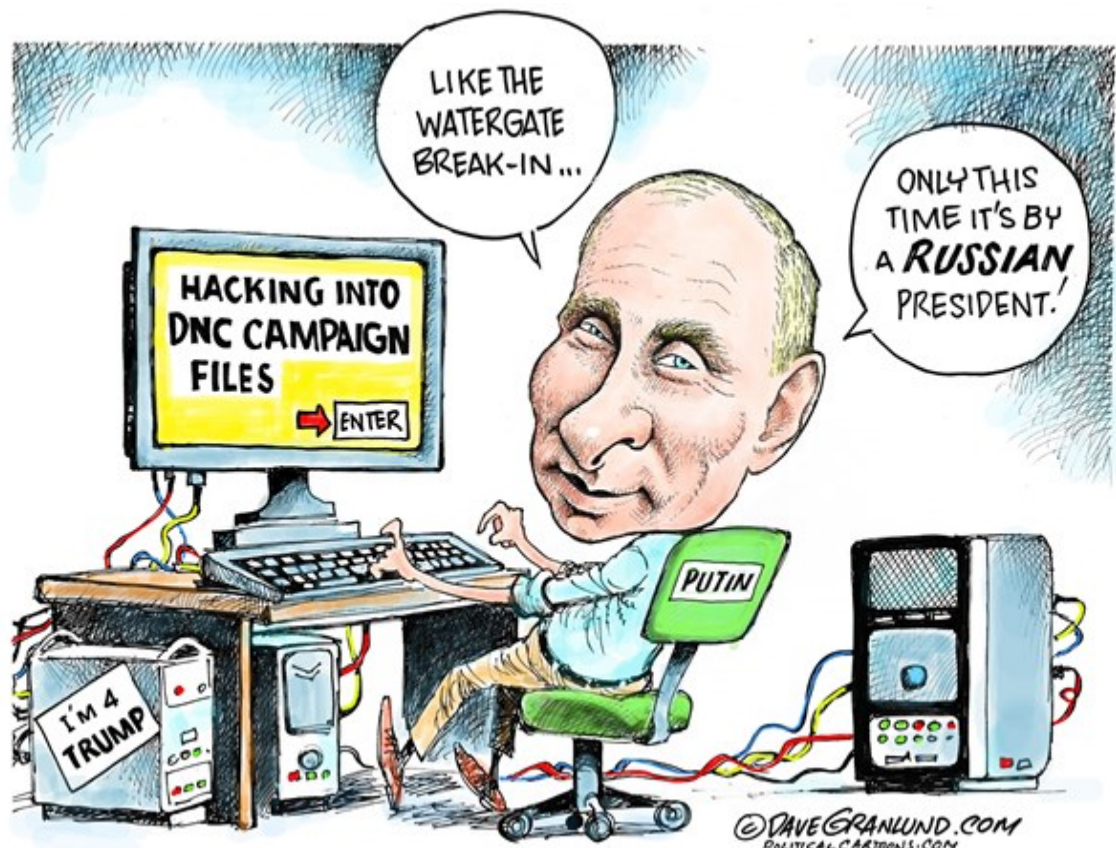
[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: New Cold War

by Kevin Smolek - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 12:23 PM

I like the link you've drawn between the Russia that we're looking at in class, and modern Russia with its perceived influence today. Clearly back during the cold war the Russians were the bad guys, and very obviously attempted to interfere with the internal workings of our government. However back then we had proof, spies were in fact among us. Where are the Russians today? The media and the left would have you believe they are once again hiding under your bed waiting to strike. How did the Russians interfere with the election? I heard from the left's own candidate that it's impossible to hack an election and that anyone that refuses to accept the results is "A direct threat to democracy". As for proof of Russian tampering? Crickets. The Russian angle looks like a deflection move to me, a way to shift blame off of the party, and their candidate that couldn't win even with the deck stacked for her. McCarthy would have a field day in today's government, as there's plenty of communists and socialists to find and destroy. As well as people leaking sensitive information to the press.



Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Demonizing the Enemy- FDR and his Gov't

by Luz Fandino - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 4:24 PM

As we've learned through class lecture, propaganda has played a great role in how Americans perceive and react to the world around them. In the article presented in this forum I believe James Forsher said it best; "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it." During WWII there were many posters that used racist stereotypes and animal-like caricatures to portray the enemy, and in turn make it easier for the American people to get on board with the government. Once FDR and his government dehumanized the enemy, they used those caricatures/symbols in posters that showed the enemy hurting American women and children. One example the article spoke of, and that we also saw in

lecture, “showed a stylized Japanese man carrying a limp, naked white woman over his shoulder and was emblazoned with the words, “This Is the Enemy.”” I think this was one of the more effective ways to demonize the enemy because then it makes things more personal. “Some believe such caricatures, and the racist attitudes they fostered, allowed America to tolerate the internment of Japanese-Americans during the war” (Forum Article).

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Demonizing the Enemy, Intended/Unintended consequences

by Trevor Remington - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:05 PM

I would say the intentions of demonizing the enemy is to give a sense of relief to troops and citizens that what we are doing is right because the enemy are horrible people. I can say first hand it works real well in the military especially with the picture and video capabilities we have today. The Unintended consequences from demonizing is that it can make an entire race religion or what ever the case may be all get bad repercussions. It is all still a big problem today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Demonizing the Enemy: Media today

by Luz Fandino - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:06 PM

In class I remember being surprised when I learned that Hollywood and movies also played a big role in demonizing the enemy around the time of WWII. It wasn't until I was forced to think about movies today that I realized that it makes complete sense, and that I have even witnessed this method in use in modern times. I felt *American Sniper*, directed by Clint Eastwood, was one of those movies that glorified war, and in a way justified the death of innocent Iraqi people during the War in Iraq. Throughout the entire movie the people of Iraq were referred to as “savages” and Chris Kyle’s character kept saying that he had to “kill all the savages.” This film takes place after the attacks on September 11th, 2001, and with the help of propaganda right after the Twin Towers crashed, huge amounts of patriotism were stirred up in the American people. While this film did show the mental impact of the war on the soldiers (e.g. PTSD), I couldn't shake off the feeling of disgust while watching the movie. The same thing was done during the campaign of the Manifest Destiny. Native Americans were labeled “savages” and this term helped to dehumanize them and justify killing them, the same way that American Sniper used this term to justify killing a mass number of Iraqi people.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Demonizing the Enemy: Media today

by Kevin Smolek - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 9:57 PM

I wholeheartedly disagree with your interpretation of American Sniper. For starters Chris Kyle is an American hero, who was tragically assassinated before his time, and deserves our respect. I take it you have never been to any of the middle eastern shit holes our troops have been fighting in for the last 15 years? Savages is an appropriate definition when you're coming from a developed western nation. Just picture being dropped into the 13th century,

with a population that has no problems strapping a bomb to a 10 year old, and sending them to their death. To us, that's a savage act, and only a savage would be okay with it. We don't need trumped up propaganda for the battles we're fighting now, when the truth is unimaginable for most of us. I think American sniper did a good job showing the struggles for our troops abroad, and how hard readjustment is when you come home. How did this film justify the deaths of "innocent Iraqi people"? There is a pretty big difference between killing an enemy combatant, and gunning down "savages" indiscriminately.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Demonizing the Enemy: intended vs. unintended

by Luz Fandino - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:23 PM

I think the intentions of demonizing the enemy are clear; they are to get the American public on board with what the government is trying/is doing.

The unintended consequences of demonizing the enemy however, is that it damages the people associated with "the enemy". Demonizing the enemy involves playing in to stereotypes and when you generalize an entire race, religion, or ethnicity it affects everyone that identifies with that group. For example, after the Twin Towers fell every Muslim, Arab or person that simply looked Middle Eastern was labeled a "terrorist". When we demonize the enemy, the targeting extends beyond who is called "the enemy".

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Long Term Affects of Demonizing

by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:37 PM

"In 1942, Roosevelt created the Office of War Information (OWI) to coordinate propaganda and censorship (1, pg. 875)." This is one way that Roosevelt was able to use propaganda to demonize the enemy, he also used the radio like people now use twitter. I Think the worst of the unintended consequence of demonizing the enemy was the treatment of the first and second generation Japanese people that were already living in America. They were "forced to abandon their possessions or sell them for pittance, Japanese American evacuees were confined in flimsy barracks, enclosed by barbed wire and under armed guard (1, pg.877)." Also, The longterm affects of demonizing an enemy linger forever. I think a lot of racism and stereotypes stem from things that people see on TV and cartoons and it kinda just sticks around unfortunately. "The Arab is now a stock figure, a caricature, a symbol of fanaticism, of infinite cruelty and no regard for human rights (2)." And it so true, the demonizing of the Arab people has kinda stripped them of their humanity and made sure that we see them as a something non-human, a symbol of violence and destruction. "It worries me for the country and for Americans who have Middle Eastern ancestry (2)."

1: Liberty, Equality Power.

2: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=79071>

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



America under the Third Reich

by Evan Young - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:10 PM

The Disney propaganda film was mocking the third reich, demonized the enemy. Even though the cartoon was silly it did have some truthful aspects embedded in it. For example near the end of the war the food shortages and extreme rationing. As well as the hail Hitler every other second based on the rails where large crowds would do it repeatedly. Another aspect was how the German soldiers invaded the lead characters home and basically forced him to work in a factory for long hours. Most parts of this type of cartoon were not based on reality at all, like the stereotypes of both Japanese and German people. In general this type of propaganda worked because most Americans would see it throughout the day every day. In posters. magazines , films, etc. This cartoon about Donald duck could sway public opinion because even though the US was an ocean away it shows the worst nightmare of an american under the third Reich

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ Using & Abusing History

Demonizing the Enemy ▶

Moodle Docs for this page

Accessibility at Lane

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)

HST 203 Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053)